



**Lutheran  
Congregational  
Services Inc.**

# The Servant

*“Bringing God’s Gifts of Hope and Healing”*

A quarterly newsletter of Lutheran Congregational Services

## From the President

Dear Friends,

My letter to you in this issue of *The Servant* comes in the form of a guest writer, the Rev. Kevin Massey, who is acting director of Lutheran Disaster Response. It brings a request for our continuing involvement in the recovery of our brothers and sisters along the Gulf coast from the hurricanes of 2005.

**Please read it and respond as you are able and called by God to do!**

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

*When the 2005 hurricane season battered communities along the U.S. Gulf Coast, the response of Lutheran donors was amazing, even overwhelming. Through your support, Lutheran Disaster Response has played an integral role in the initial stages of recovery from these terrible disasters. But the work is far from over. Urban planners and other local officials estimate that recovery could continue for years to come. Now, we ask you to renew your commitment to the Gulf Coast by giving to an unprecedented second funding campaign.*

*All gifts received through this campaign will support the work of local long-term recovery organizations, through staff expertise, volunteers and other resources. What is a long-term recovery organization? In short, it is a not-for-profit organization formed as a sort of local response headquarters. By working with these committees, local leaders from any active response organiza-*

*tion have the opportunity to contribute resources to a wider group and broaden their influence on community restoration. Through long-term recovery, all available resources are multiplied through the collaborative commitment of everyone involved.*

*To give a gift to the appeal or learn more, go to [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org). Updates on the progress of the appeal, as well as success stories about long-term recovery, will also be posted so please check back regularly. Please share this message as broadly as you are able – forward this e-mail to anyone who might be interested, post this information on your Web site or blog, share this message in your church bulletin or newsletter, tell others about your experience as a Lutheran disaster Response volunteer. The response of the Lutheran community to this appeal will define our presence in the Gulf Coast recovery into the future.*

*In 2008, Lutheran Disaster Response celebrates 20 years of bringing help and hope to disaster survivors. Over those 20 years, Lutherans have earned the well deserved reputation of being committed to the long-term needs of recovering communities from Grand Forks to Oklahoma City, eastern Pennsylvania to southern California, New York city and New Orleans. Thank you for your continued commitment to this amazing and life-changing ministry!*

*Continued on page 2, column 1*

In conclusion, I add only my own urging that you respond generously to this appeal as you are able and as God has blessed you and that you help to organize a response from your congregation and community to this ongoing, real need. If you do not have a computer to log onto the LDR website, **simply send your contribution to Lutheran Disaster Response, P. O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764. Be sure to designate your gift for "Gulf Coast Long-Term Recovery"**.

Yours in Christ,

Dennis



## Lay Eucharist Visitor Training

### *The 2008 Schedule:*

May 3 at Christ Lutheran, Hellertown

September 13 at New Jerusalem Lutheran, Saucon Valley

October 11 at St. Peter's Lutheran, North Wales

November 15 at St John's Lutheran, Stroudsburg

Eucharistic Visitors are members of the congregation selected by their pastor to be specially trained to bring the communion meal from the family table at worship to homebound members of the congregation.

Lutheran Congregational Services has created this training program to help volunteers to learn proper visitation techniques and background in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

This outreach keeps members in touch with the life of the congregation by more than just their regular visits with the pastor.

All sessions are held on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Participants should bring a pen and paper, a Bible, and their lunch. The fee for the training is \$22.00 per person. Checks are to Be made payable to **Lutheran Congregational Services**.

For more information, or to register members for any of these sessions, please contact Pastor Kerry Smart: 610-770-9205 or [kerry@lutherancongregational-services.org](mailto:kerry@lutherancongregational-services.org).

## Trevor Ferrell to Speak at Annual Dinner

During the winter of 1983 an 11-year-old boy caught the attention of our greater Philadelphia area when he responded to media stories about the homeless and "code-blue" nights. Trevor Ferrell, his parents and two sisters began to make nightly trips into center city Philadelphia to bring blankets and food to those who were homeless and didn't want to go into shelters. His work led to the founding of Trevor's Campaign and Trevor's Place. While he is no longer associated with this mission, Trevor continues to minister to the poor of Philadelphia and beyond through Trevor's Thrift Shop and Distribution Center.

