

**“Here I am, Lord,  
use me”**



On two occasions, Pastor Jo and a group of volunteers from Advent Lutheran in Harleysville, Pennsylvania, traveled to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. They worked on damaged houses, helped with chores like cooking and cleaning around the busy volunteer facility, and perhaps most importantly, spent time listening to the stories of those affected by the 2005 hurricanes.

One of the core components of disaster response is spiritual and emotional care, which includes counseling, respite for caregivers, and programs to meet the special needs of children. Spiritual and emotional care is offered to those who experienced the disaster first hand, as well as the workers, volunteers, and caregivers who now share the road to recovery.

“I’m hoping many people who are needed here will say, ‘Here I am, Lord, use me,’” said Pastor Jo, “and that they will come here when they have the chance.” To learn how you can volunteer with Lutheran Disaster Response, visit [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org)

Donations to ELCA Domestic Disaster Response fund spiritual and emotional care, hardship grants, volunteer coordination, and long-term recovery efforts to bring “help and hope” after a major natural or human-caused disaster. Lutheran Disaster Response is a collaborative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

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