

News From The Pews

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church—ELCA
Pastor Phillip Vickers

143 Chota Center, Loudon, TN 37774
www.shepherdofthelaketn.org
(865) 816-4756

APRIL 2025

A Christian community sharing God's love with the world.

Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.

In Person
and
Online

On the website:

Bulletins
Announcements
Sermons
Newsletters
Livestream

Church Council

Tom Tisch
President

Otto Stutz
Vice President

Julie Claus
Secretary

Eric Bondy
Treasurer

Claire Moxim
Vivian Snellman
Members-at-Large

Office

Manager

Sandy Hagan
Shepherdofthelake13@gmail.com



Jesus
LIVES!

*He rose again the
third day according
to the scriptures.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:4

Pastor Phil's Page

It is a wonderful time to be together as Shepherd of the Lake Church! Springtime is here and we are all getting ready to celebrate Holy Week and Easter together. On a personal note, our family is also very excited because only next month we have two big milestones to celebrate. Autumn, our oldest, will be graduating high school on the May 10. On the very next day, the 11th, Zoe, our middle child, will be confirmed in the faith here at Shepherd of the Lake! We are so happy to be able to celebrate this milestone in our family's life with you good folks, and I continue to be so thankful for the opportunity to serve as your Pastor.



Pastor Phil Vickers

Tom Tisch has gifted me with a prayer book on behalf of the congregation which is to be given to Zoe on the day of her confirmation. I found a prayer inside that really spoke to me, and I share it with you:

For my Congregation

I am grateful to You, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have established Your Church on earth, where You bless me with love and mercy in the Word and the Sacraments.

I am grateful that in my congregation Your Word is proclaimed in truth and purity. May the Holy Spirit so fill the members of my congregation that it may be said of us, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Help me to do my part to keep it so for my spiritual good.

Graciously preserve my congregation in its faithfulness and its care for our pastor and one another. Use my congregation for the building of Your kingdom on earth. Make my congregation a witness to our community that You desire all people to come to saving faith in You. Bless our efforts to bring Your saving Gospel to the unchurched. To the glory of Your name, O Jesus. Amen.

What wonderful words to describe the blessing it is to be a part of Shepherd of the Lake and what meaning, fulfillment, friendship, and comfort it is to gather as the Church of Jesus to do all the things he calls us to do. Join us and invite others, because as it is said: the more the merrier!

Lent



April

Birthdays

- 2 Ron Clesen
- 4 Diane Sawinski
- 5 Spencer Loud
- 10 Rod Rowe
- 14 Virgil Graening
- 15 Sandy Brabant
- 15 Deb Hatch
- 17 Deborah Hickman
- 17 Carolyn Opsal
- 21 Laurie Bondy
- 27 JoAnne Schaeffer
- 28 Susan Kastner
- 30 Julie Claus

Anniversaries

- 13 Sara & David Meilleur



President's Column



As many of our flowering trees and bushes are cooperating with the arrival of Spring by bursting open their vivid blooms in shades of red, pinks and lavender, white, yellows, and other gorgeous colors we are reminded that Holy Week is quickly approaching. Many of us are gardeners who nurse our yards during the dormant fall and winter months in anticipation of the beauty they are now revealing. During Lent, we, as a Christian family at Shepherd of the Lake, have been preparing for the two most important days of our faith: Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday when we were reminded of our earthly mortality and concludes with Easter Sunday as the chains of death are released by the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. I often try to visualize the splendor, the ultimate beauty, the overwhelming awe that those present at the resurrection would have witnessed, which would have been infinitely more spectacular than whatever I could possibly conjure. The beauty of Spring's blossoms provides glimpses of God's magnificence everywhere and in everything if we simply open our eyes. Lent is time to prepare our minds and hearts so they too are fully opened to God's continuous and unconditional love that is so clearly revealed to us through the death and rising of his only son, Jesus.

Our Church Council together with the Communications Committee have been discussing how we at Shepherd of the Lake can become more visible to those lost or confused in their wilderness as they search for a pathway to Jesus's outstretched arms. We always reach the conclusion that one of our greatest attributes at Shepherd of the Lake is that our church family is truly a family, a healthy family, God's family, who love each other as we worship the Trinity together. Although our physical presence in Tellico Village may be smaller compared to some of our neighbors' facilities, we host a very respectable number of active members. Speaking for Church Council, we are laser focused on our responsibility of managing the good health of So+L, including reestablishment of the Stewardship Committee. I can report to you that we are on solid footing thanks to the generous financial support and volunteer work of our congregation.

We are asking the Holy Spirit for inspiration as to how our open doors at Shepherd of the Lake can become an increasingly bright beacon to those wandering in their wilderness or just trying to find a new home, and welcome all who are led to us as new brothers and sisters into our growing family.

Shepherd of the Lake, *The Small Church with the Big Family.*

Tom Tisch

4 Ways to Give

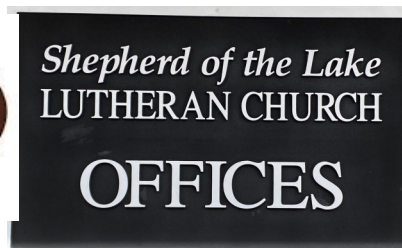
Mail



Offering Plate



Drop off at.....



Online



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This April we are once again highlighting the work of this worthwhile organization whose aim it is to “heal the pain of child abuse”. The statistics are staggering. During fiscal year 2023-2024, 375 children were served by the CAC. And within this number, 44% of the children served were under 12 years of age, 94% suffered child sexual abuse and 59% of offenders were either a parent, stepparent, parent’s paramour or another family member. Sadly, those adults that children are most likely to trust are those perpetrating the crime!

