

Congregational Preparedness

Congregational Preparedness Program

offered by

Lutheran Disaster Response

of Alabama



Lutheran Disaster Response of Alabama
Bayou La Batre, AL 36509
Phone (251) 824-7026 ~ Fax (251) 824-7024
"Bringing Help and Hope..."



About LDR

- Collaborative ministry of the ELCA and LC-MS
- Partners with Lutheran social ministry agencies
- Member of VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters)

Mission Statement:

*To demonstrate Christ's compassion for people
by promoting hope, healing, and wholeness
for disaster survivors.*



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LDR of Alabama

- Primary office in Mobile County, with field offices in other counties
- Partnership with Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri



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Available Programs and Services

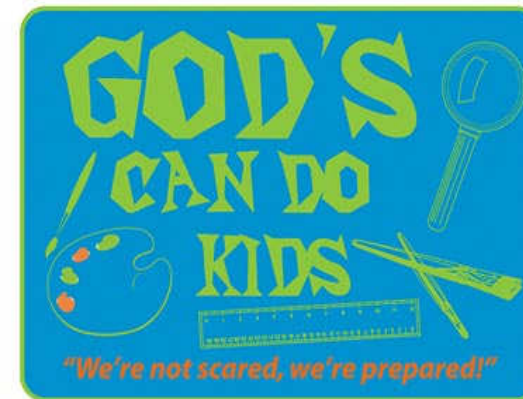
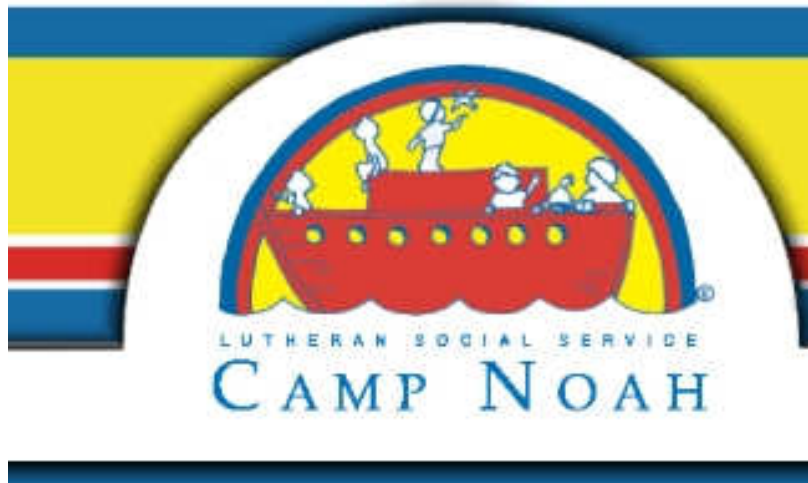
- Congregational Preparedness
- Case Management
- Construction
- Long Term Recovery Assistance
- Volunteer Coordination
- Programs for Children and Teens



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Children's Programs



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Why get involved?

- “Faith communities are ideally positioned to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of disaster victims and represent a largely underutilized, cost-effective army of volunteers.”
- “The Church’s response to a disaster is a commitment and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ to assist those affected by the disaster.”

Disaster Preparedness Program

Purpose:

- Provide training in disaster preparedness
- Provide tools to develop a congregational plan
- Provide preparedness resources
- Provide information on additional programs and resources



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What is a disaster?

- ...an event beyond the control of the individuals affected resulting in great harm, suffering, destruction and damage.
- ...disrupts personal and community life...
- ...damages a community's ability to sustain life without outside assistance.

Natural Disasters

- Floods
- Windstorms
- Fires caused by lightning
- Tornadoes
- Earthquakes
- Hurricanes
- Snow and/or Ice storms



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Human-caused Disasters

- Explosion
- Collapse of a structure
 - Bridge, building, tunnel, dam
- Release of hazardous material
 - Industrial accident
 - Train derailment
 - Highway accident

Alabama Disaster History

- 45 Federally declared disasters since 1953
- Only 6 states have more declared disasters
- These disasters include
 - Hurricanes
 - Flooding
 - Tornadoes
 - Severe winter storms
 - Fires

Highest Alabama Risks

Listed in order of likelihood:

- Flooding
- Tornadoes / Windstorms
- Hurricanes
- Winter / Ice Storms
- Lightning

What does it mean to be prepared?

- Recognize the risk
- Have a plan
- Share the plan with others

Levels of Preparedness

- Personal
 - Home, work, car
- Family / Household
- Congregational
 - Main focus of this training
- Community

Personal Preparedness

- Personal plan
- Emergency Contacts (ICE)
- Supplies
- Evacuation route and alternate

Family / Household Preparedness

- Family plan
- Emergency Contact Information
- Meeting place
- Supplies
- Assign duties / share tasks
- Share plan with others

Congregational Preparedness

- Develop a plan
- Help members prepare
- Create a contact list
- Prepare your facility

Develop a Plan

A disaster plan is a guide for your congregation to:

- Protect property
- Continue services
- Care for members
- Recover or repair disaster-related damages
- Communicate information

Help members prepare

- Provide resources for individual, family, and household disaster preparation
- Recognize that members will need to care for their family's immediate needs
- Develop local resource list
- Provide training

Create a Contact List

Develop and maintain a list of members

- Include emergency contact info
- Include probable evacuation location
- Identify special needs or those at-risk
- Develop a phone tree to contact members

Prepare Facility

Develop facility plan

- Prepare records for safe evacuation
 - Do you have backups?
- Develop checklist for facility
- Maintain
 - emergency lighting / exit signs
 - emergency supplies
 - Fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, alarms

Remember to review
plans and preparations
on a regular basis!!!



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Mission in the face of disaster

- Stages of disaster response
- Ways to become involved
 - Locally
 - Beyond your community

Stages of disaster response

- Rescue
- Relief
- Recovery

Ways to become involved

- Become a Red Cross Shelter
- Utilize &/or expand existing ministries
- Organize self-supporting response teams
 - First Responder Teams
 - Pastoral Care Teams
 - Children/Teen's Programs
 - Other volunteer services (medical/legal/etc)
 - Work Teams (clean up / construction)



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Establish Congregational Team/Task Force

- Appoint a congregational disaster response coordinator
- Utilize lay leadership
- Provide training

Available Resources

- Lutheran Disaster Response ldr.org
- American Red Cross redcross.org
- FEMA fema.gov / Alabama EMA ema.alabama.gov
- VOAD nvoad.org
- Congregational Resource CD
 - Team Manual
 - Resource Documents
 - Other resources



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Resource CD

- Volume is LDR Resource CD
- <DIR> FEMA and EMA Documents
- <DIR> LDR and other Lutheran Org documents
- <DIR> Other Organizations
- <DIR> Red Cross Documents
- What is Congregational Preparedness Final.ppt
- Congregational Preparedness Handouts.pdf
- Congregational Preparedness.ppt
- Contact Form Final.doc
- Contact Form Final.pdf
- Document List.xls
- Evaluation Form Final.doc
- Evaluation Form Final.pdf



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Q & A



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Sending

Closing Litany

Response: *“With God’s help, we
accompany those affected by disaster.”*



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Wrap Up

- Evaluations
 - Provide Feedback
 - Request additional Information
- Contact Information
- Pick up Resource CD



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