



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

LCMS Joins Lutheran Malaria Initiative

For Immediate Release

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Convention delegates overwhelmingly adopt resolution to combat malaria

HOUSTON, July 16, 2010—Delegates to the 64th Regular Convention of [The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod](http://www.lcms.org) (LCMS) voted Thursday to join the [Lutheran Malaria Initiative](http://www.lcms.org) (LMI), a collaborative effort to mobilize the nearly eight million Lutherans in the United States to join in the battle against malaria.

With support of more than 97 percent of voting delegates, the convention moved to encourage the LCMS through its agencies, congregations, schools, universities and seminaries to support LMI. The action of the convention delegates also commits the LCMS to support the LMI goals of education, advocacy and fundraising to prevent and contain malaria in Africa.

“The voice of the delegates spoke loudly and clearly on this issue,” said LCMS President Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick. “Their overwhelming support for this effort speaks to our church’s deep love and care for people who are suffering, and our commitment to work to ease the pain and burdens of our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Malaria, a preventable disease, has largely been eradicated in the United States, but elsewhere in the world, there are an estimated 500 million cases of malaria each year. Of those infected annually, nearly one million die from the disease. Children and pregnant women are disproportionately affected.

As the church moves forward to implement the programs and activities of LMI, the LCMS will work in partnership with Baltimore-based Lutheran World Relief, a pan-Lutheran ministry providing international relief efforts, to accomplish the goals of the initiative, including raising \$45 million for malaria education, treatment and prevention.

“We have a long history of working with Lutheran World Relief on a number of wide-ranging and far-reaching human care and disaster response efforts,” said Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, president-elect of the LCMS and current executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, the mercy ministry of the church. “We look forward to our ongoing partnership with our friends in Baltimore as we work together to raise awareness across the United States of the devastating impact of malaria and seek to mobilize our mutual resources to fight this disease.”

About The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The St. Louis-based [Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod](http://www.lcms.org), founded in 1847, has nearly 2.4 million baptized members in some 6,200 congregations and more than 9,000 pastors. The church body, which ranks as one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, owns and operates KFUP radio, two seminaries, and 10 colleges and universities. Its congregations operate the largest Protestant parochial school system in America. The LCMS has relationships and active mission work in 88 countries around the world and, in the last five years, has awarded more than \$35 million through more than 900 domestic and international grants for emergency response and disaster relief. Today, the LCMS is in full doctrinal fellowship with 32 other confessional Lutheran church bodies worldwide and is a founding partner of Lutheran Services in America, a social ministry organization serving one in every 50 Americans. For more information, visit www.lcms.org.

About Lutheran World Relief

Baltimore-based Lutheran World Relief is an international agency working in the areas of international relief, development, advocacy and social responsibility. The agency was founded in 1945. For more information, visit www.lwr.org.