Trevor will be with us on May 21 as we gather to celebrate Lutheran Congregational Services' 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of incorporation. Make plans to join us and prepare to be inspired as you hear Trevor share his story of how a young boy made a big difference. **Tickets are available by calling LCS during regular hours or by returning the reservation form included with this newsletter.**

## Top 5 Reasons For playing in the Lutheran Congregational Services' 11th Annual Golf Outing at Green Pond Country Club August 25, 2008 (Save the Date!)

5. A healthy round of golf with a bunch of **Lutherans** is just what you need to practice your resolve to keep **the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment**.
4. Golf attire is more flattering than albs and choir robes.
3. With every drive off the tee you have the possibility of a hole-in-one.
2. The LCS Golf Outing buffet is **NOT** a covered dish.
1. While you commune with nature you will have plenty of opportunities to improve your prayer life as well.

## JOURNEYS THROUGH GRIEF™

A six-week seminar for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

SPRING 2008

### EASTON AREA

#### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2115 Washington Blvd.  
Wilson Borough, PA

#### Thursdays

from 7:00—8:30 pm  
April 10, 17; May 1, 8, 15 & 22

*Sponsored by*  
*Ashton Funeral Home, Inc.*  
*Finegan Funeral Home*  
*Strunk Funeral Home, Inc.*

### OLEY VALLEY

#### St. John's

#### United Church of Christ

3713 Pricetown Road  
Pricetown, PA

#### Thursdays

from 7:00—8:30 pm  
April, 10, 17 & 24, May 1, 8 & 15

*Sponsored by*  
*Blankenbiler Funeral Home*

### EAST PENN AREA

#### St. John's United Church of Christ

139 N 4th St, Emmaus, PA

#### Wednesdays

from 7:00—8:30 pm  
April 9, 16, 23 & 30, May 7 & 14

*Sponsored by*  
*Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral Homes, P.C.*  
*Horace W. Schantz Funeral Home, Inc.*

For more information, or to register members for any of this seminar, please contact Pastor Kerry Smart at 610-770-9205 or [kerry@lutherancongregationalervices.org](mailto:kerry@lutherancongregationalervices.org).

## Need a Supply Pastor?

If you are in need of someone to supply for you because of vacations or other absences, call LCS. Pr. Ritter and Pr. Smart, as well as Ruth Doty are available and eager to serve in this regard. You may also wish to have a special LCS Sunday emphasis or a presentation to an adult class/forum. Call the office at 610-770-9205 or e-mail us at [info@lutherancongregationalervices.org](mailto:info@lutherancongregationalervices.org).

## Background Searches Offered to NE and SE PA Synod Congregations

LCS is now able to provide congregations with a low cost national background search process that can be used when hiring certain staff or enlisting volunteers for children and youth ministries. These background checks are made against a national criminal and sex abuse database, rather than only a Pennsylvania state database.

The service is totally web based and reports are generated to you within minutes of entering the individual's data. Finally, LCS is able to provide a "no fuss" monthly billing process.

If you are interested in signing up for this service, there is a one time setup fee of \$15.00. Based on your congregation's level of support to LCS, a background check would either cost \$14.00 per search or \$18.00 per search.

Please contact Kathy Reyher at 610-770-9205 or email her at [kathy@lutherancongregationalervices.org](mailto:kathy@lutherancongregationalervices.org).

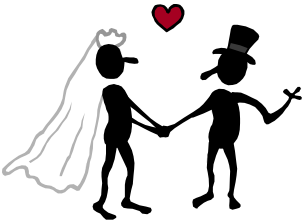
## Stress: It's all in your head, and neck, shoulders, stomach, heart rhythms, blood pressure...

- Digestive problems, such as stomachache, constipation, or diarrhea
- Weight gain or loss
- Decreased immunity, making you more vulnerable to colds, flu, and infections
- Depression
- Insomnia
- Headaches
- High blood pressure
- Decreased productivity at home or work

### To help give yourself a stress break, try these ideas:

1. Recognize that some stress is useful
2. Address the stress, and give attention to its impact on your body.
3. Identify what you can control
4. Get adequate sleep
5. Challenge negative thoughts or break up worry chain through meditation, deep breathing, or prayer.
6. Build a strong support system
7. Know your limits and seek council.

