



Minot, N.D.

David Valdez/FEMA



Andrea Booher/FEMA

In June of 2011, the Souris River in Minot, N.D., crested nearly 13 feet above the flood stage, driving 12,000 people from their homes and destroying more than 4,100 buildings. Four ELCA church buildings in the area were among those that were damaged.

“Full recovery from a disaster of this magnitude will take nearly a decade,” wrote David Sprynczynatyk, director of the state Department of Emergency Services.

We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. A year later we continue to walk alongside the people of North Dakota as they recover – rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.

Working with our partner, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, and in collaboration with other disaster response organizations, the ELCA has taken a lead role in the recovery process.

Working with ecumenical partners we have mobilized trained case managers. They are experts in knowing how to navigate the complex array of available local, state, federal and private services available. This helps families and individuals get in touch with the resources they need.



David Valdez/FEMA



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



As the work of recovery shifts toward rebuilding, we have taken on another important role. The ELCA is participating in Hope Village, a one-stop volunteer service center. Hope Village is a collective effort of nine national faith-based agencies offering housing and meals for volunteers, as well as tools, equipment, assignments and transportation to help those most in need. This summer, more than 200 projects will be completed through Hope Village. These projects range from yard work to sanitizing to rebuilding.

The recovery effort has been more than rebuilding houses; it is also about rebuilding lives.

ELCA Disaster Response is also taking a leading role in Project Renew, which offers spiritual and emotional support for those whose lives have been upended by the flood. Trained counselor's help people process what they've experienced in a safe and supportive way. Camp Noah, a ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, has been present in Minot because of gifts from people like you. Camp Noah is a fun and faith-filled day-camp program for children affected by disasters.



Otis James Photography

ELCA members across the country are helping with recovery through volunteering and through generous giving. In 2011, people like you gave more than \$3.6 million to respond domestically to disasters. Thank you.

Recovery from the flood still continues, but the ELCA – through members across the country, local congregations, the Western North Dakota Synod and partner organizations – is committed to accompanying the people of Minot for the long term. This is how the church works. Together, we can achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do otherwise.



Christ Lutheran Church



Hope Village

Volunteers are still needed in Minot. Please visit www.hopevillagend.org for details or call 701-240-1495.