



# Virginia Synod, ELCA

***Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion. Psalm 103***

**Of Malaria...** The World Health Organization estimates that 90% of the world's deaths due to malaria occur in Africa, with a great number of these in children under five years of age. In America, we have the resources to effectively contain and treat this mosquito-borne disease. In Africa, the resources are not yet available. The civil resources of African nations are insufficient to carry the burden of effectively combatting malaria. The ELCA Malaria Campaign is part of a global movement involving churches, businesses, non-profit organizations, and governments cooperating in efforts to significantly reduce this disease burden by 2015.

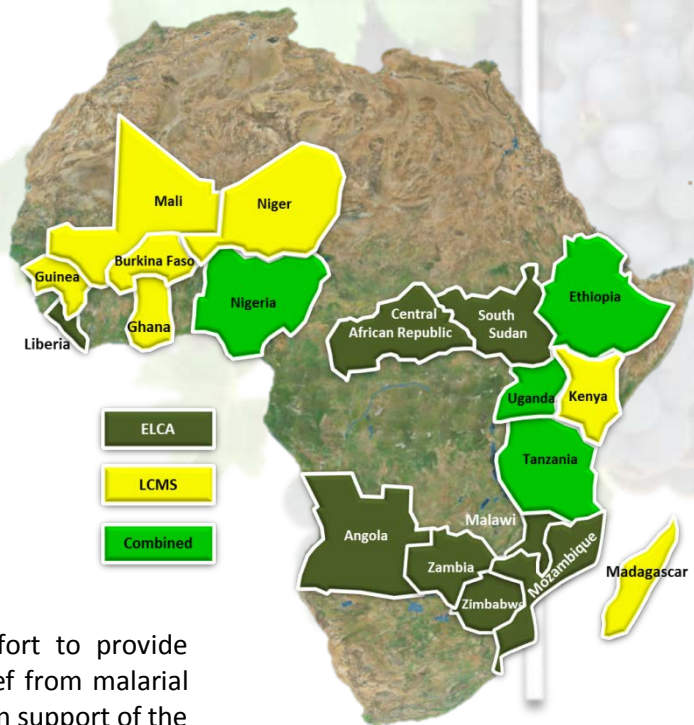
The 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted overwhelmingly to begin initial malaria campaign activities. In 2010 and 2011, pilot synods intentionally engaged with congregations and individuals in their synods, testing materials and providing feedback. In August 2011, the ELCA Assembly voted to roll out the campaign on a national level. The ultimate goal is that every synod and every congregation will join the ELCA Malaria Campaign in our efforts to overcome malaria in Africa, as well as other threatened parts of the world. Our ELCA Malaria Campaign is centrally managed together with World Hunger and Disaster Relief, all providing support against disease, hunger, and disaster.

ELCA efforts work together with the Lutheran Malaria Initiative of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) and other Lutheran churches worldwide in the Lutheran World Federation (Evangelical) and the International Lutheran Council (Confessional). Our efforts also work through a partner organization – Lutheran World Relief – bringing together churches to coordinate on the ground in Africa. Lutheran churches in Africa aren't just places of worship. They are the center of community life. That's what makes the work of the church – through churches – perfectly positioned to make a difference in the health sector.



The map shows the complementary work both ongoing and planned by both ELCA and LCMS contributions in Africa. The ELCA is currently flowing resources into the continent with good success. Through our companion churches on the ground, we provide support for:

- Health care providers and medicine to diagnose and treat malaria
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets and education to protect against malaria
- Preventive medicine to protect pregnant women and their babies
- Projects to control the environments where mosquitoes breed



**Team 2017** is the Virginia Synod's coordinated effort to provide sustainable support for God's people in need of relief from malarial disease, hunger, and disaster. Our initial emphasis is in support of the ELCA Malaria Campaign starting in January of 2013. ***Learn more and become part of our Team!***

[www.Team2017.org](http://www.Team2017.org)  
[facebook.com/Team2017](https://facebook.com/Team2017)  
[twitter.com/Team2017](https://twitter.com/Team2017)

***Works of Faith from Virginia for the sake of the world!***



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## Virginia Synod's Team 2017 Thoughts for the Ministerium... What can you do in your congregation?



### Do these things NOW:

1. Share your congregation's best practices on our [Facebook Group](#) (Team 2017 Group). Join the group and have your parish coordinators post their experiences and lessons learned.
2. Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/Team2017> and "like" us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/Team2017>
3. Let Pastor Heidi David-Young ([pastorheidi@bethelwinchester.com](mailto:pastorheidi@bethelwinchester.com)) know how much you've raised so far for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. We'll be reconciling that with ELCA records.
4. Lead your congregations in prayer that our works of faith may have impact in touching lives with love and compassion around the world.

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### Do these things in 2013 once we launch this effort:

1. Start an ELCA Malaria Campaign if you haven't yet. Coordinate it with your ongoing World Hunger and Disaster Relief Efforts. If you've already done your appeal, craft a plan for sustained giving.
2. Advertise our Team website at <http://www.team2017.org/>. The website will be up and running by Advent 2012.
3. Consider observing World Malaria Day on April 25th, or on any Sunday you decide to designate as Malaria Sunday with a worship service planned to draw attention to the malaria crisis.
4. Inspire people to *Join our Team* on the website by setting up a recurring on-line electronic contribution of \$20.17 per month. This will provide sustained support for efforts to combat disease, hunger, and the effects of disaster around the world, as we journey together toward the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation!

***Works of Faith from Virginia for the sake of the world! We provide shelter, medicine, food, water, and Hope!***