*Mayo Clinic; Embody Health March 2008*



**MARRIAGE  
PREPAREDNESS  
SERIES  
SCHEDULE 2008**

\* = a previously married track will be offered on these dates only

**NORTHEAST PA SITES**

**Wednesday, May 7, 14, 21**  
St. Peter Lutheran, Plainfield  
7:00-9:00 pm

**\*Sunday, June 8, 15, 22**  
Shepherd of the Hills, Egypt  
2:30-4:30 pm

**Wednesday, July 9, 16, 23**  
Trinity Lutheran, Hecktown  
7:00-9:00 pm

**\*Sunday, September 14, 21, 28**  
Good Shepherd Lutheran,  
Wilson Borough  
2:30-4:30 pm

**Sunday, October 5 & 12**  
Zion United Lutheran, Brodheadsville  
2:00-5:00 pm

**Thursday, November 6, 13, 20**  
Holy Spirit Lutheran, Emmaus  
7:00-9:00 pm

**SOUTHEAST PA SITES**

**Tuesday, April 15, 22, 29**  
St. Paul Lutheran, Doylestown  
7:00-9:00 pm

**Tuesday, June 3, 10, 17**  
St. John Lutheran, Richlandtown  
7:00-9:00 pm

**Wednesday, September 10, 17, 24**  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church,  
Pottstown  
7:00-9:00 pm

register on-line at  
[www.lutherancongregational-services.org](http://www.lutherancongregational-services.org)  
or call 610-770-9205

**COST:**

\$55.00 per couple/non-refundable

**Insomnia: How to sleep, not count sheep**

Here are some tips to help overcome insomnia.

- Keep your bedtime and waking time consistent, even on weekends.
- Don't "try" to sleep. Read or watch TV somewhere other than the bedroom until you become very drowsy. Then go to bed.
- Get at least 20 to 30 min of vigorous exercise every day, preferably about five to six hours before bedtime.
- Check your medications to see whether they may be contributing to your insomnia. If so, ask your doctor about alternatives.
- Avoid or limit caffeine, alcohol, and nicotine.
- Take a relaxing shower or bath before bed.
- Don't eat or drink a lot before going to bed.
- Minimize potential sleep interruptions. Run a fan as background noise, and keep your bedroom relatively cool.

If these strategies don't help and your sleep is significantly disrupted, medical treatment is available. Talk with your doctor.

*Mayo Clinic; Embody Health March 2008*



We are looking for qualified counselors or pastors willing to lead any of LCS's **Grief Support Seminars** (your service will be remunerated) Contact Pastor Kerry Smart at 610-770-9205 or [kerry@lutherancongregational-services.org](mailto:kerry@lutherancongregational-services.org) if interested.

## Special Gifts

### In Memory of:

**Loved Ones** by M/M Robert S. Hassay, Sr.

**Our Parents** by Lee and Barbara Kreidler

**Harold & Mildred Crumb** by Arlene B. Merwarth

**Derek Kehoe and Courtney Diacont**

**Clyde A. Edwards** by Barbara J. Edwards

**Parents Robert and Helen Fack** by Carol & Paul Baraschi

**Ms Anna Faustner** by James D. Koones

**Melissa Ann Gordon** by M/M Melvin Gordon

**Niece, Brenda Nicholson Harper** by Dolores J. Kotsch

**Elaine Havsman** by Diana J. Hill & Bruce Hill

**Anthony R. Micco** by wife, Mary Jane Micco

**Norwood D. Prortor** by wife, Dorothy L. Prortor

**M/M Kermit Reitz** by Vince Dieter

**Barry M. Rice** by Linda Rice

**Rev. Samuel Stauffer** by Ruth A Lewis

**Parents M/M Wilmer T. Stem** by Dolores J. Kotsch

**Warren & Ada Werkheiser** by Gail Roberts

### In Honor of:

**Former Synodical LSS Bd. And ACSME** by Rev. William Sunderland

**Owen & Jean Bastian's 60th Anniversary** by Dennis & Sandy Kuhns

**Chris & Kathy DeFalco** by Bob & Carol Kalman

**Ethel F. (Ringer) Risley** by Harold & Betsy Rauch

**Bishop David Strobel** by Rev. Joseph & Elaine Molnar

**Pam Wallace** by Douglas & Doris Binner

## Use GoodSearch.com and Help Support LCS

Lutheran Congregational Services is now a listed charity on GoodSearch.com!

