



Region 1 Disaster Preparedness and Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

ELCA REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE

October 6, 2020

United for Ministry in the Days of COVID-19
Lutheran Social Service Agencies, Synods
and ELCA Church Members Together

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Many factors affect a community's ability to respond to disasters. COVID-19 has been with us now for over seven months. Over 210,000 have died from the virus in the United State alone, over 1 million worldwide. President Trump's recent diagnosis, along with his staff, illustrates what happens as the "Hammer" is ignored and the "Dance" despised.

Meanwhile, wildfires rage along the west coast. The president declines to assure a peaceful transition of power after the November election. The murder of Black Americans, and associated demonstrations, continue to grab headlines.

Christians speak of the difference between "sign" and "symbol." Signs do not participate in the reality they point towards. Symbols, however, are what they suggest. Bread, then, is a symbol of the Body of Christ because it actually feeds us. What we observe in our world today is that not wearing masks has become *symbolic* of resistance to public responsibility; Black lives are a *symbol* of brokenness we are afraid to engage; fires dramatize simmering climactic change, but many will not acknowledge it. **"Take and eat."** says our Lord. If we think public discord is a *sign* of the times, we miss the point. It tells us something we desperately need to hear.

Dave Brauer-Rieke



Summer is ending.

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Wildfire Update

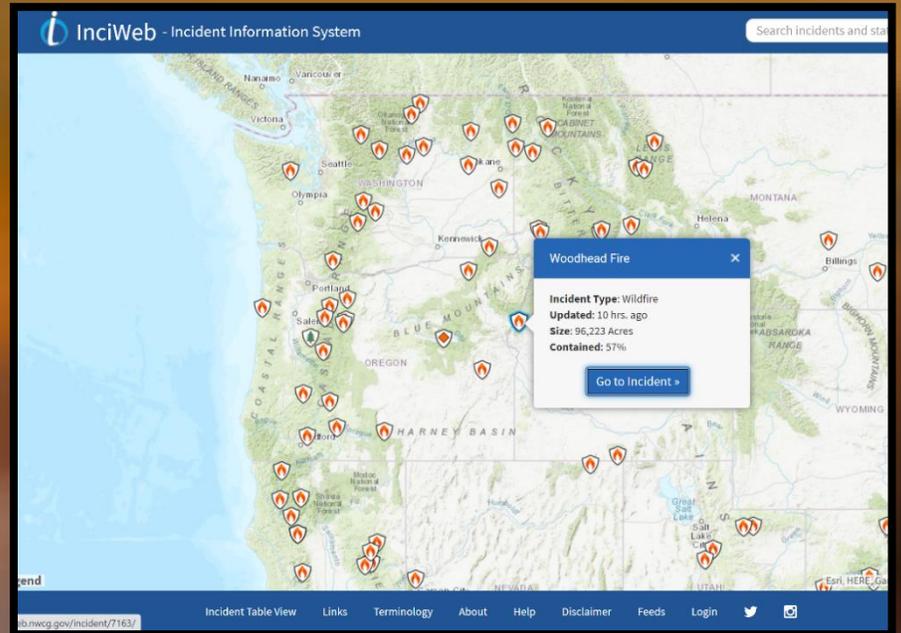
Fires continue to burn throughout the Pacific Northwest. However, they are slowly being brought under control and most evacuees are being allowed to return home, where possible. Over 1,600 homes and structures have been destroyed.

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> is one good source to see the current status of wildfires. [FEMA produces a daily briefing](#) which includes information on evacuations, homes destroyed, etc. <https://aqicn.org> has been a popular site to determine air quality while smoke inundated communities. Smoke is no longer a major issue for most.

Oregon and Washington are beginning to move from immediate crisis management into an **inter**mediate crisis mode. FEMA "VALs" (*Voluntary Agency Liaisons*) have come to our states to help. The United Way is taking on significant leadership in community organization. Washington and Oregon Synods are receiving donations and Lutheran Disaster Response is working with us to identify needs and opportunities. They are proactive and here to help. Absolutely **vital** to this work is your awareness and sharing of what is happening in your town, with your neighbors, and your church. Please be in communication with your synod offices. We can only help when we know the need.

To date FEMA has received over 6000 family requests for long term help in Oregon alone. Temporary housing will continue to be a need for many into the new year. Two special areas of concern with which the Church can help are 1) Spiritual and emotional support of immediate neighbors, and 2) attending to the needs of under or un-documented families and individuals. As the government has become increasingly militant around the issue of documentation, these families increasingly fall through the cracks.

You, your congregation, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, your Synod and our churchwide Lutheran Disaster Response ministry are the way we reach out to those in need. Thank you for all you do!



