



ELCA REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE September 14, 2021

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

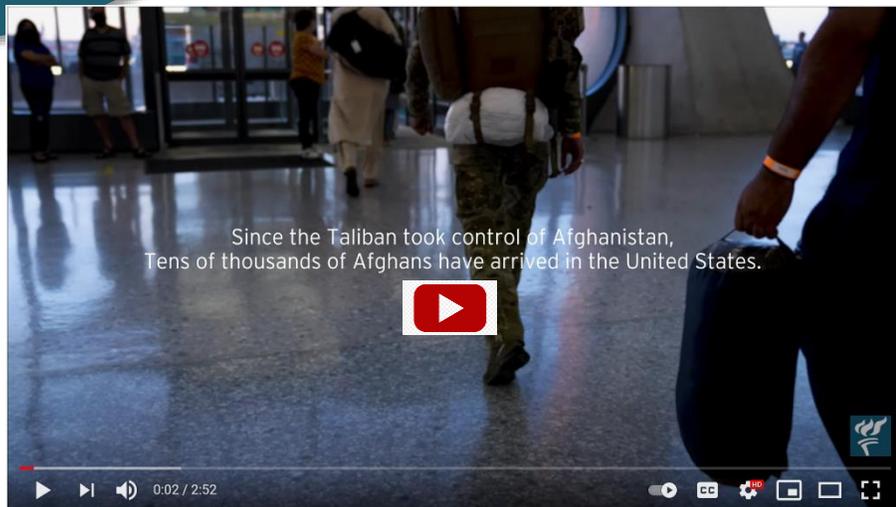
Region 1 Lutheran Disaster Preparedness & Response

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The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan has been, and continues to be, a major humanitarian crisis. It is hard to overstate this truth. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services ([LIRS](#)) is the largest, religious based, resettlement agency in the U.S. However, our work is only possible because individuals and congregations step up to help. [This is everybody's work.](#)



[This video gives you some sense of how our work looks and feels.](#) While Afghan refugees flood into American air force bases [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) (LDR) is working with LIRS and [Lutheran Social Service agencies](#). Soon, however, LDR will return to other disaster work as you, LIRS and LSA continue to tend to this crisis. Thank you for all of your help and concern!

Dave Brauer-Rieke, Region 1 LDR Disaster Preparedness Project Manager.

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

REGISTER TODAY. ALL ARE WELCOME.

WHY WE MEET

- **BE PREPARED**
 Help your members, neighbors & church be ready for disaster.
- **LEARN AND SHARE**
 Earthquakes, wildfires, floods and heatwaves. Understand what is happening and why.
- **PARTNER UP**
 You are not alone! The ELCA and local and State partners are waiting. Make contact.
- **PROCLAIM**
 Climate Change and related disasters are here to stay. Be Christ for others in these times.

**LEARN LOVE AND LIVE WITH THE REGION 1
 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS NETWORK.**

**We're EXCITED to
 get started!!**

**LUTHERAN
 DISASTER
 PREPAREDNESS
 NETWORK**

REGISTER NOW for our
 Orientation 6-7:30 PM PT
 Thursday, Sept 16, 2021.
 (7 PM MT ❖ 5 PM AK.)

Form and invite a team of interested Disaster Preparedness and Response people from your congregation – or come alone and check us out.

***All are welcome.
 All are needed.***

**And we'll be
 BACK FOR MORE
 October 21**

Lutheran Disaster Response and the VOAD Movement

What is the tie between LDR and State VOADs? So glad you asked!!

LDR seeks effective, coordinated disaster relief. We gladly work with VOAD partners according to the “4 C’s” – “Cooperation, Communication, Coordination & Collaboration.” However, while LDR works with the Red Cross, Salvation Army and the like we do not fund their work. The donations you give to LDR-US are expended only through ELCA congregations, synods & LSA agencies.

In cooperation with the Oregon and NWIM synods, LDR helped fund case manager training after the Umatilla floods of 2020. LDR, Camp Lutherwood of Oregon, and the Oregon Synod disaster team helped bring “Camp Noah” to the state for children traumatized by wildfires this past summer. We feed, we help house, we counsel, we buy generators and blenders, but only with you as LDR in the middle of your people and their need.



Synods enter into an agreement with LDR if they wish to be a part of funneling LDR financial support to those in need. Part of this agreement is that they have a representative on their local VOAD affiliate. Coordination is key to effective disaster response!

Who’s Who in Disaster?

Lutheran Disaster Response. [FEMA](#), [COADs](#), [VOADs](#), [United Way](#), the [Red Cross](#), the [Red Crescent](#). Who’s Who in disasters relief? This is the first in a series of short articles we’ll share every month on a different player in the world or disaster response. It’s good to know the neighborhood!



