

**September 2009**

**Iowa District West**

# Human Care

## ***“LERT” Training offered soon! Register Now!***

### **“LERT” Lutheran Early Response Team**

“LERT” is a hands-on, helping ministry that we’re organizing in Iowa District West. It’s nothing more than ordinary people helping others when bad things happen (tornadoes, floods, fires, storms, etc.).

“LERT” volunteers are people who are trained to help in a compassionate and correct way. You ask, “Do I have what it takes to serve as a “LERT” volunteer? You don’t have to know how to run a chain saw, or operate a skid loader, but there are times when these skills are needed by someone in the group. Here are a few invaluable skills that are so needed and appreciated in disaster times—skills that both men and women can use and share! Here is a brief list of talents/abilities that could make you a valuable “LERT” volunteer:

- 1) Lifting, general cleaning, carrying.
- 2) Handling a shovel, axe, hammer, saw, for clean-up, initial fixing and repair (roof, walls, windows)
- 3) Meal planning, cooking for the group.
- 4) Compassion—the gift of patient listening to victims’ stories, allowing them to grieve, cry, and get a bearing again in their life. (Often, this is more important than all the other things we do, because most of all, they need reassurance that God cares about them and loves them.

Are you interested and want more information? Here’s what you can do!

- 1) Talk about it with others in your congregation and circuit. Involve your pastor also.
- 2) Register for one of the training sessions that will be offered in IDW in October (write, call, or e-mail Pr. Erland Asmus—103 Circle Dr., Lake City, IA 51449; ph. 712-464-3130; e-mail: idwcares@mchsi.com). Pre-registrations insure an accurate lunch count!  
**Deadline for registration: September 28!**

A) One of our trained District Disaster Responders will lead you through a 4-hour training seminar, required for certification as an official LERT responder in Iowa District West.

B) In addition, you will learn how FEMA offers brief training courses through their website for certification in their National Incident Management System (NIMS).

C) The certification each person receives will be recognized on their personal badge that will identify you as certified volunteers as you enter a disaster area.

Cost: **FREE**—training provided by IDW and LCMS Human Care/World Relief. Meal provided by IDW.

Transportation and lodging (if needed) is the responsibility of individuals and/or sending congregations.

Oct. 3—St. Paul Lutheran, Carroll—10 am– 2pm.  
1844 Highland Dr—Carroll, IA

Oct. 31—Gloria Dei Lutheran, Urbandale—10 am-2 pm  
8301 Aurora Ave—Urbandale, IA

## “Preparing for Disaster—Congregational Preparedness

Did you know that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has materials which you can use on a congregational level, to help your families prepare for any emergency/disaster.

Where will you or your family be when a disaster strikes? You could be anywhere—at work, at school, or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe? Your congregational convention delegate was given sample materials which can be ordered from FEMA (free) to be shared within your congregation.



These “Are You Ready” materials from FEMA can be shared within various groups within your own congregation. The materials (available to delegates at the IDW Convention) will help you be informed, make a plan, assemble a kit, maintain your plan and kit.

If your pastor or lay delegate failed to pick up the FEMA brochures, you can get them by calling FEMA at 1-800-480-2520, or going to their websites at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

## Service Projects that can help others in need...

Are there groups within your congregation looking for a service project they can do? Here are a couple ideas that can be done at minimal cost and quickly and easily in one session.

**Flood Buckets**—Orphan Grain Train has “Project Scrub Bucket” to assemble 5-gallon buckets filled with cleaning supplies for mucking out flood-soaked homes. Each scrub

bucket holds about \$36 worth of cleaning supplies.

**Basic Disaster Survival Kit**—These kits hold some personal necessities that are needed when disaster strikes, including a candle, matches, purified drinking water, energy bars, first-aid items, etc, all which can be packed in a “cooler bag” available free of charge by LCMS World Relief/Human Care. For additional informa-

tion, contact Rev. Glenn Merritt at 1-800-248-1930, ext. 1395.

**For your questions or comments, contact:**  
**Rev. Erland Asmus**  
**103 Circle Drive**  
**Lake City, IA 51449**  
**E-mail: [idwcares@mchsi.com](mailto:idwcares@mchsi.com)**

## A prayer for your kitchen table

Fill our home, oh Lord, with blessings from above,  
But most of all, we humbly ask, that You fill it with Your love.  
Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blest.  
Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
And His mercy endures forever. Amen

