**May 1, 2011**

**Remembering World Malaria Day and ELCA Malaria Campaign**

**Children’s Sermon**

By Diaconal Minister Kris Perry, ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod

**Supplies needed**

Mosquito net, Globe or map of the world, Bottle of water that is unclean (probably lake water)

**Invite the children forward**

Ask if anyone has ever heard of Africa. Invite one of the children to locate Africa (and perhaps Tanzania) on the map/globe.

Ask the question, “How many of you have ever been bitten by a mosquito?” and “Did any of you get real sick for a few weeks and have to go to the hospital because of the bite?”

Answer: “No, because our mosquitoes don’t really make us sick, they’re just annoying and maybe we have a little bump for a couple of days that itches.”

 But in Africa, the mosquitoes carry a disease called malaria. Ask the children if anyone has ever heard the word “malaria.”

Tell them that malaria is a disease that affects just about everyone in Africa, especially the children, and many of the children under the age of 5 actually die from the disease.

 Show them the unclean bottle of water and tell them that many people in Africa drink water that looks like this.

 Tell them that you would like to help people, especially the children in Africa to not get the disease. Tell them that you have something with you that could really help everyone in Africa. It’s called a mosquito net.

Take out the mosquito net and invite all of the children to get under it. Tell them that the reasons why all of the people don’t sleep under a bed net are because:

 o It is very hot; the wind doesn’t flow through it very well

 o Many of the children sleep in beds with their siblings and it’ seven hotter

 o Some very poor people cannot afford to buy a bed net

 Tell the children that they can help the children in Africa by donating some of their Sunday

school offerings to purchase bed nets for the children.

 Close with a short prayer asking God to bless all of the children in Africa with bet nets so that

they will remain healthy and safe from malaria.

Additionally, you might want to put up a display in your church using the bed net with a display of the unclean bottled water, a map, and information about the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

*The following prayer was written by Mary Simonson Clark and may be used with the children’s sermon above:*

***Now I Lay Me...***

*“Now I lay me down to sleep,*

 *from mosquitoes all the children keep*

 *Hold them safely through the night*

 *under bed nets tucked in right. Amen.*