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine with a unique social mission. It gives 50% of its advertising revenue to the not-for-profits and schools that its users choose. **You and our many supporters can make a difference for LCS by using GoodSearch.com as your search engine when you are surfing the net.** Each time you do so and designate Lutheran Congregational Services as the recipient, money will be contributed to LCS's account. For example:

- + 100 supporters search the internet twice a day= \$730/year for LCS
- + 1000 supporters search the internet twice a day=\$7,300/year for LCS

**Invite your friends  
or fellow parishioners to join you  
and the dollars will  
add up quickly at no cost to you!**

## LCS' Wish List

We are interested in obtaining a new Power Point Projector, a collapsible ladder, and two new HP flat screen monitors.

Donations or contributions toward these items would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

The Staff of LCS

## Workshops For Confirmands

Registration Fee:

\$5/youth – supporting churches  
 \$6.50/youth – non-supporting churches

These workshops are still available:

April 13, 2008      **Luther Crest, Allentown**  
 1:30-4:00 PM  
 (room for 13 more)

April 19, 2008      **Food Pantry @Bethany Lutheran Church, W. Reading (Saturday)**  
 10:00 AM-1:00 PM  
 (7 youth max.)

For more information, or to register your Confirmation Class for any of these workshops, please contact Pastor Kerry Smart at 610-770-9205 or [kerry@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:kerry@lutherancongregationalservices.org).

**Watch your mail for the 2008 –2009 schedule! It will arrive by late May.**



### Spiritual Gifts Discernment Offering Available

Do you have members who are searching for the meaning and purpose of their life? Are some looking for ways to become involved in ministries that will help them to feel more fulfilled?

Lutheran Congregational Services has a ministry that may help your members find that for which they are searching. *Discovering God's Vision for your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts* is an eight hour course that can be offered in a variety of formats to meet busy schedules. Through a sound, biblically based curriculum, the course can help participants **discover**, **develop** and **deploy** the gifts with which God has blessed them.

For more information you can e-mail Dennis at [dennis@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:dennis@lutherancongregationalservices.org) or call him at 610-770-9205.



## Wine, Music, and Food

*A Fundraiser for Lutheran Congregational Services, Inc.*

Dreaming of a tropical clime? Then make plans to join the LCS family on Sunday, **June 1**, at **Colver Hill Vineyards and Winery** in Breinigsville from **2-6 pm**.

Following is the schedule for the day:

- 2:00 pm      The Day begins
- 2:00-3:30 pm      First tour of the vineyards & winery
- 2:00-4:45 pm      Silent Auction bidding
- 2:30-5:30 pm      *Tropical Beat Steel Band* performs
- 2:45-3:15 pm      First cooking demonstration w/wine
- 3:30-4:30 pm      Wine and Food Pairing
- 4:30-6:00 pm      Second tour of the vineyards & winery
- 5:00-?      Silent Auction items awarded
- 5:15-5:45 pm      Second cooking demonstration
- 6 pm      The Day ends

**Tickets are available by returning the tear off portion of the flier on the inside back cover of this newsletter. If you have any questions you can call Kathy at 610-770-9205**



Grief Support Group

### **"The Good Grief Gang"** *A Workshop on Grief and Loss for Children and Youth*

**The Good Grief Gang** is a one day workshop designed to promote healing and well-being for children ages 6 through 18 who have been affected by loss. It is a grief workshop intending to focus on children who have experienced the death of a family member and children who have experienced loss through divorce

The Good Grief Gang is a joint ministry between St. John's United Church of Christ and St. John's Evangelical

