

ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN MONTHLY NEWS



ELCA Malaria Campaign
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Small Church Catches the Buzz and Makes a BIG Difference, Globally and Locally!

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dorothy, New Jersey has a small congregation and only ten students in its Sunday School, ranging in age from four to thirteen. However, this small church, led by Pastor Richard Holzer, has displayed mighty fundraising prowess and the ability to affect lives globally and locally.



Pastor Richard Holzer "Catching the Buzz with a mosquito cookie"

For several years, the Sunday School practiced stewardship by donating goats, cows, bees and chicks through God's Global Barnyard. The students would make and sell crafts, Christmas cards, and snacks to raise funds. The "Buck a Chick" program was very successful and the students learned to appreciate the small role an egg and chick could play in combating global hunger. The students also worked toward eradicating hunger on the local level through donations to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission and Atlantic City Public Schools following Hurricane Sandy. The congregation and Sunday School also donated labor and materials toward a local Habitat for Humanity home.

Some Sunday School students were fortunate to meet a recipient of ELCA's goats and other animals. Gabriella, Isabella and Alex DeStefano met Amalia, a native of Namibia, whose village benefitted from ELCA's God's Global Barnyard program. Amalia also told them of the dire need for clean, safe water in Africa. After sharing Amalia's story with the congregation, "Project Clean Water" was launched. The Sunday School worked with the congregation and South Jersey Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to raise enough money to fund a well in Namibia.

Once the fundraising goal was reached, the Sunday School contacted ELCA and learned that the ELCA World Hunger program builds wells around the world. While there were no current well projects in Namibia, they could provide a well to a village in Tanzania. The Sunday School students then decided to "Catch the Buzz" and raise funds for Namibia's malaria prevention program. They gave shirts designed by Justin Haye to the congregation featuring a well and a malaria mosquito. The Sunday School also hosted a coffee hour with mosquito cookies and themed decorations.

Bethlehem Lutheran successfully raised \$2,500 to fund a Tanzanian well and \$1,000 for malaria prevention in Namibia. While the Sunday School program may be small in size, the efforts of the students have affected lives on a big scale! The children were inspired and guided by the quote from 2 Corinthians 9:6-7: The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



"Catching the Buzz" is the multi-generational Bethlehem Lutheran congregation



Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School students "Catching the Buzz"

A special thanks to Gabriella DeStefano and Isabella DeStefano for writing this story and to Donna Hayes for sharing it with the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Of course, thank you to the members of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church for sharing their gifts to support Lutheran malaria programs in Africa!

Fundraising Update: Friends, partners, valued volunteers...we are almost there!

The ELCA Malaria Campaign has raised more than \$14.9 million so far—we now have less than \$100,000 to go!

Thank you so much for your continued advocacy and hard work as we hurtle across the finish line in our quest to raise \$15 million to support the malaria programs of our companions in Africa. As soon as we hit the \$15 million mark, we will send you another "Special Bulletin" of our e-newsletter, to keep you in the loop and help you answer the questions that may arise from ELCA members in your synod.

As we prepare to CELEBRATE GENEROSITY, please keep in mind that although the fundraising portion of the ELCA Malaria Campaign is coming to a close, our commitment to the health-related work of our companions in Africa and all around the world will not end. Malaria work and other health projects will be funded through ELCA World Hunger in the coming years. We hope we can count on your leadership to help lift up that good work!

Celebrating Giving Milestones:

Reaching \$350,000:

- Lower Susquehanna Synod
- Rocky Mountain Synod

Almost there! Synods to Watch:

Within \$2,000 of their \$160,000 goal:

- Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana

Almost there! Churches to Watch:

Within \$100,000 of their \$15 million goal:

- ***The ELCA!***

"Go home and educate your neighbors" – The Lutheran malaria program in Burundi

During a community malaria competition in Nyamugari, Burundi, crowd participation was encouraged! Hundreds of people gathered together in the Nyamugari town square to witness three local health clubs presenting dramas, skits and songs aimed at educating others about malaria prevention and control.

After the three dramatic performances, leaders of the Lutheran malaria program in Burundi quizzed the crowd to see what they had learned. They asked questions such as:

- "How does a person get malaria?" (through the bite of an infected mosquito)
- "What are the symptoms of malaria?" (high fever, nausea, vomiting, malaise, fatigue)
- "What can happen to a pregnant woman if she gets malaria?" (She can suffer anemia, the baby can be born prematurely or with low birth weight, she could die.)

