

FOR SUPPORTERS OF LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

STORIES OF HOPE, HEALING AND  
RENEWAL AFTER DISASTERS

# Thrive



2025

South Sudan  
Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

**"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).**

Dear friend,

Our lives are full of uncertainties and ongoing changes. Yet Jesus teaches us to care for others despite our own personal challenges. The ministry of Lutheran Disaster Response gives us that opportunity, the chance to share God's love with each other.

As you read through the stories in the pages ahead, you will see compassion in action. In Honduras, Ukraine and the United States, our neighbors are showing resilience, faith and empathy in the face of disaster. Even when their own lives have been upended, they are looking out for others in similar situations.

As a donor, you play a part in this story too. Through your generosity, you are showing care for our siblings in Christ whose lives have been disrupted by disaster. In 2024, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response reached people in 53 countries. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone.

When disasters occur, every community and every person is impacted differently. As you'll see, Lutheran Disaster Response works with local partners to address the most urgent needs, whether they be advocacy, food assistance or emotional and spiritual care. Even before a disaster strikes, we proactively support communities through education, training and the hiring of disaster coordinators. Because of your generosity, Lutheran Disaster Response walks with ministries before disasters and stays through the long journey of relief and recovery.

As communities around the world, including our own, continue to face changes and challenges, we know that our compassion will drive our actions in caring for our neighbors. Thank you for your unwavering support.

In Christ's service,



**MARYN OLSON**  
Director  
Lutheran Disaster Response



**THE REV. JOHN EGGEN**  
Senior Director  
Annual Giving

## HOW TO GIVE

### Online

[ELCA.org/GiveLDR](https://ELCA.org/GiveLDR)

### Phone

800-638-3522

### Mail

Make checks payable to "Lutheran Disaster Response" and mail to:  
ELCA  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



Scan to support  
Lutheran Disaster  
Response!

# Thrive

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>MAPPING OUR IMPACT</b>                         | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>ONGOING RESPONSES</b>                          | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>FINDING DIRECTION AFTER DISASTER</b>           | <b>10</b> |
| <b>EDUCATIONAL STABILITY IN UKRAINE</b>           | <b>12</b> |
| <b>HELPING HANDS AMONG THE MOUNTAINTOPS</b>       | <b>14</b> |
| <b>FROM CRISIS TO COMMUNITY</b>                   | <b>16</b> |
| <b>BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW<br/>IN HONDURAS</b> | <b>18</b> |



# Your Gifts at Work:

## IN 2024

Lutheran Disaster Response supported work  
in **53 countries** around the world  
and **36 states and territories**  
in the United States and the Caribbean,  
responding to hurricanes, tornadoes,  
conflict, migration crises and more.

### UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>ALABAMA</b><br>Disaster preparedness, tornadoes                                | <b>INDIANA</b><br>Disaster preparedness, flooding, tornadoes                                   |
| <b>ALASKA</b><br>Landslide  | <b>LOUISIANA</b><br>Disaster preparedness, hurricanes  |
| <b>ARIZONA</b><br>Extreme heat, clean water                                       | <b>MARYLAND</b><br>AMMPARO, flooding, severe storms  |
| <b>ARKANSAS</b><br>Tornadoes  | <b>MICHIGAN</b><br>AMMPARO, conflict   |
| <b>BAHAMAS</b><br>Disaster preparedness   | <b>MINNESOTA</b><br>AMMPARO, care for migrants   |
| <b>CALIFORNIA</b><br>Wildfires, AMMPARO, capacity building, conflict              | <b>MISSISSIPPI</b><br>Disaster preparedness, clean water, tornadoes                            |
| <b>COLORADO</b><br>Wildfires  | <b>NEW JERSEY</b><br>Hurricane   |
| <b>DELAWARE</b><br>Flooding   | <b>NEW YORK</b><br>AMMPARO, conflict, lead contamination                                       |
| <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b><br>Care for migrants, advocacy                        | <b>NORTH CAROLINA</b><br>Disaster preparedness, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, severe storms |
| <b>FLORIDA</b><br>Disaster preparedness, hurricanes, emotional and spiritual care | <b>NORTH DAKOTA</b><br>Disaster preparedness   |
| <b>GEORGIA</b><br>Disaster preparedness, hurricanes, school shooting, tornadoes   | <b>OHIO</b><br>Tornadoes   |
| <b>HAWAII</b><br>Wildfires, emotional and spiritual care                          | <b>OKLAHOMA</b><br>Emotional and spiritual care, flooding                                      |
| <b>ILLINOIS</b><br>AMMPARO, flooding, opioid epidemic                             |  |



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>OREGON</b><br>Disaster preparedness, climate resilience, wildfires                 | <b>TENNESSEE</b><br>Disaster preparedness, hurricane, flooding |
| <b>PENNSYLVANIA</b><br>Flooding, hurricane  | <b>TEXAS</b><br>AMMPARO, disaster preparedness                 |
| <b>PUERTO RICO</b><br>AMMPARO, disaster preparedness, hurricanes, tropical storms     | <b>VERMONT</b><br>Flooding                                     |
| <b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b><br>Disaster preparedness, hurricanes                            | <b>VIRGINIA</b><br>Hurricane                                   |
| <b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b><br>Extreme cold and homelessness, flooding, disaster preparedness | <b>WASHINGTON</b><br>Winter storm, care for migrants           |
|   | <b>WEST VIRGINIA</b><br>Severe storm                           |

*After an earthquake struck western Nepal in 2023, water infrastructure throughout the region was damaged or destroyed, leaving residents without access to clean water. With support from LDR, new water infrastructure, including tanks, taps and toilets, is being built in rural communities.*



Southeastern Synod

*Through your gifts, houses throughout Puerto Rico are being repaired by Lutheran Disaster Response's partner, Techos Pa' Mi Gente, after suffering damage from Hurricane Maria and other recent storms.*



*Sophia's (left) home in Monroe County, Miss., took on substantial damage when it was hit by a tornado in 2023. She was connected with a case manager who helped her find an organization to fix the damage. Your gifts assisted with the construction materials needed to repair her house.*



# Your Gifts in Action:

## ONGOING RESPONSES

Your generosity to Lutheran Disaster Response supports community-led efforts before, during and after disasters. This enables the impact of your gifts to endure long after a disaster occurs, accompanying survivors on the road to recovery. Take a look back to see how your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response are still at work here in the United States and in communities around the world:

Anatoliy Nazarenko/LWF



**Russia-Ukraine war:** More than three years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, your gifts to LDR continue to support partners in six Central and Eastern European countries, including Ukraine, that accompany refugees and displaced people through housing, education, legal assistance, and emotional and spiritual care.

2022

*Your gifts support a program that serves hot meals to vulnerable populations in Kharkiv, Ukraine.*

**Hurricane Fiona and Hurricane Ian:** Hurricane Fiona inundated Puerto Rico with rain in mid-September. Days later, Ian made landfall in Florida, with near Category 5–strength winds and life-threatening flooding. As communities move into long-term recovery, your generosity supports the repair and rebuilding of houses, especially for vulnerable families.

2022

2022

**Eastern Africa drought:** Many countries across eastern Africa experienced severe droughts in 2022 and beyond. Thanks to your gifts, LDR is supporting partners as they address the resulting humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique. These partners provide food aid, safe and accessible water, counseling, livelihood improvement strategies and risk reduction for climate-induced disasters.

**Southeastern spring tornadoes:**

In response to the southeastern spring storms of 2023, LDR is accompanying communities in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, North Carolina and Mississippi. Grants made possible by gifts to LDR provide community outreach efforts, disaster case management, and construction materials and management.

2023

Anatoliy Nazarenko/LWF



**Türkiye-Syria earthquake:** Two earthquakes of magnitude 7 or greater struck Türkiye and Syria in early February, causing widespread destruction. LDR is responding with cash assistance, medical supplies and care, and emotional and spiritual care, all made possible by your gifts.

2023

2023

**Sudan civil war:** As a civil war broke out in Sudan in April, refugees fled to nearby countries such as Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Your generosity enables LDR to accompany partners in these countries, providing food, shelter, water access and safety to Sudanese refugees.

C. Kästner-Meyer/LWF





LWF Jerusalem



*LDR supports Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, which is providing ongoing cancer and dialysis treatment for patients in the West Bank, as well as sending medical supplies to a partner hospital in Gaza.*

**Middle East crisis:** Following the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas and Israel's subsequent invasion of Gaza, a severe humanitarian crisis continues to deepen in the Holy Land, especially in Gaza. LDR supports partners in the region that provide medical care, ensure the continued operation of schools, support people with intellectual disabilities and attend to emotional and spiritual needs, in both Gaza and the West Bank.

2023



**Maui wildfires:** In August, multiple wildfires broke out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, the fires destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people had to evacuate and lost their homes. Because of your gifts, LDR is involved in long-term recovery, supporting partners who provide food support, household supplies, short-term housing, and emotional and spiritual care.

*Thanks in part to your gifts to LDR, Kihei Lutheran Church in Maui is partnering with community organizations to offer food support, household supplies and other care for wildfire survivors.*

2023

**Hurricane Debby:** In August, Hurricane Debby caused significant damage in North Carolina. Through local partners and your gifts, LDR is addressing the need for cleanup, home repairs and temporary housing.

2024



*After Hurricane Helene destroyed many harvests, your generosity provided hundreds of bales of hay to local farmers to help their livestock make it through the winter.*



**Hurricane Helene:** Hurricane Helene hit the southeastern United States in September, becoming one of the deadliest hurricanes to impact the United States and causing catastrophic flooding in Appalachia. Thanks to your generosity, LDR has supported food assistance, temporary housing, bridge-rebuilding, disaster case management, volunteer housing at camps and replacing hay for farmers.

2024

**Midwest storms:** Throughout the spring, multiple storm systems swept through the Midwest. In March, a series of tornadoes tore through Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. In affected communities, your generosity to LDR assisted with immediate needs such as food and water, as well as repair and rebuilding of storm-damaged homes.

2024

**Hurricane Milton:** Following Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Milton struck Florida as a Category 3 cyclone in October. Supported by your gifts to LDR, partners responded to immediate needs, clearing debris, doing outreach and early case work, and providing emotional and spiritual care.

2024



# Finding direction *after disaster*

“It’s so important for kids who have been through trauma to get a place where they can come and find belonging,” said Robin Eisenbach, executive director of Camp Lutherwood in Chesire, Ore., an ELCA camp.

Following the record-breaking wildfires of 2020, which burned more than 1 million acres across Oregon, Camp Lutherwood saw a gap in recovery efforts: emotional and spiritual care for youth. With support from your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, it started the Compass youth program, a week of camp for young people in Oregon who were affected by the fires.

Robin and the team of therapists “work to just wrap our arms around them as best as possible.” For one week, campers don’t have to explain the trauma their family has gone through, because all their peers have had similar experiences.

Designed for middle-school-aged children, Compass weaves trauma-informed care into traditional camp activities such as swimming, archery, hiking and campfires. Lutheran Disaster Response covers trained staff, the registration costs for campers, and expanding community partnerships.

