

Section

10

LUTHERAN

DISASTER

RESPONSE

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

What is Lutheran Disaster Response?



Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is a cooperative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod (LCMS). Under this umbrella, individuals, congregations, social ministry organizations, and fraternal and auxiliary organizations, work with church leadership to respond with help and hope in times of disaster. Following a major disaster, LDR seeks to minister to the urgent needs of those who have suffered. LDR is governed by a board whose members are appointed from each church body.

How do Lutherans help in times of disaster?

In the early and critical stages following a disaster, Lutheran Disaster Response frequently provides food, medicine, drinking water and other needed supplies. LDR supports congregations and social ministry organizations that are reaching out to help people.

Lutheran Disaster Response coordinates volunteers who help clean up and help to rebuild following a disaster. Many times it is necessary to provide building materials and supplies. Particular attention is given to the needs of the elderly, those with no one else to help and others who are often overlooked.

Lutherans understand the importance of pastoral care in disaster response ministry. High priority is given to the spiritual care and counseling of disaster survivors and those working in disaster relief. Through volunteer pastors and professional counselors, Lutheran Disaster Response seeks to share the strength and hope of the Gospel.

LDR coordinates Lutheran activities in the affected community. Whenever possible, these disaster response efforts are managed by social ministry organizations with whom LDR has partnership agreements. Training and planning are provided for these organizations prior to a disaster.

Who are LDR's partners in disaster response?

Lutheran Disaster Response has a written Agreement of Understanding with **The American Red Cross** and works closely with the Red Cross in each disaster. Lutherans are also active participants in Church World Service's disaster ministry where our efforts are coordinated with other denominations. Lutheran Disaster Response is represented in National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD). In every disaster, Lutherans seek to work side by side with other persons of faith in serving people in need. LDR also has an Agreement of Understanding with Lutheran Services in America (LSA), an umbrella organization of ELCA and LCMS social ministry organizations.

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What else does Lutheran Disaster Response do?

LDR supports disaster preparedness through:

- workshops for individual agencies
- materials for congregations

Lutheran Disaster Response also offers resources in times of crisis.

- immediate financial support
- trained consultants
- recruitment and coordination of volunteers
- communications with the greater Lutheran community
- coordination of Lutheran resources

How is Lutheran Disaster Response funded?

Funds to support disaster relief come from contributions made to **LCMS World Relief** and the **ELCA Domestic Disaster Response**. Direct contributions to LDR are also received from **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**.

How are designated funds used?

Funds that are designated for a specific disaster--such as Hurricane Katrina Response--are spent entirely in relief efforts for that particular disaster. Undesignated funds such as gifts marked solely "Domestic Disaster Response" help provide urgently needed flexibility in responding quickly to disasters underway at the moment, or to tornadoes and other catastrophes that develop without warning.

Where can I send my donation?

ELCA Domestic Disaster Response
P.O. Box 71764
Chicago, IL 60694-1764
A credit card gift line is also available:
1-800-638-3522.

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