National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

Let’s start this month with **VOADS**. “VOAD” stands for **“Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.”** There is a national VOAD program, but more importantly each state has its own VOAD affiliate, like WAVOAD for Washington or IDVOAD in Idaho. When disaster strikes the call goes out. **“Who can do what and how do we get moving?!”**

VOADs are really organizational “tables” where any agency with something to contribute to a disaster situation can step up and help in a coordinated fashion. The Red Cross and United Way are usually there. Church organizations like Lutheran Disaster Response, UMCOR (the United Methodists,) the Salvation Army, Jewish and Muslim relief agencies are there. FEMA may be there if the disaster receives a FEMA designation. Hospitals, Rotarians, city or country government representatives, etc. etc. **“Who can get food and basic supplies out now?”** **“Who can start to arranged for emergency housing?”** **“We’re going to need case managers and counseling down the line. Who can help?”** **“What food banks have capacity?”**

VOADs are voluntary organization so they look much different state to state. A well organized VOAD will help establish COADs (**County Organizations Active in Disaster**) and local long term recovery groups. Congregations which really want to be effective in disaster work should see if there is a local COAD, and if not help start one! Synods and LCSNW or LSS of Alaska work with VOADs as well. We’re all on the same team.

The Church: Looking at life through Disaster



17th Sunday after Pentecost September

19 2021 – [Mark 9:30-37](#) *“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”* We look at our neighbor and we

notice if they are white or black, poor, rich, man or woman, and we decide how to be around them. When we see a child much of

that disappears. It is the same in disaster. We see someone who has lost their home and that becomes our doorway to relationship. It is as if we judge less and care more. So it is as Jesus stands before the cross. Disasters remind us who we’re called to be for each other.

18th Sunday after Pentecost September 26, 2021 – [Mark 9:38-50](#) *“Truly I tell you,*

whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.” There can be no more directly applicable disaster response

Bible verse than Mark 9:41. See the need and respond – person to person. When the need is beyond arm’s length you may choose to support those who are closer to the crisis. What is new for us in today’s world is that there is no longer “here” and “there.” Both COVID and Climate Change teach us that every action now has global impact. Now we are invited to offer that cup of water as an ongoing way of life.

19th Sunday after Pentecost October 3, 2021 – [Mark 10:2-16](#) *“Moses allowed a*

man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” The question was, “Is it lawful?” and the answer is “Yes.” Yet, Jesus’ teaching insists that “lawful” is not the right question. The question is “caring” or “helpful” or “sensitive” or “upbuilding.” So, back to the children of the survivors of disaster. Please take them up in your arms and bless them!

20th Sunday After Pentecost October 10, 2021 – [Mark 10:17-31](#) *“Jesus, looking at*

him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.” Natural

disasters happen at the intersection of natural hazards and human vulnerability. Our greatest vulnerabilities are around with those things we believe we own. Release those treasures. Then, come and follow.



Why Racial Equity Counts

“As wildfires rage through California again this fall, the disparity in media coverage is affecting relief efforts for residents of color. Media coverage and public pressure can affect which communities are prioritized for relief, with attention often focusing on more affluent white areas. But in fact, research has shown that communities of color are disproportionately affected by environmental disasters due to socioeconomic factors, structural racism in housing practices, and citizenship status ([UW News](#)). Wildfires are no exception...

Research demonstrates that wealthier, white areas are more likely to receive aid, though predominantly Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities are at 50% greater risk of wildfires ([UW News](#))... Communities most at risk lack basic necessities like health insurance and vehicle access. These resources would make it more feasible to recover from environmental disasters such as wildfires. For instance, federal fuel treatment projects are largely implemented in predominantly white communities whose residents were over the poverty line. These projects reduce the amount of flammable vegetation in the area, drastically reducing the start and spread of wildfires.”

[Anti-Racism Daily](#)

Read More!

- **We Didn't Have a Plan': Disabled People Struggle to Evacuate From Wildfires ([NYTimes](#))**
- **Wildfire relief for people of color aimed at building stronger community for long term ([OPB](#))**
- **Wealthier, Whiter Areas Are More Likely to Get Help After Fires, Data Show ([NYTimes](#))**

Show your smarts!!

If you participate in our new Region 1 Network Orientation Session September 16, you'll be given the following "just for fun" test. Try it now and get a leg up!!

How many 'Billion dollar' disasters were there in the U.S. in 2020?

- 1
- 5
- 10
- 20
- 50

What was the total cost of these U.S. disasters in 2020?

- \$20 billion
- \$25 billion
- \$50 billion
- \$100 billion

Which Region 1 state has lost the most forest to fire this year?

- Alaska
- Washington
- Oregon
- Idaho
- Montana

Don't cheat, but the answers are:

