

Now, more than ever, preparedness matters

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Disasters change and redefine communities in positive and negative ways. They vary in scope and cause. Some are the result of humans, such as shootings and car wrecks. Other disasters are the result of nature, such as floods, tornadoes, and epidemics.

By definition, a disaster is any event that redefines a person or community. Recovery from a disaster is the process in which a person or community moves from being a victim to a survivor by redefining the new normal in their life.

The fear that the epidemic of Ebola may become a pandemic as it moves across the globe to affect our own country is the most recent event in our history that we can point to why our disaster efforts are imperative. As a leader of the church — a leader of tens, hundreds, or thousands — what is your response if a disaster should happen? Your congregations are filled with leaders in their communities and places of employment. In what ways can they respond if your town is impacted by a disaster?

The Disaster Network of the Northeastern Iowa Synod has taken on the efforts to write this new section in the *Star* synod newsletter in hopes to equip our congregations and leaders to be prepared for times when disasters strike our communities. We will discuss preventative measures, answer your questions, and provide you with resources to implement these strategies in your communities.

The majority of the information cited in future articles will be taken from the *Congregational Disaster Preparedness Guidebook*. You can download a full copy of this 101-page guidebook at www.elca.org/Resources/Lutheran-Disaster-Response under the “General” tab. There are also many other resources available on this web page, including worksheets that coincide with the Guidebook to assist your planning efforts.

If you have any questions that you would like answered or are in need of resources for a specific disaster response, please email Pastor Ron Mathews at pastorron@stpeterdenver.org or call 319-984-5648.

— Pastor Ron Mathews
Disaster Response Network

Learn more at www.neiasynod.org/disaster-response.

Men's Retreat Set

One Year to Live Retreat
Feb. 6-8, 2015

Camp Ewalu, Strawberry Point

Men of the Northeastern Iowa Synod are invited to attend the “One Year to Live” men’s retreat



set for the weekend of Feb. 6-8 at Camp Ewalu, Strawberry Point.

This “spiritual boot camp” is a unique opportunity to experience spiritual and personal growth as part of a special fellowship of brothers.

Early registration fee is \$175 by Jan. 7, 2015; \$200 if registered by the Jan. 22 deadline. The fee for men age 18-24 and seminarians is \$125.

Learn more and download a registration brochure at www.neiasynod.org/ministries/mens-ministry.

Safeguarding Event

A free training session of the “Safeguarding God’s Children” program will be offered in November.

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2014
Our Savior’s, Leland
2 - 5 p.m.

Call 641-567-3331 to register.