

Raising faith in

The Backyard

with a passion for generous stewardship ■ June 2011

Hurricane Season Is Here...

The hurricane season of 2010 was dubbed as one of the most fortunate seasons of all for our area due to the peculiar air flow in the upper atmosphere which made each storm turn north into the Atlantic. This year, things are much different and the experts are predicting up to 15 hurricanes, three or four of which could be dangerous. As always, we need to be prepared so, in order to help us be ready, I am sharing with you the article below which I hope will be helpful for all of us. The theme is both imaginative and practical: **"The 72 Hour Lutheran."**

Prepare your work outside, get everything ready for you in the field; and after that build your house. Proverbs 24:27

What is a 72-hour Lutheran? It is a person who happens to be Lutheran and has 72 hours of supplies in their home so that they are able to take care of their own basic needs for 72 hours. Why this amount of time? If we here in the Gulf Coast are hit by a hurricane, it takes 72 hours for the majority of governmental, state and private entities to respond to a disaster. The goal in our synod is to have a majority of our people prepared at the basic level by creating 72-hour Lutherans which in turn leads naturally to the creation of 72-hour congregations who are able to take care of their own needs so that they will be available to respond to the needs of others. Below you will see a modified list from the NOAA.GOV website. A fuller list can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/fullhlist>. But, if you just want the bare minimum to become a 72-hour Lutheran use the following:

Basic 72-Hour Lutheran List

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances, the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- If necessary, determine an escape route from your home and designate places to meet. (Note: these should be measured in tens of miles, rather than hundreds of miles.) Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.

- ◆ Call the church and make sure that they have all your information.
- ◆ Stock up on non-perishable emergency supplies and create a disaster supply kit.
- ◆ Water (at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days).
- ◆ Food (at least enough for 3 to 7 days).
- ◆ Non-perishable packaged or canned food.
- ◆ Juices.
- ◆ Snack foods
- ◆ Foods for infants or the elderly
- ◆ Cooking tools
- ◆ Non-electric can opener
- ◆ Fuel
- ◆ Paper plates / plastic utensils.
- ◆ First aid kit.
- ◆ Medicines / prescription drugs.
- ◆ Special Items for babies and the elderly.
- ◆ Toiletries.
- ◆ Hygiene items.
- ◆ Moisture wipes.
- ◆ Flashlight / batteries.
- ◆ Radio (Battery operated and NOAA weather radio).
- ◆ Telephone (Fully charged cell phone with extra battery).
- ◆ A traditional (not cordless) telephone set.
- ◆ Cash (with some small bills). Credit cards, banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods.
- ◆ Extra keys.
- ◆ Tools (keep a set with you during the storm).
- ◆ Vehicle fuel tanks — kept filled!
- ◆ Pet care items.
- ◆ Proper identification Immunization records.
- ◆ Medications.
- ◆ Ample supply of food and water.

Dear Members of Hosanna Lutheran Church,

I want to say thank you to everyone who supported my fundraiser at the May garage sale. With your help I raised \$453 selling baked goods.

The money will go to buying supplies for my Eagle project. I will be overseeing the construction of a bus shelter that is planned to be built in June. I especially want to say thank you to the people who donated the baked goods: Mr. Hellner for the water, Mrs. Dejmal for the banana nut bread and white chocolate chip macadamia nut cookies, Mrs. Dietzmann for the "ooey gooey bars," Mrs. McConnell for the rice crispy treats, Pastor John for the variety of cookies, Mrs. Rhodes for the brownies and Mr. and Mrs. Wolf for the chocolate chip cookies and drinks.

Again thanks for the support you give me.

Yours truly,
Daniel Wolf

SEMBRANDO PARA EL FUTURO

"Sowing Seeds for the Future" is a ministry of hope designed to ease the plight of families living in Peru near Lutheran congregations that have made a commitment to engaging their neighborhood. By listening to the community and getting to know the real needs of the families, local leaders are shaping a ministry that is empowering people to live a healthier life.

For children, Sembrando means love. Love that shows up in daily meals they would not otherwise have, help with homework and safe places to play, learn and grow in faith. Hosanna's recent gift of \$920.38 will help accomplish our mission.

Peggy Hahn
Assistant to the Bishop
TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Christ at Lutherhill with your gift to our annual fund drive of #701.80 in honor of Rev. Jeff Marsh. Your membership in our Indian Paintbrush Gardener Society makes a vital impact as we work to be "A place for all people of every generation to experience the love of Christ, in unique settings and new ways."

Your support has helped us prepare for another fantastic summer! We are expecting another record number of campers this summer. Our theme is, "Love Wins."

We are especially excited to have Pastor Lawrence Bade with us serving as Interim Executive Director. Most recently he served as pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brenham, but he also has been Director of Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch, and assistant to the Bishop of the Southwest Texas Synod.

Thank you again for your support.