*Continued on page 8, column 1*

## We Gratefully Acknowledge Our Supporters December 15, 2007 through March 14, 2008

### CONGREGATIONS

Cedar, Cetronia  
 Christ Lutheran, Hellertown  
 Christ, Allentown  
 Dinkey Memorial, Ashfield  
 Emmanuel's, Emmanuelsville  
 Faith, Reading  
 Friedens, Center Valley  
 Grace, Allentown  
 Grace, Macungie  
 Holy Cross, Bethlehem  
 Holy Cross, Moorestown  
 Holy Trinity Memorial, Catasauq  
 Holy Trinity, Catasauqua  
 Hope, Cherryville  
 Huffs, Alburtis  
 Jerusalem, Western Salisbury  
 Jordan Lutheran, Orefield  
 Luther Crest Chapel Fund  
 Messiah, Bethlehem  
 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
 Redeemer, Allentown  
 Rosemont, Bethlehem  
 Salem St. Paul, Kresgeville  
 St. Andrew, Allentown  
 St. James, Coopersburg  
 St. James Zenith, Nescopeck  
 St. John, Easton  
 St. John, Kutztown  
 St. John, New Williams  
 St. John, Pen Argyl  
 St. John, Stroudsburg  
 St. Joseph, Allentown  
 St. Mark, Allentown  
 St. Paul Blue, Coopersburg  
 St. Paul U M, Drums  
 St. Paul, Weissport  
 St. Peter, Bethlehem  
 St. Peter, Hanover  
 St. Peter's Women, Bethlehem  
 St. Stephen, Allentown  
 St. Timothy, Allentown  
 Trinity, Coopersburg  
 Trinity, Clark Summit  
 Trinity, Lehigh  
 Trinity, Wind Gap  
 Union, Schnecksville  
 Zion Moselem, Kutztown  
 Zion Spies, Reading  
 Zion, Girardville  
 Zion, Northampton  
 Zion, Old Zionsville

### INDIVIDUALS

Adami, Rev. & Mrs. Charles A.  
 Balascki, Paul & Carol

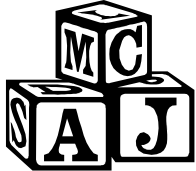
Bastian, Linford & Joyce  
 Bastian, Terry & Louise  
 Berkowitz, Dennis M.  
 Bialker, James & Barbara  
 Biggs, M/M Robert H.  
 Binner, M/M Douglas E.  
 Blew, Wilbur  
 Brown, M/M Elmer  
 Brown, Louise  
 Buchholz, Eunice F.  
 Cloughen, Rev & Mrs Edward  
 Cool, Edward & Carol  
 Copes, Lawrence J.  
 Czar, Diane  
 Deisinger, John & Joan  
 Deiter, Sandra D.  
 Dieter, Vincent & Judith  
 Edwards, Barbara J.  
 Ehler, M/M Guy  
 Eisenhard, M/M James E.  
 Elsenbaumer, M/M Donald H.  
 Everett, Judith S.  
 Eyer, Lynn  
 Fabian, Harold & Arlene  
 Farr, Dr. Lona M.  
 Fehnel, M/M Gary  
 Feulner, M/M Richard K  
 Fisher, M/M Carl R.  
 Frey, Shirley A.  
 Gage, James  
 George, M/M Harold, Jr.  
 Gery, M/M William P.  
 Godshall, Rev. & Mrs. C. David  
 Gordon, M/M Melvin R.  
 Hallock, Dr. & Mrs. Geoffrey  
 Harding, Rev. Warren S.  
 Hassay, M/M Robert S.  
 Hattery, John & Emily  
 Hayn, Donald & Margaret  
 Heist, Robert & Elizabeth  
 Henderschedt, Rev. & Mrs. James L.  
 Henn, Carol Dean  
 Herman, Kenneth & Anna  
 Herman, M/M Kenneth D.  
 Hettinger, Atty. Alfred K.  
 Hill, Diana  
 Holland, M/M Earl L.  
 Howell, Ms. Erna N.  
 Illick, Ruth N.  
 Jones, Jane  
 Kalman, M/M Robert W.  
 Kinney, Rev. Dr. & Mrs. George G.  
 Kish, Anna E.  
 Koonen, Rev. & Mrs. James D.  
 Kotsch, Dolores  
 Kozo, Rita U.  
 Kreidler, M/M Lee A.