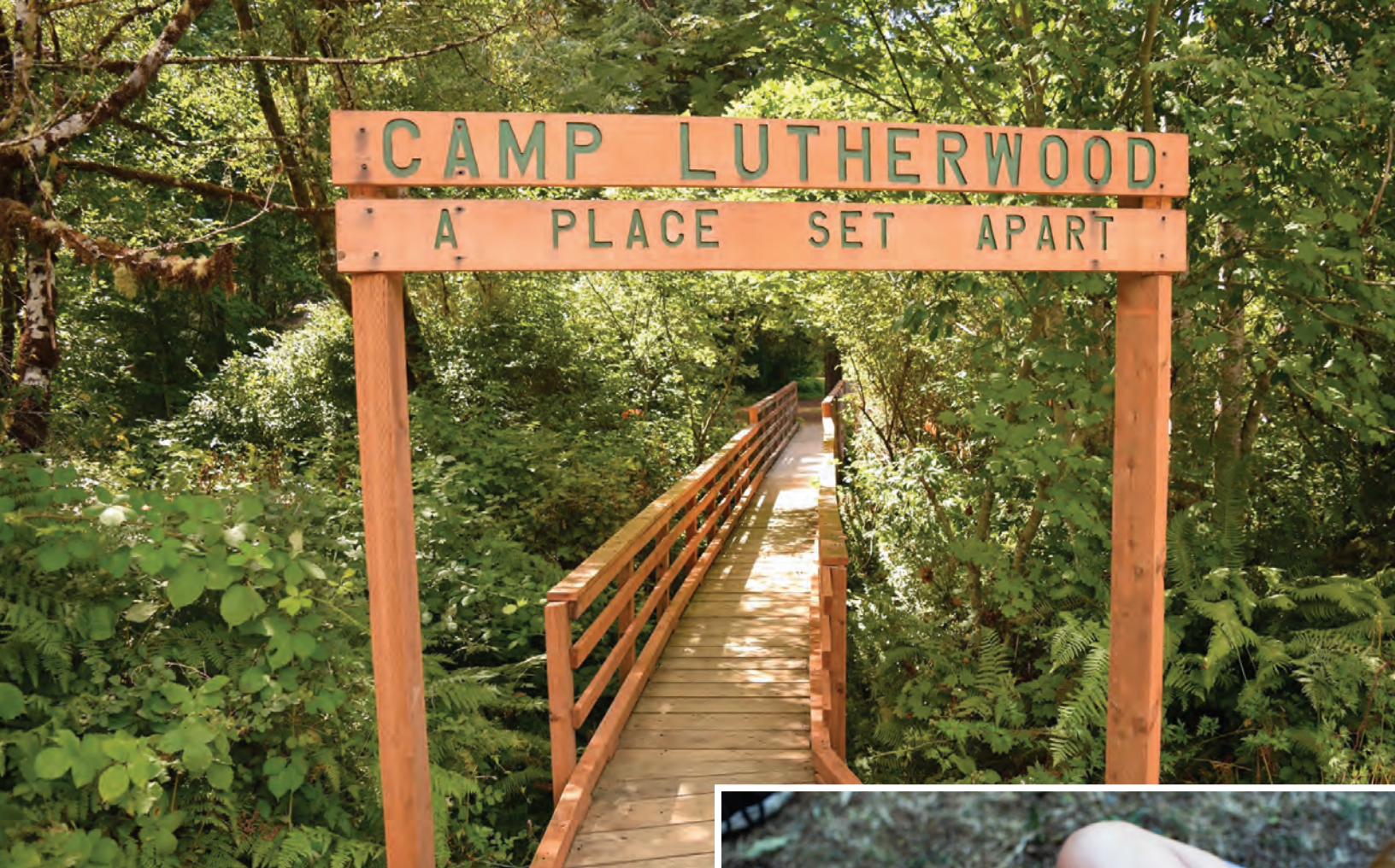
“What we really want is for Compass kids to come and know they’re at camp,” said Robin. “They just get to come and be kids. They get a week out of their lives where they don’t have to do any heavy lifting that comes with families who are in the middle of crisis.”

Amid camp activities, the group meets daily to learn healthy, effective ways of navigating reactions to traumatic experiences and to practice techniques for relieving stress. Without this kind of care, Robin says, feelings of stress can accumulate and lead to higher levels of anxiety and panic.

During the weeklong program, therapists turn one of the yurts on the campground into a low-sensory therapeutic space. Inside, campers can focus on simple practices such as breath work or kinesthetic exercises that will help them relax and release tension when anxious.







“We know what trauma looks like, and we’re ready to coach and support them through those moments,” explained Robin, who is also a licensed social worker.

Though the program was initially designed for youth impacted by the 2020 wildfires across Oregon, it has grown to include campers traumatized by other experiences as well. Thanks to your continued support for Lutheran Disaster Response, kids that have gone through other natural disasters, immigration or the foster care system also can have the Compass experience.

For Robin, one fulfilling aspect of Compass is seeing campers enjoy the week so much that they come back the next year, enrolled in one of Lutherwood’s other camp programs.

“Compass is, at its roots, disaster relief, but what it really is about is access and opportunity and creating some equity in the world for kids who don’t always experience it.”



Thanks to your generous support for Lutheran Disaster Response, what started as a respite for youth affected by wildfires has grown into a larger program for children experiencing a wide range of challenges, a place where each of them is welcomed with compassion.



# Educational stability in Ukraine



L. Gillibert/LWF

**D**uring the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools in Ukraine switched to online learning, assuming it would be temporary. This persisted after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 as some students left the country and others remained behind, in and out of air raid shelters. With school buildings damaged or destroyed by Russian missiles, the government didn't allow schools to reopen, out of concern for students and staff.

The lack of in-person schooling isolated children, making connection difficult. If a

student lost power or internet access, they couldn't attend classes, which could cause them to fall behind. Lutheran Disaster Response and our partners saw safe, consistent education as a key area in which to take action.

Your generous giving to Lutheran Disaster Response supported the conversion of an air raid shelter into a school, as well as the construction of eight other underground schools in Kharkiv Oblast. These underground classrooms provide a plethora of positive changes for communities: children can socialize with their peers, there is a safe environment in which to learn, and teachers can return to in-person teaching.

Anna Oleksandrivna, a teacher and librarian at an underground school, sees the students' joy at being together. "Children need to be active to make friends," she said. "Of course, when they are together, they make a lot of noise, but they are very happy and excited."

The entire community benefits from the new classrooms and the cross-generational programming at the school. Anna leads board game classes where children teach their parents how to play the games. One of her colleagues, Anna Logvinenko, teaches art therapy for both kids and adults.

"Almost the whole week is busy," she said. "Even on Saturday, children come here."





*Your gifts supported the building of underground classrooms in Ukraine, ensuring safe learning environments.*

L. Gillibert/LWF

*Anna Logvinenko is an art teacher who leads art therapy classes for children and adults.*



To offer the best possible learning experience, classrooms are equipped with modern technology such as interactive whiteboards and laptops. Anna Logvinenko uses one of the whiteboards to teach new drawing techniques.

The school has also become a community hub where classroom spaces are used for emotional and spiritual care and adults can attend training on writing a resume and preparing for an interview. For the students, the new classrooms are a source of stability, even as other parts of their lives are uncertain.

“Thank you for your support, thanks to which parents, young people and children can spend time together,” said Anna Oleksandrivna. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response are helping grow community, provide education and create safe spaces amid war.

*“Almost the whole week is busy. Even on Saturday, children come here.”*

**—Anna Logvinenko**





# Helping hands among *the mountaintops*

Hurricane Helene struck the southeastern United States in September 2024, quickly becoming one of the deadliest and costliest hurricanes to make landfall in the United States. Though coastal states are usually prepared for such disasters, communities further inland rarely experience the level of destruction a hurricane can bring.

In North Carolina, the hurricane knocked down thousands of trees at Lutherock and Lutheridge, ELCA camps nestled in the Appalachian Mountains near the western border of the state. Some of the trees fell on the camp's buildings, roads and trails. Lutheridge lost water and power for ten days, and Lutherock's road system was unusable.

"We really thought, when we saw [the damage], that we would not be able to have camp this summer," said Deacon Mitzie Schafer. She is co-CEO of NovusWay Ministries, the umbrella organization that operates the two camps.

The damage would cost millions of dollars to repair, with the camps submitting claim after claim to their insurance provider. There was still the deductible to worry about – until your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response paid for it. "Quite frankly, that was incredible," Mitzie recalled. "Not only that, [Lutheran Disaster Response] helped us get the right language to navigate our insurance policy. They got us in touch with somebody who could help us understand it, so instead of an almost-half-a-million-dollar deductible, it was about \$162,000."

Mitzie understands that covering an insurance deductible isn't what most people think about when they make a gift to Lutheran Disaster Response, but it is just as important as other areas of recovery.

"A financial gift, like paying the deductible, can relieve a pretty substantial pressure from an organization. It opens up the mental and





"To know that we have a partnership with the church that has already done that level of thinking and planning for us, not knowing when something is going to happen, is a true gift. It expedites the recovery process so that we can get back to doing the ministry we're called to do."

— Deacon Mitzie Schafer

emotional and time capacity that leadership has in order to better triage things that need boots on the ground."

