LCMS Disaster Response Chaplains provide support and resources to congregations who are providing mercy to their members and community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY:
Disaster Response Coordinator
Rev. David E. Ficken
715-498-0093
dmcficken@gmail.com
- OR -
Rev. Joel Hempel
314-591-1403

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SERVICE:
LCMS Specialized Pastoral Ministry
888-THE LCMS
lcms.org/spm

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PURPOSE OF DISASTER RESPONSE (DR) CHAPLAINCY

Chaplains are provided to:

1. Help church workers affected by a community crisis deal with their own stress in healthy ways; and
2. Provide guidance and resources to pastors and other church leaders as they seek to help others.

SERVICES PROVIDED

DR Chaplains provide pastoral care, information, support, conversation and education to:

- Understand the effects of stress;
- "Normalize" understandable reactions to disasters; and
- Implement best practices for ministering to those suffering from disaster-related stress.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES MAY INCLUDE:

- Partnering with the pastor to minister to staff, spouses and families concerning healthy coping methods;
- Meeting with other members of the congregation or community as directed by the pastor;
- Providing opportunities for Word and Sacrament, including Confession and Absolution;
- Advising the congregation concerning the need for long-term pastoral care in the congregation and community suffering from the disaster;
- Providing respite for the pastor by preaching and leading any or all the worship if requested; or
- Assessing if future chaplain-related help and resources are needed.

QUALIFICATIONS TO SERVE AS A DR CHAPLAIN

- Endorsement as an Emergency Services Chaplain (ESC) or another Specialized Pastoral Minister;
- Additional LCMS-recognized training and credentialing;
- Agreement to serve as a volunteer; and
- Deployment from the LCMS Office of Specialized Pastoral Ministry (SPM).

CONFIDENTIALITY AND MATTERS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Private information shared with a DR Chaplain will be privileged and remains confidential. All DR Chaplains will adhere to the SPM Code of Ethics and do not receive compensation. Travel and other related expenses are funded by LCMS Disaster Response.