



Lutheran Disaster Response > Spring Storms 2008

SPRING STORMS AFFECT COMMUNITIES ACROSS SOUTHERN U.S.

An update from Lutheran Disaster Response

May 12, 2008

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,



This weekend, another series of severe weather and tornadoes swept through the southern United States, impacting communities in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Georgia. As many as 22 people lost their lives as a result of this most recent storm system, and hundreds of homes were damaged or completely destroyed.

The late winter and spring have been a busy period for emergency managers and disaster response groups, and the headlines of destruction and injuries from strong storms have become far too frequent. Heavy rains have resulted in widespread flooding across the country, and tornadoes have ravaged towns and displaced households in several areas.

Additionally, media coverage is currently focused on two international disasters of unthinkable magnitude – the cyclone in Myanmar and the earthquake in China – and the response to these natural disasters will likely continue to be frustratingly slow.

Lutheran Disaster Response is actively assessing the situation domestically by communicating with local clergy and community leaders. There are few ELCA congregations in the area most recently affected, but the congregation of First Lutheran Church in Neosho, Missouri, a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has reported that a number of members lost their homes. Lutheran Disaster Response coordinators throughout the south will continue to connect with partners as they assess the long-term needs of the affected communities, and more information will be posted as it becomes available.



Even in the midst of these events, the Holy Spirit's presence in this Pentecost season will give us abiding hope. It is with this hope that we pray for all of God's people affected by disasters, both our neighbors here in this country and those around the world. May they seek with great confidence the promise of new life, and may those who provide care for them be strengthened for service.

For information on how you can support the work of Lutheran Disaster Response in responding, [click here](#). Thank you for your commitment to bringing help and hope to those in need.

In service,

Rev. Kevin A. Massey
Acting Director, Lutheran Disaster Response