Without having to worry about raising the money needed to pay off the deductible, camp staff could manage repair efforts and coordinate the volunteers that arrived at the camps. The camp community rallied around recovery – volunteers cleared fallen trees and other debris from roads and trails.

Shortly after Helene hit, groups of powerline workers traveled into the area to repair electrical lines on the camp properties and in the surrounding areas. The camps became their home bases for two weeks; dining hall staff cooked them meals, and housekeeping staff washed their clothes. Even while the camps were conducting their own cleanup, the staff welcomed others who were helping with hurricane relief.

Lutherock and Lutheridge still have a long way to go to fully recover, but by the beginning of summer, there was substantial progress. Many buildings had new roofs, much of the logging work was done, and most roads were open. To the relief of all, the camps were safe enough to accommodate a full summer of camp programming.

"When you make a gift to LDR, when you don't know if a disaster has happened, it's hard to know what tragedy that gift is going to impact and how it's going to play out," said Mitzie, her voice full of gratitude.

Because of your generous support, Lutheran Disaster Response can quickly respond to a range of disasters, ensuring that communities have the ability to fully recover.

# From crisis

# to community

**A** disaster can hit anyone at any time, yet many people are not prepared and few understand the full impact a crisis might have on themselves and their community. With support from your gifts, Lutheran Disaster Response is working to change that pattern through its training and education programs.

In a simulation first introduced at the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024, Lutheran Disaster Response walks participants through a disaster experience, touching on realistic situations and having players work together to make decisions. Their goal is to guide their “family” through the relief and recovery process. The game creates awareness, evokes emotions and encourages participants to take action in their own lives.

Since the Gathering, the simulation has been used in churches and synod assemblies throughout the country. Jayme Beneker, disaster response coordinator for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, touts the experience and facilitates it in congregations around the synod.

“The game is about how disaster can happen to you,” said Jayme. “How are you going to walk through the process of getting your home cleaned up and connecting with volunteer organizations and filing your insurance?”

These are questions that many participants haven’t grappled with and that can be difficult to process without going through a disaster

oneself. After each round, Jayme leads the group through discussion, reflecting on what it was like to decide which items to take when evacuating or on whether they received recovery assistance.

“I think it’s surprising to them, a little bit,” Jayme observed. “There are elements of the game that are meant to replicate the uncertainty – your fate is decided by the roll of the dice. They get to experience that through the game.”

The biggest takeaway Jayme hears is that churches want to be prepared for disaster and have the ability to support their community, especially as weather-related disasters become stronger and more common. She connects them with resources developed by Lutheran Disaster Response that educate congregations on disaster response, preparedness and resilience-building.

“We all feel most compelled to help in the light of a disaster, but what’s really the most helpful is if we can prepare ahead of it,” remarked Jayme. The more prepared and resilient a congregation – and a community – are before a crisis, the more effectively they can recover. For Jayme, this is where churches can be leaders in their communities. She walks alongside congregations to figure out what they can offer after a disaster, such as shelter, volunteers or relief supplies.

Jayme’s role in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, as well as instructional resources such as the simulation game, are made possible because of your generosity. “[Lutheran Disaster Response’s] support has been crucial in helping me educate





*Jayme Beneker, disaster coordinator for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, leads a disaster experience simulation in a local congregation.*

Lutheran Disaster Response regularly supports the hiring of disaster response coordinators for ELCA synods. Many synods don't have a staff member dedicated to organizing disaster response, so when a disaster does occur, they lack the capacity or resources to effectively support impacted communities. The responsibilities of a disaster response coordinator vary depending on the needs of the community but can include supervising case managers, educating synod members on disaster response, organizing volunteer groups, and representing the synod at local long-term recovery group meetings. Your gifts support this important work, ensuring that synods can serve their communities after a disaster.

our congregations.”

The technical guidance, training and resources that Lutheran Disaster Response offers for synods and congregations are essential for building resilient communities. Preparedness, both personal and congregational, can be life-changing in the event of a disaster.

As Jayme tells the groups she leads, “A little bit of planning goes a long way.”



