

ELCA Malaria Campaign Coordinator to Address Synod Assembly

The keynote speaker at the Southern Ohio Synod assembly May 20-21, at Wittenberg, will be the coordinator of the ELCA Malaria Campaign, the Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl.

DeGroot-Nesdahl accepted the challenge to head up the Malaria Campaign because it gives her the opportunity to make a difference. She shares the message of grace and hope across Africa in the efforts to control and eradicate the deadly disease

“Malaria is preventable. Malaria is treatable. A healthier future is possible. Together we can accomplish our goal of containing malaria-related deaths in Africa by the year 2015,” she wrote on the campaign’s website.

DeGroot-Nesdahl is the daughter of pioneer stock in the Upper-Midwest. She is a pioneer as well in her own way, being one of the first 25 women to be ordained in The American Lutheran Church in 1977. In 1996, Wartburg Theological Seminary awarded her an honorary doctorate degree in recognition of her election as Bishop of South Dakota Synod and being only the second woman bishop in the ELCA.



The Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl

The ELCA Malaria Campaign reports that the disease is virtually worldwide and even makes its presence known in the United States with as many as 1,500 cases reported here annually by people who have traveled to, or recently immigrated from, malaria-infested areas.

Worldwide, some 3.3 billion people (half the world’s population) live in areas where malaria is present. As many as a million people die from the highly preventable disease annually. Most of the deaths occur in Africa, where malaria is the second leading cause of death second only to HIV/AIDS.

The malaria campaign is multi-faceted in its approach to ending the deadly disease. With donations, the campaign will work to interrupt the life cycle of the Anopheles mosquito, which carries the disease, and to prevent disease carrying mosquitoes from biting the residents through the use of specially treated nets and mosquito pesticides. Additionally, medicines could be purchased through donations to treat the victims of the disease.

Pastor Joene Herr, a member of the Hunger Task Force, will share information about how the Southern Ohio Synod has responded, as a Pilot Synod, in the malaria campaign this past year. A Malaria Workshop has been scheduled to help congregations still looking forward to joining the campaign, and seeking information about how to get started. Pastor Herr will share ideas on “How to do a malaria campaign in your congregation,” share new information, and present some “fun activities” which can be incorporated into a malaria campaign experience. Pastor Henry Zorn will explain his congregation’s experience in conducting a successful malaria fundraising event

Contributions on the part of the Southern Ohio Synod to the ELCA malaria campaign thus far total \$40,381.49.

Fundraising Ideas for Hunger and Malaria Campaigns

Be creative! Combine some of these ideas together or do them separately. Make them intergenerational events, ecumenical events, or community events. And if you create some new ideas, please share them with us so we can pass them on to others. These are some great ideas from Lutheran World Relief.

Bake Sale/Bake Off

Everyone loves a bake sale! You could include some international baked goods, since your donations benefit people around the world. For a Bake Off, ask people to bake the same thing, like an apple pie. Place a container next to each pie entry, and instruct people to vote by dropping donations into the container of their favorite pie. The container with the most money reflects the winner of the contest. Hopefully the winner will share his/her recipe with the congregation.

Mission Fair

Hold a fair that lifts up the benevolent groups your congregation supports, including Lutheran World Relief. There could be food samples at the food table, toys at the children table, books/story reading at the education table, etc. Each table's activity could be as simple or elaborate as you choose.

Quilt Auction

Instead of shipping all your quilts to the LWR warehouse, sell some at a quilting auction and put the proceeds toward a gift for Lutheran World Relief. The quilting auction could be part of a pot luck dinner.

"Talent" Auction

Your congregation is probably full of talented people who'd be willing to "sell" their talents for a worthy cause. For example, a painter might sell one room worth of painting, a chef could sell one gourmet meal for a family of four, or youth could sell two hours of yard work. Each would actually donate their time, materials and expertise, and the funds used to buy their services could help fund your campaign.

Spare Change Donation Box at Church

The artistic folks at your church could make different boxes, and each box would represent a particular theme such as hunger, water, peace, education, etc. Include a slot in each box and encourage people to drop their spare change in the slot.

Vacation Bible School/Lenten Offerings

Offerings collected at VBS and/or Lenten services could be used toward LWR's work. Each offering could have a specific theme such as food, children, medicine, environment, etc.

Christmas Decorating Banquet

Extend the festivities of decorating your church by holding a special Christmas dinner. At the dinner, sing your favorite Christmas hymns and do a secret Santa exchange. Gifts would be contributions toward LWR in honor of a member of your congregation.

Choir(s)/Organ Concert

Whether your congregation has one choir or six choirs, gather them all together for a beautiful musical experience. Combine your voices, bells, brass and children and make a joyful noise to support LWR. Add some visual pleasure to the concert by including liturgical dancers.

Benefit Rummage Sale

Turn your unneeded belongings into cash to buy what others need! Collect your good used clothing and household items to hold a rummage sale and donate the proceeds to LWR or ELCA.

Medical Matching Challenge

We are very blessed in this country to have so many doctors, nurses, and other medical staff. Ask the medical

professionals in your congregation to make a gift and challenge the other members of the congregation to match the total dollar-for-dollar. When you're done, honor the work of these individuals by making the donation to your chosen campaign in their name.

Host an LWR Fair Trade Fair

Through the **LWR Handcraft Project**, you can make a world of difference by hosting an **LWR Fair Trade Fair** in your parish or community with fairly traded handcrafts from around the world. Boost your sales by including Divine chocolate from the **LWR Chocolate Project** and coffee, tea and cocoa from the **LWR Coffee Project**. Make sure to **request information** about Fair Trade with your order!

