



## Pajama Sunday and Other Activities: Ziegels Responds to Hurricane Katrina

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Chairperson

At Ziegels Union Church, Breinigsville, a number of creative activities helped the congregational members address the disaster that took place along the Gulf Coast this fall.

The Sunday following Hurricane Katrina was designated "Bring Your Wallet Sunday." An offering was taken to benefit the victims of the disaster and the union church collected over \$6,000.00. These offerings were sent to Lutheran Disaster Response and the UCC Disaster Relief fund.

On October 9, the Learning Ministries Committee sponsored "Pajama Sunday." Children and youth were asked to bring a new pair of children's pajamas or a new or "gently used" storybook for the children affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Teachers and helpers in the Sunday school also participated in the event and our lay reader for that morning read the scriptures wearing her pajamas, big fuzzy slippers, and a bathrobe.

The students were excited about helping the children who had lost so much. At the final count, we sent 75 pairs of pajamas and 115 storybooks to Pajama Project in New York, who sent them on to the Astrodome for distribution.

A Hurricane Katrina Benefit Breakfast was held on October 30. This event was sponsored by the Fatzinger family and



\$1,300.00 was given to the congregation's Mission Response Team to purchase tents, blankets and other necessities for their disaster relief trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, in November.

The Learning Ministries Committee also sponsored "Pennies for Pets." Students in the Sunday school were asked to save their loose change during the month of October. On November 6, \$100.03 was sent to the Veterinary Medical Foundation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where volunteers and staff have been providing for the needs of animals left homeless by the Katrina.

The congregation sent more than cash, pajamas, and books to the Gulf Coast. On November 5, the Ziegels Union Church Mission Response Team left for Biloxi, Mississippi, to work with Bethel Lutheran Church through November 12. Earlier in 2005, members of the Lutheran congregation had relocated to Biloxi and have been attending Bethel since their arrival.

Bethel is providing an important ministry in their community, devastated by Hurricane Katrina. They supply meals for 25-30 volunteers each day, see as many as 25 families per day in their medical facility, and provide food and blankets and other necessities as donations are received.

The Mission Response Team was formed in 1999, when they provided disaster relief assistance to the Del Rio, Texas, area. Earlier in 2005, the team traveled to Port Charlotte, Florida, to assist in hurricane cleanup. They sponsor yearly work trips to places such as David, Kentucky, and Camden, New York. In addition, the team volunteers at the Allentown Rescue Mission and provided help to people in their own community during the flooding of the last two years.