Wildfire Followup - <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/afterfire.html>

If your home was affected by a wildfire, **do not return home until authorities say it is safe.** Take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones.



Wildfires leave behind a lot of ash.

- Take steps to [reduce your exposure to smoke](#). Smoke can stay in the air for days after a wildfire ends. Wildfires leave behind a lot of [ash](#) that can irritate your eyes, nose, or skin and cause coughing and other health effects.
- [Children, pregnant women](#), and people with [asthma](#), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease ([COPD](#)), or [heart disease](#) need to be especially careful about breathing in dust from ash.
- Protect yourself against ash when you clean up. Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and shoes and socks to protect your skin. Wear goggles to protect your eyes.
- Wash off any ash that gets on your skin or in your eyes or mouth as soon as you can.
- *Children should not do any cleanup work.*
- Limit how much ash you breathe in by wearing an N95 [respirator](#). A respirator is a mask that fits tightly to your face to filter out ash before you can breathe it in. You must wear a respirator [correctly](#). Respirators are not made to fit children. If you have heart or lung disease ask your doctor if it is safe for you to wear a respirator.
- **Pay attention to any health symptoms** if you or your children have asthma, COPD, heart disease, or are pregnant. Get to medical help if you need it.

Drive safely.

- Be alert for broken traffic lights and missing street signs.
- Watch out for trash and debris on the road.
- Learn more: [Motor Vehicle Safety](#)

Be careful around damaged buildings or structures.

- Wait to return to buildings during daylight hours, when it is easier to avoid hazards, especially if the electricity is off and you have no lights.
- Learn more: [Worker Safety During Fire Cleanup](#)

Clean up safely.

- Wear proper safety equipment, avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, and avoid electrical hazards.
- Learn more: [Clean Up Safely After a Disaster](#)

Protect your emotional well-being.

- After a wildfire, you may feel sad, mad, guilty, or numb. These are all normal reactions to stress. Talk to a psychologist, social worker, or professional counselor if you need help [coping](#).

Preaching/Praying thru Disaster

Sunday, October 18, 2020 - [Matthew. 22:15-22](#) – *It's Not About the Taxes!*



Taxes weren't the point. The oppressive power of Rome was the point. The fact that Israel wasn't allowed to mint their own silver coins, but that you had to pay Roman taxes in silver, that was just 'in your face.' Name calling, disrespect, lies, belittling behaviors, the spin of Empire, narcissism. "Don't ask me," says Jesus. "You'll have to decide. *"Give to the emperor*

the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."

Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020 – [John 8:31-36](#) – *Freedom*

Jesus answered them, *"Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."* COVID does not limit our freedom, just our options. Wildfires and floods do not limit our freedom, they just rob the earth. Sin, disrespect, judgment, belittling behaviors, lack of personal integrity and action. That is why we not free, insists Jesus. But, *"if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."*



All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2020 – [Revelation 7:9-17](#) – *It Will End*

The angel said to me, *"These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* There will be



no avoiding preaching and praying on politics this Sunday, and possibly no forgiveness when you do. One cannot read the names of the saints without asking if we are on the right path, as they were. One cannot reflect on the light of the courageous without damning the darkness of cowardice. Revelation 7 is a political text about hunger and thirst and leadership. *"These are they who have come out of the great ordeal."*

It will end. We will be heard.

Dave Brauer-Rieke, ELCA *Region 1 Lutheran Disaster Preparedness Project* Coordinator, is pleased to offer

[A video sermon for Sunday, October 18, 2020.](#)

Title: ["Really, It's Not About the Taxes!"](#)

Scripture: Lectionary Year A Gospel, [Matthew 22:15-22](#)

Suggested Hymn: ELW 686, "We Give Thee But Thine Own"



Revealing Relationships: Racism and Disaster Preparedness Webinar

Saturday, October 17, 2020
9 AM Alaska Time, 10 AM Pacific,
11 AM Mountain

Join these amazing teachers and advocates for learning, inspiration, community and conversation.



LaVeta Gilmore Jones,
Co-Executive Director and
Community Organizer for
the [Leaven Community](#)
[/Salt & Light Lutheran](#)
Alaide Vilches Ibarra,
Executive Director
[Interfaith Movement for](#)
[Immigrant Justice, Oregon](#)
Sr. Kelly Tazuko Marciales,
Director [ELCA Organizing](#)
[for Mission Network](#)

[Webinar Details and Registration:](#)
Region1BePrepared.org/webinars

Treasure Valley, Idaho LCSNW

Did you know? *Safe Families for Children* is an international organization with over 120 chapters in the US alone. In the Treasure Valley, ID *Safe Families* is just getting started! The local LCSNW office in Boise has made huge strides in the last few months laying the groundwork for a new family partnership.