Lutheran Disaster Response is dedicated to making disaster education accessible by developing a series of courses that cover a range of subjects, from the disaster cycle to case management. These free, self-paced courses teach participants about responding to a disaster before one impacts their community. The platform also includes other resources and hosts webinars on disaster response. **Sign up today!**



# Building a better tomorrow in Honduras

**P**eople migrate to the United States for a multitude of reasons – to escape conflict or local violence, to search for better livelihood opportunities or to rebuild their lives after a disaster. However, arriving in the United States doesn't guarantee one's safety. As the frequency of migrant deportations grows, Honduras has become as a key destination country for deportation flights from the United States and Mexico.

Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM) is one of two faith-based organizations in Honduras that are part of the AMMPARO network (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities), supported by your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response. Since 2015,

CASM has provided holistic accompaniment to thousands of returned migrants and their families. In 2019, individuals who had been detained and deported joined CASM's efforts. Returned migrants organized themselves into the Red de Convergencia Juvenil, a network that accompanies other returnees and assists them in finding stability in their communities.

"When I came back, I wanted to start a food business with a friend, but I was in bad shape," recalled Zeidy Funes, a returned migrant. "I was so depressed that I even thought about harming myself. That's when I decided to seek help from the Comisión de Acción Social Menonita. It provided me with the psychological support I needed. Participating in those workshops with other returned migrants turned my life around 180 degrees."

*After returning to Honduras, Zeidy Funes sought help from an AMMPARO partner to rebuild her life.*







*Returned migrants Nahum (center) and Denis (right) are now community leaders, ensuring that others have support when they come back to Honduras.*

Nahum Enamorado Lara is a father of three and president of one of the migrant network committees. He returned to Honduras in 2022 and received entrepreneurial training and seed capital to start a plantain chip business. Today Nahum's business is thriving. He is active in the parents' committee at his children's school, serves on the local water committee and coaches a soccer team for rural youth.

He is also a dedicated migrant community leader, visiting other returned migrants and connecting them with CASM's program of holistic accompaniment. "It is so gratifying to be able to do this work, knowing that, with just a phone call or a referral for someone, we can help the family of a migrant. That's what motivates me, knowing that we are reaching more migrants with our work."

Denis Pineda Aguilar is a returned migrant who connected with CASM in 2023. After receiving counseling and entrepreneurial training, made possible by your gifts, Denis opened a motorcycle repair shop that now enables him to support his wife and children. He is active in the local migrant support group and eagerly helps others. Last year, Denis served as a volunteer trainer for 15 other returned migrant youth. His own repair shop served as the classroom for the practical training sessions on motorcycle repair.

Another leader in the network is Any Euceda Rodriguez, a returned migrant who is raising twins with the help of her parents. In addition to pursuing a law degree at the regional campus of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, Any serves as secretary of the network's national board.

"Our network can and must be a bridge of support for other returned migrants, so that they feel that they're not alone and that their return is a new opportunity," Any reflected. "We are planting the seeds of hope. We are building a today that is more just and more humane. We are also dreaming of a different future ... offering our children, youth and adults access to education, knowledge and empowerment. Because when someone feels capable, valued and accompanied, that can be transformative. And when thousands of people feel that way, an entire society can lift itself up."



*Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response empower leaders such as Any (left) to advocate for returned migrants.*

Zeidy, Nahum, Denis and Any are dedicated leaders, mentoring and training other returned migrants and advocating for policy changes so that more Honduran youth won't have to emigrate. Your generosity to Lutheran Disaster Response helps these leaders change their communities. These returned migrants — and hundreds of their peers — are members of a new generation in Honduras who are raising their collective voice.

# Thrive

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631-4101  
ELCA.org

**STORIES OF HOPE, HEALING AND RENEWAL AFTER DISASTERS**

For supporters of Lutheran Disaster Response | ELCA.org

## In this issue

### MAPPING OUR IMPACT

p. 4

### ONGOING RESPONSES

p. 6

### FINDING DIRECTION AFTER DISASTER

p. 10

### EDUCATIONAL STABILITY IN UKRAINE

p. 12

### HELPING HANDS AMONG THE MOUNTAINTOPS

p. 14

### FROM CRISIS TO COMMUNITY

p. 16

### BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW IN HONDURAS

p. 18



*Through AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities), Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies returned migrants in Honduras.*