

September 11, 2018

## Serving in Times of Disaster



Dear Ministry Partners,

The news about Hurricane Florence continues to show that she is strengthening and has much of the Southeastern District in her sight. Local and state governments, and a host of relief agencies, are positioning resources so that assistance will be available. Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina have each declared “states of emergencies”. The various state VOADs (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) have mobilized and are positioning food trailers, identifying water stations, and bringing in early responders from around the country.

This is a storm to take seriously. The days before landfall are days for each of us to get prepared. We will want to get homes readied, church and school buildings readied, and reach out to help neighbors to be ready. This is one of those very important moments where we can reach out and work with our neighbor who may need some extra help or a special check-in to make certain that they are ready. Think of the church member who may need an additional hand. There are some wonderful resources through the Center for Disease Control that address what to do before and after the storm. You will find them on our website ([www.se.lcm.org](http://www.se.lcm.org))

Once the storm has passed, we will want to hear from you to know if you are okay. We also want to know how the congregation members fared and how the local community managed during the storm. Resources are available to assist through the national LCMS office in St. Louis, but we will need to have information from you to begin to access such resources.

Once the storm has passed we will be gathering information to know where to direct the response effort. Please know that the immediate need is not for clothing. The immediate need is for water, diapers (all sizes), flood buckets, personal hygiene kits, financial donations, and gift cards (Lowes, Home Depot, grocery stores, Target, Walmart).

Instruction sheets for making flood buckets and hygiene kits are available on the [District's website](#). These are great projects for school and Sunday school students. When we know where these supplies are most needed we will organize with specific locations and get the word out.

You may contribute through our District [on-line giving link](#) as well as send designated gifts to the Office. All funds received will be used for response and recovery efforts. You may also be able to use Thrivent Action Grants to assist with supplies for this effort.

We will keep you informed with regular updates through email and on [Facebook](#). As information comes in, please contact [Sally Hiller](#).

Praying with confidence that even in the midst of a storm, God is with us and we are not alone. May his mercy be felt throughout the families and ministries of the Southeastern District.

Sally

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