Kuhns, M/M Dennis C.  
 Kuntz, Leonore C.  
 Labenberg, M/M William H.  
 Latchic, Gerard  
 Latchic, Linda  
 Lewis, M/M John L.  
 Lichner, Rev. Dr. & Mrs. F. Thomas  
 McCardle, Neil & Justina  
 Merwarth, Arlene B.  
 Micco, Mary Jane  
 Molnar, The Rev./M Joseph  
 Moser, John & Shirley  
 Mosser, M/M William F.  
 Nemetz, Beatrice  
 Newman, David & Jane  
 Olson, Rev. & Mrs. Curtis L.  
 Owens, M/M Gary J.  
 Peischl, M/M Richard J.  
 Pezoldt, Dorothy F.  
 Posch, Ruth  
 Proctor, Dorothy L.  
 Rauch, M/M Harold J.  
 Reimert, Franklin & Nancy  
 Rentschler, M/M Randall B.  
 Rice, Linda A.  
 Ritter, Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Dennis S.  
 Robbins, M/M Stanford  
 Roberts, Gail N.  
 Roth, Ronald & Judith  
 Saylor, M/M Bruce R.  
 Schappell, M/M Larry A.  
 Schisler, M/M Albert G.  
 Shoemaker, Charles  
 Specht, Sheila R.  
 Stone, Frank & Kay  
 Streepy, E. Eleanor  
 Strobel, David & Doris  
 Sunderland, William & Mae  
 Tomlinson, Rev. & Mrs. John W.  
 Wagner, Richard & Jean  
 Wagner, Ward & Maureen  
 Wassum, M/M Robert A.  
 Weber, William & Flora  
 Weiss, Rev. & Mrs. Harold S.  
 Wert, Donald & Janice  
 Wightman, Rev. & Mrs. William W.  
 Williams, Atty. & Mrs. Alan  
 Williams, Scot & Linda  
 Worman, M/M Jeffrey J.  
 Worman, Ms. Frances R.  
 Ziedonis, Jr. Arvids & Zigrida

Lutheran Church in Fogelsville under the auspices of Lutheran Congregational Services.

The one day program will be held on **April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1028 Church St., Fogelsville.** Lunch will be provided.

***There is no fee to participate in this workshop thanks to the generosity of the Keller Funeral Homes, Inc.***



## PREPARED TO CARE – FOR LITTLE ONES?

Imagine being the parent of a young child when disaster strikes. Suddenly you not only have to deal with loss of property, perhaps not being able to be in your house, but you have to figure out how to get help. What happens to your children?

Disaster Child Care is a national network of volunteers, motivated by religious faith and social concern, who are prepared and committed to helping families and comforting young children in traumatic disaster situations. These trained volunteers work with FEMA, American Red Cross and other disaster related agencies to provide encouragement and understanding in shelters, disaster recovery centers, and other sites where young children and their parents may be found.

**As part of our preparedness efforts, we at Lutheran Disaster Response Network – Northeastern PA are sponsoring a 25 hour training workshop beginning the evening of April 25 and running through April 26<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem.** This Level I Disaster Child Care Volunteer Training is presented by the Church of the Brethren which developed and sponsors the program. Participants will live in a simulated Red Cross Shelter, sleeping on a cot, sharing simple meals. They will learn how disasters impact families and practice child care skills specific to disaster response. Each person will assess his/her own emotional strength, skills and flexibility and take home knowledge and skills that are immediately transferable to his/her own family, church and community. **Registration fee is \$45 payable to the Church of the Brethren.** LDRN-NE PA will pick up costs of the building and food. For more information or to register, contact Gwen or Ruth at 610-770-9205. Also, you can email [gwen@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:gwen@lutherancongregationalservices.org) or go

to [www.disasterchildcare.org](http://www.disasterchildcare.org).

## INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Not only is it fun to share, it's especially helpful when it comes to heavy work like disaster response.

What are we up to now? In addition to continuing to oversee and support the recovery efforts from the local floods of 2006, Presbyterians, Methodists, members of the United Church of Christ and Lutherans are now working on developing a system that will help all of us track the resources of our congregations that could be used in disaster response. By collecting the same information and using an identical format to compile the data it will help all of us to make wise decisions about how to best use these resources.

