

DISASTER SCENARIO

Your community has two Lutheran Congregations, one is ELCA the other is LCMS. Last night a tornado hit your community at 2:00 a.m. There was about 5 minutes of warning (the sirens sounded) before the tornado hit. Most people went to their basements. Some either did not hear the sirens or decided to stay in bed. As of 10:00 this morning, there are 8 confirmed deaths and 25 people still missing. Last night was Prom in your community and most of the youth rode the storm out under the bleachers in the High School gym. One couple from the Prom decided to go home and check on pets (the parents at this residence were out of town for the weekend). One of this couple was a member of your congregation. The other was a member of the other Lutheran congregation in town. Both are among the missing. The Jr. Youth group at your congregation was having a lock-in at the church basement. Four of these youth have serious injuries. Your church has part of its roof missing, a great deal of water damage and all of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary are broken.

1. What would be the “first thing” you would want to see your congregation do before this first morning after is over?
2. What would be one of the “first things” you would want to see local churches in the area do before this first morning is over?
3. In the first 48 hours after the disaster, what response would you like to see from the larger Lutheran Community (you synod/district, other local Lutheran congregations, Thrivent and Kansas Lutheran Disaster Response)?
4. Before the first week is over, what issues would arise for your congregation to consider? How could Kansas Lutheran Disaster Response help? How could other “Lutherans” help in the state? What things would you want to do by yourself and for yourself? What kind of issues would you think would go beyond your local congregations ability to address?
5. In the first month after, what would be the Spiritual, Emotional, Financial, and Logistical issues that might arise? What support might you anticipate being needed for families of survivors, the injured and their families, those who lost property, those who did not suffer any kind of losses, local businesses and your pastors?
6. What other issues might you anticipate in the first year following the disaster and how might the larger Lutheran community of Kansas best respond?