Find out what LSS of Alaska and your local LCSNW offices are doing. With your help, our Lutheran Social Service Agencies serve in ways we are often not able to individually.

The Reviews are in!

“Who could not be thankful and impressed with Solomon? All the panelists were terrific.”

“I loved that the webinar was conversational and not just presentation.”

“Perfect.”

“So much new and good information. I really appreciated the synergy of the three presenters.”

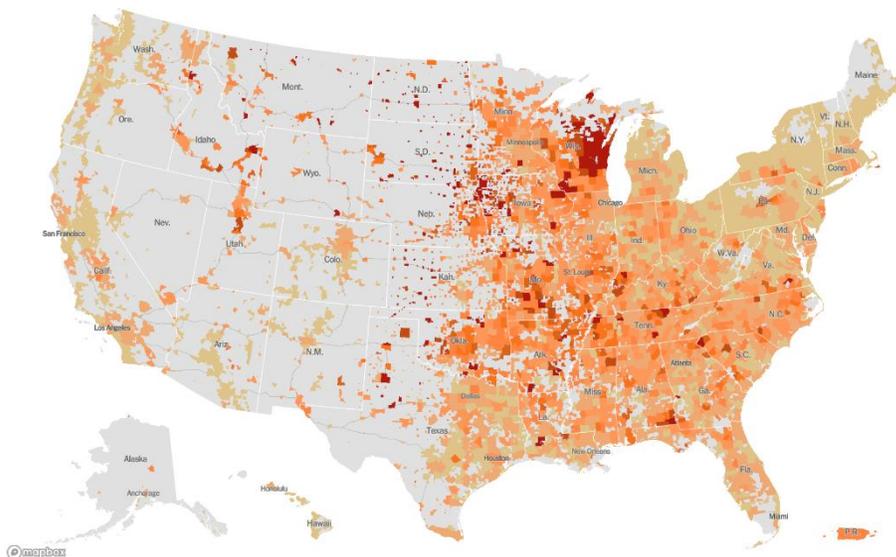


If you missed [Revealing Relationships: Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness](#) it's not too late. [Replay the webinar just as it happened live. Details here.](#)



COVID-19 - (Not to be forgotten)

COVID-19 continues to be a concern across the country and, literally, throughout the world. As we move more deeply into this year's election cycle there seems to be increasing mis-information being offered to the U.S. public. Please continue to encourage use of masks, social distancing and other common-sense precautions.



The Places Hit Hardest

The coronavirus has left no state unscathed. But its impact has been wildly uneven. Officials in California, Florida and Texas, the states with the most known cases, have each identified more than 700,000 cases. In a few less populous states, including Vermont and Maine, there are fewer than 10,000 patients.

The nation's most populous places have all suffered tremendously. But unlike in the early days of the pandemic, it is not so simple to say that big cities have been hit hardest. On a per capita basis, many of the places with the most cases have been small and mid-sized metros in the Southwest with large Native American or Hispanic populations. In Yuma County, Ariz., along the country's border with Mexico, about one of every 17 residents is known to have had the virus. In McKinley County, N.M., which includes part of the hard-hit Navajo Nation, one of every 278 residents has died from Covid-19.

[The New York Times – October 5, 2020](#)

ShakeOut and COVID-19
International ShakeOut Day is each year, Thursday of October.
This year, that's 10/15. How will you participate?

There has been a lot of uncertainty over the past few months due to COVID-19. Work environments are adapting and changing. Schools and colleges are considering how to operate. It seems like every day, we are confronting new challenges. All while earthquakes are still happening. One thing's for sure: **ShakeOut is also still happening on 10/15**, and we are here to support you.

Considerations:

- **Where will you all be for your drill?** together, or some at home, work, and school? Consider video conferencing! Take recordings or screenshots to share on social media. Have an after-action dialogue and survey.
- **If in-person**, follow COVID 19 health and safety guidelines. **Ensure distancing and wear masks**, and regularly wash your hands.
- **Choose your own date** (or multiple dates) to accommodate as many participants as possible, rotating schedules, and the unexpected. **Most may still participate on 10/15.**

... What Else?

- Consider all potential hazards and the risks you may face. Fires, floods, weather, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, and more can still happen.
- Follow the Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety to protect your family, property, and way of life ahead of the next disaster: EarthquakeCountry.org/sevensteps.
- Visit coronavirus.gov for the latest updates.

Join Us in the World's Largest Earthquake Drill.
October 15, 2020 Register Now at ShakeOut.org

The Great American Shakeout is October 15, 2020. Make it a "thing" for you, your family, your agency, and your synod. COVID appropriate details and resources are free. Make it happen. Prepare!