The lively crowd, eager to show off their newfound malaria knowledge, raised hands and objects to attract the judges' attention. Judges included a local political leader, a community health worker (employee of the government clinic) and representatives of the Lutheran malaria program in Burundi.

The judges called on individuals to answer each question; a correct answer earned the participant a prize. Prizes were both health-related and practical: bars of soap for personal hygiene and laundering mosquito nets, umbrellas to keep the sun at bay and protect skin, and jerry cans for transporting clean water.

After the quiz was successfully completed, local leaders encouraged all attendees to go home and educate their neighbors about malaria prevention and control. Through dramatic presentations and crowd participation, malaria knowledge is reinforced and entire communities are equipped to implement malaria prevention and control measures that help keep all community members safe and healthy.



Regional Gatherings

We want to see YOU at an upcoming regional event! The ELCA Networks for Mission regional events brings together leaders from ELCA networks in order to encourage and familiarize with the work and people of the networks, collaboration, learning opportunities, and providing information of program and ministry developments and initiatives in the churchwide organization. Below you will find the registration information that we have for all of the events this fall. If you are interested in registering for your regional gathering don't wait—some of these have limited space available.



- **Region 1: No event for 2015**
- **Region 2: Nov. 19-20; Pacifica Synod Office; Santa Ana, Calif.**
 - For more information and to register, contact Margy Schmitt-Ajer (margaret.schmitt-ajer@ELCA.org).
- **Region 3: Nov.12-14; Ramada Plaza Suites & Faith Lutheran Church; Fargo, North Dakota**
 - Register by November 2nd online (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/region-3-opening-our-networks-tickets-18105431834>) or by contacting Paul Baglyos (paul.baglyos@ELCA.org).
- **Region 4: Nov. 20-22; Briarwood Retreat Center; Argyle, Texas**
 - Register by November 5th online (<https://ntnl.org/event/2015region4gathering>). You can also contact Herb Palmer (herb.palmer@ELCA.org) for more information.
- **Region 5: Oct. 29-31; Shalom Spirituality Center; Dubuque, Iowa**
 - For more information and to register by October 1st, contact Ramie Bakken (ramie.bakken@ELCA.org).
- **Region 6: Feb. 4-6, 2016; TBD**—Information coming later in the year so keep checking back.
- **Region 7: Oct. 23-24; Koinonia Camp; Highland Lake, N.Y.**
 - To register, contact your synod office or Peggy Wuertele (pwuertele@ltspe.edu).
- **Region 8: No event for 2015**
- **Region 9: April 28-30, 2016; Atlanta, Ga.**—Information coming later in the year so keep checking back.

ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water continues on the Rise Up Together Tour

Friends and wonderful supporters of ELCA World Hunger, Rachel Kurtz and Dave Scherer (AGAPE*), will tour together this fall with Joe Davis, to raise proceeds for ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water. They are competing to see how much money they can raise using our online fundraising tool; [support Team AGAPE* here](#) or [support Team Rachel here](#) See the show at one of their concert stops!

Sep 9: Cresco, Iowa	Oct 4: York, PA	Nov 1: New Brighton, MN	Nov 20: Hastings, NE
Sep 11: Bismarck, ND	Oct 4: Fredrick, MD	Nov 6: Chicago, IL	Nov 22: Greensboro, NC
Sep 12: Minot, ND	Oct 7: Hudson, Wis.	Nov 7: Massillon, Ohio	Nov 22 & 23: Hickory, NC
Sep 13: Grand Forks, ND	Oct 9: Stevens, Pa.	Nov 8: Leechburg, PA	Dec 2: Farmington, MN
Sep 18: Detroit Lakes, MN	Oct 14: Grand Marais, MN	Nov 11: Fairmont, MN	Dec 9: Grand Rapids, MN
Sep 25 & 26: Oshkosh, Wis.	Oct 16: Cedar Rapids, IA	Nov 13: Anchorage, AK	Dec 28: Janesville, WI
Sep 30: Tomahawk, Wis.	Oct 17: Clive, IA	Nov 14: Wenatchee, WA	Jan 5: Aberdeen, SD
Oct 2: Pennsauken, NJ	Oct 18: Moorhead, MN	Nov 15 & 17: Everett, WA	Jan 8: Vienna, VA
Oct 3: Somerville, NJ	Oct 25: Minneapolis, MN	Nov 15: Seattle, WA	Jan 9: Harrisonburg, VA
Oct 4: Chambersburg, PA	Oct 28: Marshall, MN	Nov 16: Ferndale, WA	Jan 10: Greenville, SC