



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## NWWA Synod Assembly Report Region 1 Disaster Preparedness Project

**W**ho actually thought as we met for a virtual Assembly in 2020 that we would be doing so again this year? Yet, here we are. We are blessed with technology and hearts longing to be together again – and so we shall be. Soon. Blessed be the Creator of all life!



In the year of COVID-19 my work has been to walk with you in disaster preparation and response. We've done a lot of response. The flooding of the Umatilla River in eastern Oregon brought hardship to families and businesses in both Oregon and Washington. A little over a year later the work continues with some 579 survivor families being served. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is us, and Prs. Travis Larsen of Peace Lutheran in Pendleton, OR and Joel Ley of Christ Lutheran in Walla Walla, WA have been active with the Blue Mountain

Long-Term Recovery Group and Unmet Needs tables. LDR-US has invested \$10,000 to help pay a family case manager and consulted with us throughout the year. The work continues, but we are not alone.

In March 2020 the global pandemic locked our church and business doors, keeping us all home. No one knew what lay ahead. Lutheran Disaster Response was once again in our midst. Some \$125,000 was funneled through you and our five partner synods of Region 1. This money was intended for those impacted by COVID-19, being used for food cards, feeding programs and other assistance as you've seen fit. In addition, Dianne Johnson has worked closely with LCSNW to coordinate food and aid for those in need. Thank you Deacon! A new newsletter, the [\*Hammer and Dance\*](#), went into publication April of 2020. This Region 1 resource was created in response to needs encountered as we sought to navigate the COVID crisis. It has now matured into a congregational disaster preparedness newsletter. You can view it or subscribe at <https://www.region1beprepared.org/newsletters>

A wildfire season like no other took the homes of well over 4,000 families in Oregon and Washington this year. The Oregon Synod Disaster Team and I have worked with LDR-US, FEMA, and the Oregon and Washington State VOADs (**V**oluntary **O**rganizations **A**ctive in **D**isaster) to serve survivors. LDR-US has poured some \$30,000 into direct wildfire aid. This supplements your generosity for families in need. Thank you for all you've done.

The Region 1 Disaster Preparedness Project is now one year old. It has been a busy year with more "response" than "preparation." The coming year, though, will be full of grace and opportunity. I look forward to working with you in the days and weeks to come.

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