

Thursday, May 16

Do you know someone who has been impacted by flooding, blizzards, tornados or other natural disasters? In what ways can you share God's compassion with those who have experienced this trauma, and how can you care for yourself while supporting people in this way?

Rev. Michael Stadie, Program Director with Lutheran Disaster Response in the U.S., led a webinar on May 15 on the topics of emotional and spiritual care following a natural disaster and compassion fatigue. If you weren't able to be part of the live webinar, it's available to watch at [this link](#). The handouts that were reviewed in the video are available in the "Resources for Congregations" section of the Nebraska Synod's [Nebraska Floods & Disaster Response website](#).

If you would like to learn more about resources for those impacted by the disaster or ways you can be involved in disaster response and recovery efforts, please check out other resources at the Nebraska Synod's website linked above or contact the Nebraska Synod office at 402-896-5311.

Thank you for your continued prayerful interest in disaster recovery. Your support is so important and a powerful example of being church together for the sake of the world.

Thursday, April 25

The Nebraska Synod continues to partner with Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran Family Services during disaster relief and recovery efforts. Additional partners include people like you who are reading this email, interested in how you can serve your neighbors who have been impacted by the flooding and blizzard.

The Synod is looking for congregations interested in being a prayer partner with a congregation impacted by the disaster. If your congregation would like to serve in this way, please contact Lisa Kramme with the Synod's Disaster Team at lisa@nebraskasynod.org. Prayer partners will lift up the impacted congregation/community in prayer and reach out to them with offers of compassionate listening, encouragement, etc., More information and suggestions for support will be shared with those who are prayer partners.

Staying informed during a time when information is updated frequently is helpful to those seeking assistance and to those supporting people seeking assistance. The Nebraska Synod's website features a page specifically sharing updates on resources for those impacted, resources for volunteers, and resources for congregations. To stay updated and share updates with others, please [click here](#). This page is updated twice weekly. If you are looking for resources or ways to serve that currently aren't listed on this website, please contact the Nebraska Synod Office at 402-896-5311 to be put in touch with someone to assist you.

Join us online for a webinar on emotional and spiritual care following a natural disaster to be held Wednesday, May 15 from 1:30-2:30pm Central Time. Rev. Michael Stadie, Program Director with Lutheran Disaster Response, will lead the presentation, and there will be time for questions from participants. If you can't be part of the live webinar, it will be recorded for access

later. To register for this free webinar, [click here](#). After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Thank you for your continued prayerful interest in disaster recovery. Your support is so important and a powerful example of being church together for the sake of the world.

Thursday, April 11- Crisis Clean Up

"Help us to shoulder the burden of suffering, and make us bearers of the hope that can be found in you..."

Crisis Clean Up

We've learned from partners in disaster recovery that Crisis Cleanup could use assistance in getting the word out about the Crisis Cleanup Hotline.

Crisis Cleanup manages a website that improves the coordination of those who have a property impacted by a disaster with volunteers who have the capacity to help with cleanup of that property. Those who would like assistance from Crisis Cleanup are asked to call the Crisis Cleanup Hotline at 833-556-2476. This hotline will be open through April 12.

Those who would like to share information about the Hotline can find flyers and social media files at this link.

As this weekend marks the one-month anniversary following the bomb cyclone and flooding, please remember those impacted by the disaster who may still be feeling that impact greatly. Lutheran Disaster Response has resources for worship at this link, including the following:

Merciful God,

Hear our cry for mercy in the wake of snow, wind, and water. Reveal your presence in the midst of our suffering. Help us to trust in your promises of hope and life so that desperation and grief will not overtake us. Come quickly to our aid that we may know peace and joy again.

Strengthen us in this time of trial with assurance of hope we know in the death and resurrection of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

And:

Gracious God,

Your word of peace stills the storms that rage in our world. Bring hope to places that know devastation in the calm after the storm and flood. Bring comfort to those who grieve the loss of loved ones, animals, and property. Let your love be known through those who work to bring order in the chaos. Help us to shoulder the burden of suffering, and make us bearers of the hope that can be found in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Thursday, April 4- Making Way for Long Term Recovery

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you. -Isaiah 54:10

Nebraska Synod congregations, partner agencies, and ministries continue to provide immediate response and make preparations for long-term recovery across the state. From sheltering those who've lost homes to aiding cleanup efforts to providing materials and cash assistance, the church has been busy—and is geared up to remain so for a long time to come.