How fortunate we are here at LCS to have Denise Campbell serving as administrative assistant for disaster! Denise's computer skills and experience made it possible for us to offer this service to our partners.

Our next joint project is improving congregational preparedness. It turns out that each partner has independently set a goal to have a designated disaster response coordinator in every congregation. Now that we know we are all headed in a similar direction, we are sharing materials and training models and exploring other ways to reach this goal as quickly as possible.



## Be Prepared: It's Not Just for Boy Scouts Anymore

When a disaster in your community presents an opportunity for ministry, will your congregation be ready to effectively minister to your neighbors? If a fire hits your building, will it take out all copies of your records? Do you know where you will meet for worship if your sanctuary is damaged? Could you help identify the vulnerable populations who would need assistance during an evacuation or pandemic? Could you quickly mobilize resources to assist with recovery efforts in our synod or outside our territory?

*Continued on page 9*

**BE PREPARED: IT'S NOT JUST FOR BOY SCOUTS ANYMORE** is a forum that we plan to offer at the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly, Friday morning, May 30. It will help you plan for a disaster and its impact upon your congregation. Learn how you can muster your congregation's gifts to deal effectively with a disaster when it strikes your community. We hope to see you there.

Contact Ruth Doty for more information at [ruth@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:ruth@lutherancongregationalservices.org).

## Who's Counting?

People count on us for assistance. Sometimes the needs seem unending and we start to feel very inadequate, to wonder what we've been able to accomplish. At times like this, or even for explaining what we do, it can help to count up what we've done so far.

As of mid March Lutheran Disaster Response — Northeastern PA can say that since April 2005 we:

- 1) have helped establish and support Long Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs) in 5 of our 14 counties;
- 2) have organized over 400 volunteers who put in over 5500 hours of labor on 50 properties;
- 3) have provided assessments and estimates for work needed on other properties;
- 4) provided advocacy for survivors as well as linked them with legal and other resources; and
- 5) held a retreat children and families affected by the flooding of 2006.

Knowing that folks are still counting on us, we are continuing to identify and provide assistance to other families in need of aid, particularly to those that FEMA identifies to us as having special needs or live in counties that do not have an LTRC.



## Camp Noah Floats Again !

Sailing can be addictive, especially when it's sailing with Camp Noah! For the third

year we in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be sponsoring teams to take the Camp Noah curriculum to children who have experienced a disaster. The national Camp Noah office in Minnesota is currently fielding requests from Alabama, Tennessee, the Midwest and California. We hope to soon know the "ports" to which we are headed.

Members of Friedens, Oley are very addicted to Camp Noah, and we are not suggesting any treatments. This will be the third time their congregation sends an entire team. Departure date is set for June 14. Meanwhile we are booking other volunteers to join two teams set to sail on July 12 for a week of high adventure. (Camp Noah is always an adventure!)

One thing is certain, the Camp Noah curriculum provides a wonderful opportunity for children from kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade to process their thoughts and feelings about the disaster they have experienced *as well as* to just be kids and have a good time, something they might not have had a chance to do for many months. As is usual with volunteer work, the camp leaders gain as much, if not more, from the experience. What a privilege it is for all involved to watch the Spirit at work healing the wounds and building community!

**How can you help launch the ships? First of all, we need 15-20 adults and up to 5 youth (14-17) for each team.** Each volunteer is asked to provide \$200 to help supply the curriculum and shirts for the children and to also be prepared to pay for his or her own breakfasts and dinners. (Sponsorships may be available.) **Next we need funds** to pay for cars and possibly airfare to get team members to their sites. **In addition, we will need craft materials** to use at the camp. Specific items are listed below. **Finally, and most importantly, we need prayer.** Since we received so many children's quilts last year, we have enough left to supply this year's camps.

