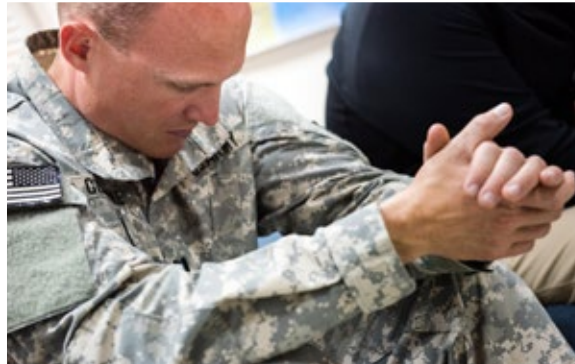


# OPERATION BARNABAS



*The vision of Operation Barnabas is that every military-connected person lives in the hope and peace of God's love and mercy as revealed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Our men and women in uniform have answered our nation's call to protect and defend us. In every time and place, they have stood the watch at home and abroad, often far from their families. Both active and reserve members of our military and their families continue to bear the burden of deployments to austere and dangerous locations. We invite you to help us to help them, and while doing so, share the love of Christ.

In 2007, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces launched Operation Barnabas. Through this program — the only one of its kind in the U.S. — together with our congregations, we accomplish three key goals:

1. **Care for** Reserve chaplains and their families and congregations.
2. **Train and assist** local congregations in their care and support of local military members and their families and veterans.
3. **Serve as a resource** to other organizations that provide care to military families and veterans.

## CALL TO ACTION!

We encourage congregations who reach out to military families to include the following actions:

- **PRAY** for our troops.
- **RECOGNIZE** veterans in your congregation at least once a year.
- **CELEBRATE** LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces Sunday, and learn more about what we are doing to serve our military families. To learn more, visit [lcms.org/armedforcenessunday](http://lcms.org/armedforcenessunday).

In that time, congregations have focused on deployment care — with good reason. We have troops who are “still in the fight,” and we continue to offer deployment support to military families.

But we also recognize the immense drawdown our military faces. Over 200,000 military families are leaving the military to return to civilian communities. Our goal is to enable our congregations to lead their communities in welcoming these military families back home. They have borne the weight of repeated deployments, and when they return to our communities, we can prepare to receive them in concert with local chambers of commerce, schools and medical facilities.



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– **OPERATION  
BARNABAS**

## Connecting with Congregations

Operation Barnabas has worked with dozens of congregations, but we realize hundreds more congregations also are caring for military families. We ask you to contact us so we can recognize your work and encourage you as you serve military families.

When you contact us:

- › We can share your congregation's information with military families asking us to find a local congregation near their duty station
- › We can recognize you with a certificate suitable for placement in your church.
- › We can share your congregation's outreach and encourage other congregations to learn from you!
- › We can forward information to you on a regular basis to better equip you to care for military families.

## If you wish to be even more involved:

Become an Operation Barnabas Chapter. Operating in a manner similar to other chapters in your congregation — such as your Lutheran Women's Missionary League chapter — an Operations Barnabas Chapter meets monthly around a specific goal. In this case, the goal is to actively engage the military members in your community. Successful chapters depend on the volunteerism and leadership of a dedicated group of people in your congregation; this is not another task for pastor! This is a chance for your congregation to actively serve in your community and share the love of Christ with those who have borne the burden of defending our nation.



You have the opportunity to care for both those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces and those who have served in the past. Veterans and their families from every conflict are in need of your support.

If you served in uniform, thank you! Now you have the opportunity to serve again. You know the challenges, and you speak the same language as those in uniform.

## Contact us:

LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces  
888-THE LCMS (843-5267)  
[lcmschaps@lcms.org](mailto:lcmschaps@lcms.org)  
[lcms.org/operationbarnabas](http://lcms.org/operationbarnabas)  
[lcms.org/armedforces](http://lcms.org/armedforces)