



Take the health assessment now to earn a \$150 credit in your personal wellness account to offset out-of-pocket medical expenses, and you will have the opportunity to earn an additional \$350 by completing follow-up activities.

It's quick and easy!

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Log In

E-mail address:

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Remember me on this computer.
(Not recommended for shared computers)

Are you a new member?
Take a minute to sign up.
[Register now.](#)

Top five reasons to join:

1. You'll discover your health.
2. It's jam-packed with information.
3. You'll learn about your health.
4. You can connect with others.
5. Plus, enjoy access to expert advice.

It takes about a minute.

Health Assessment Update 150 down, 43 to go!

The February numbers are in. 150 eligible members completed it and we need another 43 to reach our goal. We are currently in second place among the ELCA Synods!

Take the health assessment today if you haven't already! You will earn a \$150 credit in your personal wellness account to offset out-of-pocket medical expenses, and you will have the opportunity to earn an additional \$350 by completing follow-up activities. And on top of that, each congregation in the South Dakota Synod will receive a 2% discount on health contributions for all of 2013 if 65% of the eligible ELCA-primary plan members and spouses in our synod complete the online Mayo Clinic Health Assessment by April 30.

Learn more about the assessment at the ELCA Portico website at myportico.porticobenefits.org. Or, take the assessment now at the Mayo Clinic Embody Health web portal at www.elcaforwellness.org.

**South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.
www.sdsynod.org
synod@sdsynod.org
605-274-4011

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SYNODHAPPENINGS

April 2013



2013 Synod Assembly "Come to the Table"

June 7-8, 2013
Our Savior's, Sioux Falls

Assembly registration opens on April 15!

This year we will gather around the theme "Come to the Table" remembering how we are called to welcome our neighbors to the table of Christ and to reach out to feed them, both physically and spiritually.

The Synod Assembly is an important time for us to come together to discuss and celebrate the ministry of this church and make important decisions about our continued ministry together.

Registration will open online on April 15 and will close for voting members on May 24

The Preliminary Report will be online on May 15

More information about the 2013 Synod Assembly can be found on the synod website at www.sdsynod.org/13assembly.



Guest Musicians:

Larry Olson and Hans Peterson of Dakota Road



Guest Speaker:

Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, Executive Director of ELCA Global Mission

Malaria Sunday 2013

April 28, 2013

World Malaria Day is April 25, 2013. We are turning this day into a special week – focusing on the work of the ELCA Malaria Campaign. You and your congregation are invited to join ELCA members across this church in observing World Malaria Day through the ELCA Malaria Campaign on Sunday, April 28, 2013.

Use the ideas below to plan a service to draw attention to the malaria crisis and what our church is doing to make a difference.

Here's how your congregation can get involved:

1. Announce that on Sunday, April 28, you will be joining congregations across the country and people around the world in the fight against malaria by observing World Malaria Day.
2. Invite your congregation to dedicate its offering or take a special offering for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Order free offering envelopes by April 12 for timely delivery. Or checks can be mailed to ELCA Malaria Campaign at P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764. Be sure to include "World Malaria Day" in the memo line.
3. Find service ideas on how to involve the entire congregation.

A child dies from malaria every 60 seconds.

4. Pray for those affected by malaria by using the suggested prayers, litanies and hymns below specifically made for World Malaria Day.
5. Show the ELCA Malaria Campaign video before or during church service.
6. Find more resources online and visit the malaria blog.

About the ELCA Malaria Campaign:

For a long time, the ELCA has been supporting clinics and programs in Africa to provide health care. Now we're focusing on malaria with a new intensity. Malaria kills 655,000 people each year, most are children under five. That's a child every 60 seconds.

No child, no person, should die of a disease that is both preventable and treatable. Therefore the ELCA Malaria Campaign has committed to raise \$15 million to help prevent, treat and educate communities in Africa about malaria and eliminate deaths from this disease—for good.

www.elca.org/malaria

"It has been a joy to watch their excitement to know more about God and the church."

**Rev. Jeanette Clark,
Mission Developer of Pueblo de Dios**



Teaching the Faith at Pueblo de Dios

A mission spotlight

At the beginning of the year, most of the youth at Pueblo de Dios in Sioux Falls had never attended a worship service. Mission Developer, Pastor Jeanette Clark reflects, "Many couldn't tell me whose birth we celebrate on Christmas or why."

However, after just a few months' time, they have grown more and more comfortable with church and worship. They now read, sing, and play instruments in worship.

They even completed a Christmas Program with scripture readings and played parts in the Nativity scene.

The children are also learning about the Bible. Pastor Jeanette says, "It has been a joy to watch their excitement to know more

about God and the church." Very quickly, these kids have become evangelists, inviting their friends, cousins and parents to come to church with them.

Pueblo de Dios (People, or Community, of God) is a new ministry under development in the South Dakota synod of the ELCA. A ministry whose primary focus is reaching out to the Latino community of Sioux Falls (and the surrounding area) with the Good News of New Life in Jesus Christ, Pueblo de Dios is being "birthed" with love & support from Augustana Lutheran Church. Augustana and Pueblo de Dios are two distinct communities of faith who seek to come together in joint ministry ventures in the Historic District of central Sioux Falls.

For more about our Mission Partners, visit sdsynod.org/missionpartners.

Community Ministry Webinar Series April 9 - May 9
Taize on Pine Ridge May 24-27 Pine Ridge
World Malaria Sunday April 28
Synod Assembly June 7-8 Sioux Falls
Golf with the Bishop July 8 Sioux Falls
WELCA Synodical Convention June 21-22 Sioux Falls
Fall Theological September 22-24 Pierre

Today we are in a special moment where we could turn this around. Working through Lutheran churches in Africa, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is uniquely positioned to provide mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease—for good.

