

WORLD MALARIA DAY – APRIL 27TH

Greetings from the ELCA Malaria Campaign! As a church, we have been at work for over two years raising money to treat and eradicate malaria. As always, my first word is one of thanks to all of the individuals and congregations who have given of their time, energy, and money to support this work. The great news is that our SWMN Synod has raised \$233,336.05 so far! That's 13th most of all the synods in the ELCA! Of course we can always do better, and we need to keep working and giving. Total giving to the ELCA Malaria Campaign so far is \$11,028,251.47. Again, that's great news! However, we still have nearly \$4,000,000 to raise in order to reach our \$15,000,000 goal by 2015. We want you to know that your gifts are making a difference! Incidences of malaria worldwide have substantially decreased in the last several years. When the campaign began in 2011, statistics showed that a child died from malaria every 45 seconds. Today, that number is one child every 60 seconds. That's still too many, but we are making progress!

If you have not been involved in the Malaria Campaign, or if you're looking to re-start your congregation's effort, World Malaria Day is a great opportunity to do so. It is coming up on Sunday, April 27th. You can go to www.elca.org/malaria to download a World Malaria Sunday toolkit that includes lots of great resources (for FREE) for your congregation. This is also a great opportunity because every gift received by the ELCA Malaria Campaign from April 25 to May 2 will be matched, so your gift will be doubled! The ELCA Malaria Campaign's goal is to raise \$250,000 during this World Malaria Day effort, so let's do our part as congregations and as a synod to make this happen!

Also, if you haven't decided what to do for Vacation Bible School this year, there is a brand new VBS resource coming out (for FREE) from the ELCA Malaria Campaign. I had a chance to preview it recently and it looks great! It includes 5 days of activities, snacks, and Bible stories that will teach children about serving others and get them (and your congregation) involved with fighting malaria. As Jessica Hacker, the ELCA Malaria Campaign coordinator says, "I think it's going to change the world!" Oh, and did I mention that it is FREE? Even if you can't use the VBS curriculum this year, keep it in mind for next year, or download it and consider using the activities in the fall for Sunday School or children's sermons any time during the year. It will be available for download at www.elca.org/malaria and in print form very very soon! As always, if you have any questions about the ELCA Malaria Campaign and can't find the answer at www.elca.org/malaria, you can contact me at bryantkaden@hotmail.com or by phone at 320-346-2678. Let me end with the same word I began with: thank you for your faithful generosity!

Pastor Bryant Kaden

ELCA Malaria Campaign Synod Coordinator for the SWMN Synod

**Find more information and new resources at
www.ELCA.org/malaria.**



ELCA Malaria Campaign
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