Disaster Response Activities at Our Savior Lutheran Laurel, MD

Our Savior Lutheran partners with the Southeastern District (SED) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) to respond to natural and man-made disasters in the SED and surrounding Districts. We also partner with or support the efforts of other disaster response organizations that are Recognized Service Organizations (RSO) of the LCMS. Examples include, but are not limited to: Lutheran Servants for Christ (LSC), Orphan Grain Train (OGT), Lutheran Church Charities (LCC), and Lutheran World Relief (LWL). Hurricanes (Sandy), floods (Ellicott City, MD), and tornadoes are examples of natural disasters that have occurred in the OSLC area. The Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse and a South Laurel apartment fire are examples of man-made disasters.

After a disaster, there is often a lot of press-coverage and an outpouring of effort. Sadly those initial efforts only last a couple of weeks until the press moves onto the next incident. It is the mid and long term recovery efforts that suffer from lack of financial and human labor resources. In some cases, financial support exists, supplies are available, but there are few volunteers available to perform the damage removal, repairs, and rebuilds.

Whether natural or man-made, close or distant, members of OSLC have helped the victims of disasters. Our members deployed as far away as New Orleans, LA (Hurricane Katrina) and Ft. Myers, FL (Hurricane Ian), and as close as the flood in Ellicott City, MD and sever wind damage north of Baltimore.

It is also our desire to start a new ministry in the Laurel area that serves the needs of people who cannot afford home repairs and to use these efforts to train our members in the many activities surrounding disaster response (tree and debris removal, cleaning up after floods, storm damage repairs, building handicap access ramps, etc.)

If you are interested in supporting or being a part of disaster response and recovery efforts or helping those in need right here in the Laurel area, please let us know. Our Disaster Response Coordinator is Dave McGuffey (DisasterResponse@oslclaurel.org).