



November 1, 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is a collaborative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. The mission of LDR is to demonstrate Christ's compassion for people by promoting hope, healing, and wholeness for disaster survivors. Most often that mission involves a response after disasters occur. From hurricanes on the Gulf coast, to violent storms in the Midwest, to flooding in the Northeast, to technological disasters that may occur anywhere, the church responds through LDR, bringing help and hope to many.

A key goal of LDR is to help congregations prepare for these many different kinds of disasters, from local to regional, so that they can be effective participants in their own and their communities' recovery efforts. **Preparation before the event** will help congregations care for their own facilities and members, and allow them to respond to the needs of others.

To meet that goal, we are contacting our Lutheran partner congregations in Alabama in order to organize meetings with congregations in your community. LDR will assist each congregation (Lutheran and non-Lutheran) by training a disaster preparedness team and providing resources for the development of a unique congregational disaster preparedness plan.

We will be contacting you in the next few weeks to seek your assistance in your community. We ask your help in organizing a community meeting and inviting other congregations to join us for a presentation on congregational preparedness. LDR will provide the speaker and presentation, along with informational materials for each congregation. Each congregation is asked to provide representatives who will form the Preparedness Team for their congregation.

In the meantime, if you need more information, please contact one of the following people in our LDR offices in Mobile County:

Ray Sipe	Office: 251/973-0951	Cell: 704/953-2315	email: rays@lfcs.org
Ruth Ann Sipe	Office: 251/973-0951	Cell: 803/629-6094	email: ruthanns@lfcs.org
John Centamore	Office: 251/824-7026	Cell: 251/604-9417	email: johnc@lfcs.org

Sincerely,

John Centamore
Program Manager-Alabama

13280 North Wintzell Avenue, Bayou LaBatre, AL 36509
251-824-7026 Fax 251-824-1179

Visit us at www.lfcsmo.org