Host a Potluck (Potlucks to End Hunger)

The grassroots movement led by two ELCA pastors, Kim Conway and Mike Poole, is sweeping the nation. ELCA members are whipping up Jell-O, cookies and casseroles -- not just for food and good company, but to end hunger. In 2009, 27 congregations across the country held potlucks to end hunger. In 2010, 137 congregations participated, raising more than \$10,000. More than a dozen ELCA congregations are already registered for 2011. Will you join them?

How? The idea is simple. By the very Lutheran, time honored tradition of the potluck! It's simple Host a potluck at your congregation any time of the year and take a collection to benefit ELCA World Hunger.



Target a specific month, contact one or more local organizations fighting hunger in your community to partner with them, schedule a date(s), provide an educational forum or activity at the potluck about hunger's causes and solutions, and take a collection for ELCA World Hunger. Your congregation can do it too. Get instructions, ideas, and updates the website www.amonthofpotlucks.org.

When you participate, be sure to register and report your results at that website. That's how Kim and Mike are able to track the spread of the trend and tally the results. Won't you get involved?

925 Million Suffer Chronic Hunger Worldwide

The latest United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) states that the number of hungry people in the world remains unacceptably high despite expected recent gains that have pushed the figure below 1 billion. "But with a child dying every six seconds because of undernourishment related problems, hunger remains the world's "largest tragedy and scandal," said Food Agricultural Organization Director-General Jacques Diouf. "This is absolutely unacceptable."

The new estimate of the number of people who will suffer chronic hunger this year is 925 million — 98 million down from 1.023 billion in 2009. "Vigorous and urgent action by nations and the world has been effective in helping to halt galloping hunger numbers," said WFP Executive Director, Josette Sheeran. "But this is no time to relax. We must keep hunger on the run to ensure stability and to protect lives and dignity. Globally, the 2010 hunger figure marked a decline of 9.6 percent from the 2009 level. This reduction was mostly concentrated in Asia, where 80 million fewer people were estimated to be going hungry this year. In sub-Saharan Africa the drop was much smaller - about 12 million - one out of three people there would continue to be undernourished.

Other key findings of the report included: Two thirds of the world's undernourished live in just seven countries — Bangladesh, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia and Pakistan; The region with the most undernourished people continues to be Asia and the Pacific with 578 million; The proportion of undernourished people remains highest in sub-Saharan Africa at 30 percent in 2010, or 239 million.

Bread for the World National Gathering

Bread for the World is holding its National Gathering on June 11-14, 2011, in Washington, D.C. The theme is Foreign Assistance. Attendees spend the first couple of days learning about the issues, the legislative process, and how they can influence it. Then, on the last day, they meet with senators, representatives, and their staff to advocate for what they have been learning. This is a unique opportunity to learn, network, and act with hundreds of other faith-filled advocates. It will be a fun and inspiring way to spend a few days of summer in our nation's capital. For more information visit Bread for the World's website <http://act.bread.org>.

Severe Storms Wreak Havoc

An outbreak of severe spring storms has wreaked havoc across the southern United States. ELCA Disaster Response is already at work with local Lutheran congregations and the Southeastern Synod staff to assess what is needed. Only one ELCA congregation is reported to have severe damage from a tornado. Please keep Pastor Sandy Niiler and the people of Christ Lutheran in Cullman, Alabama in your prayers.



Photo: REUTERS/Marvin Gentry

Communities across the Midwest as well, have been fighting back flood waters. A dam in southeastern Missouri was overwhelmed, flooding more than 100 homes. Earlier, tornadoes were responsible for widespread damage in Missouri and the Carolinas.

The ELCA stands ready to respond in all areas affected. Our congregations are experts at serving in their communities—when and where it is needed most. Our first and best response to all disasters is prayer. Please pray for all those affected by these terrible storms. Contributions can be made to ELCA Disaster Response designated for "U.S. Severe Storms." All designated gifts will be used entirely (100 percent) in response to these disasters. These gifts will help families whose lives and livelihoods have been disrupted by these natural disasters.

Ohio Volunteers and Donations Needed

Ohio Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with LDR and Ohio VOAD agencies to respond to the disasters that have devastated the southern states, specifically Alabama. Volunteers for debris removal are needed. Teams must be self-sufficient and self-contained due to the devastation. Bottled water, health kits, and material goods are being recruited for Cullman, Alabama at this time where the ELCA church was severely damaged. Monetary donations should be forwarded to Ohio LDR, 810 Main St., Caldwell, Ohio 43724 - note for "southern tornados." If you are able to assist, please contact Mary Woodward at 740-509-1132.

Congregations In Action

Gardens are being planned and planted ; congregations are involved in all kinds of other activities centered around the issues of hunger and malaria. If your congregation is planting, doing fundraising, or involved in some other way let us know. We'd like to give your congregation the credit it deserves and perhaps you might inspire others. Send pictures if you have them. We'd like to fill this area of the newsletter with lots of congregational activities, but we need your stories. Please help. Send stories and pictures to struchses@sbcglobal.net

Hunger Task Force Members Rev. Henry Zorn, Chair; Rev. Glen Bengson; Terry Bruns; David Drumm; Rev. Jonathan Eilert; Rev. Ruth Fortis; Rev. Joene Herr; Hilde Hildebrandt; Rev. Katrina Kerrigan; Lora Jollis; Rev. Mike Poole; Liz Senft; Rev. Monte Stevens; Kathleen Zwanziger; Rev. William McKee, synod staff; Susan Truchses, newsletter editor