### List of needed supplies:

For preparedness boxes:

- Flashlights (150)
- Extra sets of flashlight batteries (150)
- Coloring books and crayons (75)
- First aid supplies (150)
- Toothbrushes and paste (150)
- Hand sanitizer bottles (small) (150)

### For crafts:

- Shoebboxes (75)
- Mural paper (roll at least 4'x30') (3 rolls)
- Construction paper 9 x 12 and 12x 18 (30 packs)
- Drawing paper/poster board 18x24 (30 packs)
- Non-bleed tissue paper – assorted colors (45 packs)

*Continued on page 10, column 1*

Manila tag board (3 packs of 100 sheets)  
 Card stock 3x5 (30 packs)  
 Index cards 4x6 (15 packs)  
 Permanent markers (75 sets)  
 Ink pens (150)  
 Paintbrushes (75)  
 Crayon sets (60)  
 Oil Pastels sets (36)  
 Chalk pastels (21)  
 Water-based marker sets (75)  
 Glue sticks (150)  
 Craft glue – 4 oz bottles (75)  
 Pencils (150)  
 Masking tape (15 rolls)  
 Single hole punches (45)  
 Yarn – (45 skeins)  
 Wooden dowels 3/16 x 12 inch (300)  
 Paper plates (75)  
 Acrylic Paints – 6 pints each of red, yellow, blue, green, purple, white, brown, black  
 Smocks, aprons, old shirts (150)

Contact Gwen or Ruth at 610-770-9205 or by email at [gwen@lutherancongregational-services.org](mailto:gwen@lutherancongregational-services.org) or [ruth@lutherancongregational-services.org](mailto:ruth@lutherancongregational-services.org). Monetary donations should be payable to **Lutheran Congregational Services** and marked “Disaster Ministries for Families & Children” in the memo.

## UPDATE ON OUR HOUSE IN DRUMS

This is being written in mid March. For weeks now the ground in Drums has been alternating between either being frozen solid or a soggy mess. **Nevertheless** we continue to make progress. The foundation, which will top out at eight feet, is now four feet high. As soon as things dry sufficiently, the rest of the block will be laid and Sons of a Carpenter, our volunteers from Weisenberg and Schnecksville, will frame out the house. Then it will be a matter of finishing the inside as soon as we have sufficient funds and materials to do so.

**How are we coming on donations?** We are blessed with many creative and generous people who are rallying around this project. Christ, Hazelton is contributing the offering from a concert presented by the Singing Boys of Pennsylvania on April 27. Someone from Conyngham is donating the steel I beam. A woman who recycles her church’s paper saw an appeal on the top of a pile and called to find out how she could help. A cabinet maker

from Berks County is figuring out how he, perhaps with help from his congregation, can provide the kitchen cabinets. The stories go on. At this point we estimate we still need \$45,000 in funds or material donations to complete the project. (This would be a great opportunity for a Thrivent project, by the way!)

A list of exterior building materials still needed is available upon request. Interior materials still needed include:

### Partial list-Interior Building Materials Needed after 1/30/08

Drywall- 220 sheets 4x8x1/2  
 Floor Under-layment - 20 Sheets 4x8x1/4  
 Interior Wall Studs- 290- 2x4x8  
 Interior Pre- hung Doors- 7  
 Interior Slider Doors- 8  
 Interior Pre-hung Bi-fold- 1  
 Floor Base Trim- 570 Lin. Ft.  
 Window Trim- 260 Lin. Ft.  
 Door Trim 290 Lin. Ft.  
 Vinyl Floor- 64 yards  
 Carpet and Carpet Mat 135 yds.  
 Closet Shelving- 70 Lin. Ft.  
 Kitchen Cabinets Base- 26 Lin. Ft.  
 Kitchen Cabinets- Top- 17 Lin. Ft.  
 Counter Top- 35 Lin. Ft.  
 Bath Vanities- 2 at 5 Ft.

#### Appliances

Washer  
 Dryer  
 Stove  
 Dish Washer (under counter)  
 Refrigerator  
 Water Heater  
 Oil Hot Air Furnace  
 Central Air Unit

#### Miscellaneous

Lighting Fixtures  
 Window Treatments  
 Electrical Wire  
 Electrical Receptacles  
 Electrical Service and Panel Boxes  
 Electrical Switches  
 Painting Supplies  
 Interior and Exterior Paint



To donate materials or funds, contact Ruth at [ruth@lutherancongregational-services.org](mailto:ruth@lutherancongregational-services.org) or call 610-770-9205.

