

2005 ELCA Domestic Disaster Alert

In the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

August 30, 2005. Crashing through the Gulf Coast on August 28th and 29th, Hurricane Katrina cut a wide path of massive destruction. First passing over Southern Florida late last week, the hurricane caused significant flooding and other damage in the Florida Keys. Hurricane Katrina next brought massive wind and rain all along the Gulf Coast, including New Orleans, Louisiana, and Biloxi, Ocean Springs, and Gulfport, Mississippi. Other inland communities in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi also felt the devastating power of this storm, suffering major flooding and wind damage.

ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, working with our Lutheran Disaster Response partners throughout the Gulf Coast region, is prepared to care for disaster survivors who now grieve the loss of life, home, and community. Of particular concern are those who were vulnerable even before Katrina struck, including the 28 percent of New Orleans' residents living below the poverty line, those who were homeless, and migrant

farm families.

As in past disasters, our church's response to this hurricane will include spiritual and emotional counseling, care for caregivers, volunteer support for debris removal and, eventually, home rebuilding. Responding to immediate needs, hardship grants are available to ELCA and other community members who need assistance with emergency expenses, such as temporary housing, child care, special medical equipment or health needs. Volunteers will be available to help survivors navigate and access the resources available to them as they rebuild their homes and lives. You can find more information at www.elca.org/disaster including giving and volunteering opportunities and prayer requests.

Your gifts to ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, designated for Hurricane 2005, will ensure that we are present to accompany disaster survivors at every stage of the relief and rebuilding process. All, 100 percent, of your gifts will go to help individuals and communities rebuild their lives



(In the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, continued)

following this disaster. Please pray for those whose lives have been uprooted by the disaster, and for the health and safety of rescuers and caregivers.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has announced a generous gift supplement program for individual Thrivent members giving to Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery. If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, please visit www.thrivent.com/fraternal/katrina.html for more information and an important form that is required for the supplement. We are grateful for Thrivent's partnership in our ELCA Domestic Disaster Response ministry!

Learn more at www.elca.org/disaster

Yes! I want to help!

- For 2005 Hurricane Response \$ _____ K3
 For all Domestic Disaster Response \$ _____ D8

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Give through your congregation, or send directly to ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764, or call 800-638-3522 to give by credit card. For more information, go to www.elca.org/giving



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