Kristin Albers Lamm
Associate Director of Operations

Matt Kindsvatter
Associate Director of Program

5-19-2011

I just received word of your donation in my honor for my 20th ordination anniversary, made to Lutherhill. I fondly remember my time with Hosanna and I'm proud that I was the first ordination there.

Thank you for your generous remembrance of my ordination, and may God continue to bless and grow your mission and ministry.

Jeffery Marsh

Noisy Offering June 19

NAM SOS Food Drive

Summer arrives this month, and Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) is working now to stock up its food pantry shelves so that children home for summer vacation are well taken care of.

Typically there is a 30 percent increase in demand on NAM's food pantry during the summer months. According to information released by NAM, each summer the food pantry feeds more than 5,000 area children through its Survival over the Summer (SOS) project. NAM relies heavily on individuals, groups, schools, businesses and congregations to conduct food drives and fundraisers to make it a success.



SOS is designed to help families whose children receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year," said Carole Little, NAM's President and CEO. When school isn't in session, many of these children go without nutritious meals. Through SOS we try to provide these families with additional food so they can stretch their limited budgets to cover other summer expenses, such as higher electric bills.

Residents typically remember to donate food to the less fortunate during the holiday season - a time where merrymaking is generally gathered around a meal.

However, some individuals tend to forget that while they're off making summer plans others are less worried about a vacation and more concerned with obtaining their next meal.

"We know about the hunger issue around the world but we need to also know it is in the community," Robin Charlesworth, president of the Rotary Club of Houston Northwest Sunset.

**Make some noise.
Make a difference in the world.**

Glimpses of Grace 2011

Year-to-Date

Through May 31, 2011:

World Hunger	\$506.00
African Initiative:	
WomenCraft	\$17,700.00
Kagera Scholarship Fund	\$275.00
Buffalo Wings Fundraiser	\$1,155.90
Benevolence	\$10,481.47
Helping Hands	\$610.00
Mulkey Scholarship Fund	\$354.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$2,000.00
Garage Sale	\$3,326.20
Northwest Assistance Ministries	\$290.00
Rachel's Day	\$268.00
Hunger Rumlings	\$1106.00
Mulkey Fundraiser	\$5917.00

Mission of the Month Gifts:

January — WomenCraft	\$775.57
February — The Life Center	\$729.00
March — Lutherhill Ministries	\$701.80
April — Habitat for Humanity	\$758.50
May — Lutheran Campus Ministries	\$495.52

Helping Hands:

January: Two families received money for assistance; Four individuals received items from the food pantry.

February: Four individuals received food, one received rent assistance.

March: Four individuals received food.

April: Five families received food.

May: Four families received assistance.

Through the Back Gate

The following letter about the spring storms was released by ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson inviting this church to "be about God's healing and restoration in a time of despair."

June 2, 2011

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our hearts have been breaking for weeks as we have watched incessant storms devastate many parts of the United States. From the plains of North Dakota to the bayous of Louisiana, floodwaters and torrential rain have washed out communities and cropland. Destructive tornado strikes leveled homes for miles in cities and towns including Joplin, Missouri, and Cullman, Alabama. Two ELCA church buildings — one in each state — were destroyed.

The winds destroyed the building of Peace Lutheran Church in Joplin, but not the faith of its members. Last Sunday they gathered in the parking lot in the midst of debris and shattered hopes to worship in the strong name of the risen Christ.

In the aftermath of storms that seem relentless, we may feel overwhelmed and anxious, but not powerless. For God's promise is clear: nothing in all creation will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's promise and the power of the Holy Spirit, we respond by joining together in God's work of restoring community. The liberating power of the gospel frees us to repair roofs in Cullman and fill sandbags in Fargo, on behalf of people we don't know and may never meet.

These are our commitments as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

We will pray. Pray with me that those affected may have the strength and courage they need to face these difficult days.

We will stand together, roll up our sleeves and work with partners to rebuild lives and restore hope. In Alabama, we are already at work with the Mennonites and the Christian Reformed Church in a rapid rebuilding project. Elsewhere, partnerships are unfolding with the United Methodist Church and others to coordinate volunteers to repair and rebuild homes and lives in the months and years to come. Working together we can achieve more on a scale and scope than we could ever achieve alone.

We will give generously. We are already organizing volunteer opportunities in response to the unmet needs of these communities. To support our efforts, please give now to ELCA Disaster Response. Your gift designated to Severe Spring Storms will be used in full — 100 percent — for the people and communities deeply affected by these storms.

We will stay until the work is done. One of our strengths as Lutherans is our practice of sustained response after a natural disaster, built on local networks of congregations and social ministries. Central States Synod Bishop Gerald Mansholt compared our work to long-distance running. ELCA Disaster Response was one of the first to arrive in Missouri and Alabama, and they will be the last to leave. Even as we begin this journey, our work continues on the Gulf Coast and in Haiti.

We will witness to our living faith in Christ Jesus as we join together to do God's work with our hands.

In all these things, I give thanks for each of you. May we be about God's healing and restoration in a time of despair. May we bring God's message of hope in the wake of spring storms.

In God's grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America