



**Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## **Response to Flooding and Other Damage from Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Record Breaking Rains**

### **How can people help at this stage?**

1. Encourage anyone impacted by Irene or Lee to access as many resources as they can.
  - a. Tell or help them register with FEMA (800-621-3362).
  - b. If they receive an application labeled an SBA (Small Business Administration) loan, it is essential that they fill it out and return it, even if they don't want or don't think they will qualify for a loan. If they qualify, it offers very low interest. If they do *not* qualify, they become eligible for other assistance from many other sources, including from us Lutherans. If they don't fill out the form, they may lose out on significant help.
  - c. Encourage them and even offer to take them to the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in their county. Do this soon, since the DRCs close rather quickly. This is one stop shopping for many kinds of information and assistance.
2. Donate funds and cleaning supplies. These are needed now. Household items and clothes will be needed later and in very limited quantities. Funds may be sent to Lutheran Congregational Services, 1923 Hanover Avenue, Allentown, PA 18109 and should be designated 2011 Flood Relief. Also consider donations to The American Red Cross and The Salvation Army, partners involved in immediate response. Go to [www.lutherancongregationalservices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationalservices.org) and scroll down to "Clean-up/Flood Buckets Needed" for information about cleaning supplies.
3. Volunteer with local groups and prepare to volunteer with Lutheran Disaster Response Northeastern PA. Go to [www.lutherancongregationalservices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationalservices.org), scroll down the column on the left to "Disaster Response," click the link for "Frequently Asked Questions," scroll down that page to "How Can I Help?" and click the link in the second bullet, "Volunteer to assist in recovery from local disasters." Or call Dianne Fox (610-428-4598) for current opportunities or to register with LDR-NE PA.
4. Provide care for the caregivers. Pray for those who are leading response efforts. Reach out to pastors and others who are dealing with survivors. Encourage

responders to care for themselves and offer to assist with or pick up some of their tasks. It is a common phenomenon that within a few years after a major disaster, there is a high turnover of pastors and other professional helpers in the affected area.

5. Make quilts and prepare to volunteer for Camp Noah. Our hope is to offer many of these camps for children within our synod during the coming year. Go to [www.lutherancongregationservices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationservices.org), scroll down the column on the left to “Disaster Response,” and click the link for Camp Noah.

**[Click here for the letter with more details about the response.](#)** The above information was contained in that letter.