As emergency responses give way to long-term recovery, the Synod Disaster Team continues to coordinate information and resources to ensure needed help is ready in the right place at the right time. While the transition from response to recovery occurs, it's important to bear in mind the great mental, emotional, and spiritual strain not only on those suffering the effects of a disaster, but on those caring for people impacted by one. Be attentive to signs of strain in volunteers, pastors, church leaders—and in yourself, if you've been active in the work of relief.

Please continue to hold all involved in prayer, remember them with your financial and material support, and consider when you might be able to provide time and muscle to the cleaning and rebuilding ahead. For more information of all types related to disaster, recovery, and support, please consult the following:

Stay tuned to the Nebraska Synod's website for updates on resources for those impacted and for volunteers- [Nebraska Synod Disaster Response Resource Page](#).

Lutheran Disaster Response has resources available online [here](#).

Under the General tab, the resource titled "Responding to a Disaster" is solid, practical information on what to expect in the recovery process, especially for ministers and congregations.

Under the Worship tab, the resource titled "Worship Resources: Natural Disaster" is one that some congregations may want to use to mark the one month anniversary of the event and remember those impacted.

The Phases of Disaster pdf (in the additional resources section above) is for helpful information about delayed and cumulative stress after disasters.

The Rural Ministry Hotline number is 1-800-464-0258.

Thank you for your continuing concern and support for those impacted by flood and blizzard, and for the efforts underway to provide relief.

Thursday, March 28- Disaster Response Strategy Taking Shape

The Nebraska Synod continues to coordinate with Lutheran Family Services Nebraska and Lutheran Disaster Response (ELCA) to respond to immediate needs and to set up plans and resources for the multi-year recovery that will follow this month's devastating floods and snows. A wide variety of agencies and independent efforts have responded rapidly to meet immediate critical needs, but every day brings new recognition of the long-term needs and the immense amount of time, energy, and resources that will be needed to address them.

As the true scope of this disaster continues to be revealed, we encourage you to engage three things: Prayers, Pockets, and Plans.

Continue to pray for those impacted and for their well-being; for good weather and safe conditions for response work; and for a complete and timely recovery.

Reach into your pockets to share contributions for recovery work, through the Nebraska Synod Disaster Response Fund or elsewhere. As [this brief video](#) explains, cash gifts are the most responsive and flexible way to have an impact immediately, and long-term, cash grants to help pay for needed items and repairs helps local economies devastated by loss: Donate With Impact.

And plan to revisit this resource page regularly: Nebraska Synod Disaster Response Resource Page especially as the days ahead turn into weeks and the next news cycle pushes this disaster and the needs of those impacted off the front page. Help us ensure there are as many people pulling together at the completion of this recovery as there are at the start.

We will continue to update the Resource Page twice weekly and to share information and opportunities as they arise. Thank you for your care and prayer for all those impacted, and for your commitment to the recovery work we share.

Thursday, March 21-

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska is the local affiliate of Lutheran Disaster Response (ELCA), and a partner to Nebraska Synod and other congregations and groups in recovery efforts. In a Thursday update, LFS CEO and President Stacy Martin reported:

The Fremont community has been one of the most impacted and we are deploying resources there daily to assist with case management, interpreter services and therapists as needed. The community is still in need of basic necessities and we are working tirelessly to assure they are getting services and items they need.

LFS has been working around the clock with individuals and families at the shelters and at the Fremont hospital to provide interpreter services and distributing cards in Spanish which advised of the phone number LFS has set up to assist them as they go through rebuilding. Interpretation services, taking assessments and assisting with referrals are the primary needs of the community at this time.

LFS staff spent time with kids Wednesday, listening to their stories and finding out about their needs. The City of Fremont is assessing and tagging housing. If a house is tagged red, entering

it is a violation. LFS will continue to monitor the situation to see how we can provide ongoing support.