A steep decline in grant money over the last 3 years has resulted in a loss to the CAC of over \$120,000! So, your help is now more important than ever. You can help in any number of ways ...

- ⇒ Items for the snacks and drinks drawer – individually wrapped
- ⇒ Join us Saturday, May 24 from 6-9 pm at the Tellico Village Yacht Club for a charity concert benefiting Kids First CAC featuring the Bicho Brothers.
- ⇒ Kid’s First 8th Annual “Aim for Advocacy” a sporting clay shoot on August 22 at Iron Mountain Sporting Clays.
- ⇒ Walmart “Round Up Your Change” – donate spare change by automatically rounding up your orders at Walmart in Lenoir City to the nearest dollar at checkout.
- ⇒ “Kroger Community Rewards”
 1. Go to Kroger.com and sign into “my account”
 2. Scroll down to “Community Rewards” and click “View Community Rewards”
 3. Search “Kids First Child Advocacy Center” and click “Enroll”
- ⇒ Send a check made payable to “Child Advocacy Center”
P.O. Box 928
Lenoir City, TN 37771

Right now the CAC is in needs to replace a futon that has served its usefulness in the big kids’ playroom for 18 years! The purchase of a few easy to clean chairs would also be most helpful. (Should you wish to send a monetary donation, please indicate “chairs” in the memo portion of your check to earmark for this much needed addition to the center).

Lastly, the CAC is always on the lookout for great volunteers! Often times young children come into the office for appointments and their caregivers need to talk with caseworkers or therapists. During these times it is important to have someone to sit with the children until their caregivers are finished. They also need assistance with front desk work, events and fundraisers and mailings. If you think you might be interested, please contact Darcy Navratil Loud at the office for more information and/or a volunteer packet.

Darcy: dnavratil@cac9jd.org

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED GENTLY USED HANDBAGS FOR “PURSES WITH PURPOSE”! 100% of every purchase benefitted abuse victims at Iva’s Place and Kids First Child Advocacy Center.

Donna Navratil

Sunday, May 18 Yacht Club

- ◆ **Pack Your Bags for a First-Class Evening**
- ◆ **Thank you for joining us for the *Our PLACE* 2nd annual Gala, an amazing evening of fun, silent and live auctions, great food, and dancing!**

The Gala benefits *Our PLACE* participants, caregivers, and families who must meet the daily challenges of Alzheimer's and dementia-related diseases. It supports our mission to provide person-centered care and dementia-specific therapies and interventions for adults while supporting their families and caregivers through respite, support groups, education, and resources.

This year's event features exciting opportunities to bid on auction items throughout the evening. Like last year's inaugural event, the Silent Auction runs throughout the evening with larger ticket items featured in the Live Auction.

Items in the auction include a weekend getaway in a mountain cabin, handmade woodworking pieces, signed UT memorabilia, dinners for two, and *more*.

The Silent Auction features *Trips of a Lifetime Luxury Travel* for exclusive domestic and international trips from our nonprofit partner, AmFund. Follow *Our PLACE* on Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor for information on our *Trips of a Lifetime* and other Auction items.

Your participation will provide you with an enjoyable and entertaining evening and continue providing "Moments of Joy" to many participants and caregivers.



EVENT DETAILS

May 18, 5-10 P.M.

LOCATION

Tellico Village Yacht Club, Loudon, TN

5:00 P.M.

Hors d'oeuvres served with wine (Cabernet & Chardonnay compliments of *Our PLACE*)

6:30 P.M.

Dinner

MUSIC

DJ Philip from Philip Mobile DJ playing throughout the evening.



StayinTV, a volunteer organization in Loudon and Monroe counties, is dedicated to helping residents remain in their chosen homes as long as possible. By offering services like transportation, companionship, and home adaptations, StayinTV ensures Villagers can live independently and maintain strong community connections. The organization's compassionate volunteers provide not only practical support but also foster relationships, creating a sense of belonging and purpose for those they help. StayinTV invites anyone with a passion for giving back to join their mission, making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

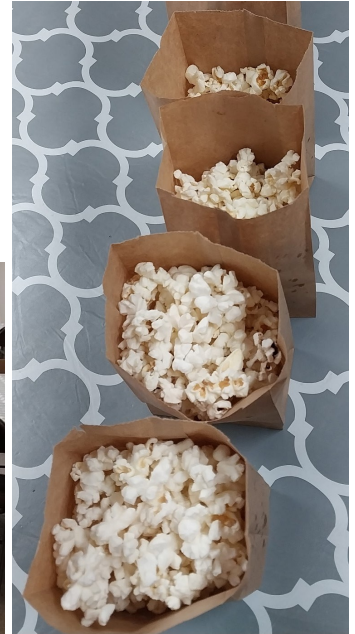
We are making plans to have Chris come to the church on a Sunday and share more information following the worship service during coffee fellowship.

Some of the services offered are: home maintenance, rides, groceries and errands, respite care for caregivers, and Care Calls. To reach StayinTV call 865-458-7084.

Church News & Events

Women's Fellowship—Movie Day

An enjoyable time was had by all as the Women's Fellowship group met for lunch and a movie in Friendship Hall on March 20. It is just so nice to get together for conversation and time together! The movie, "You've Got Mail", was a big hit!



Women's Fellowship Save the Date

Thursday, May 15

Women of So+L and friends, please reserve this date on your calendars for a fun-filled day out!

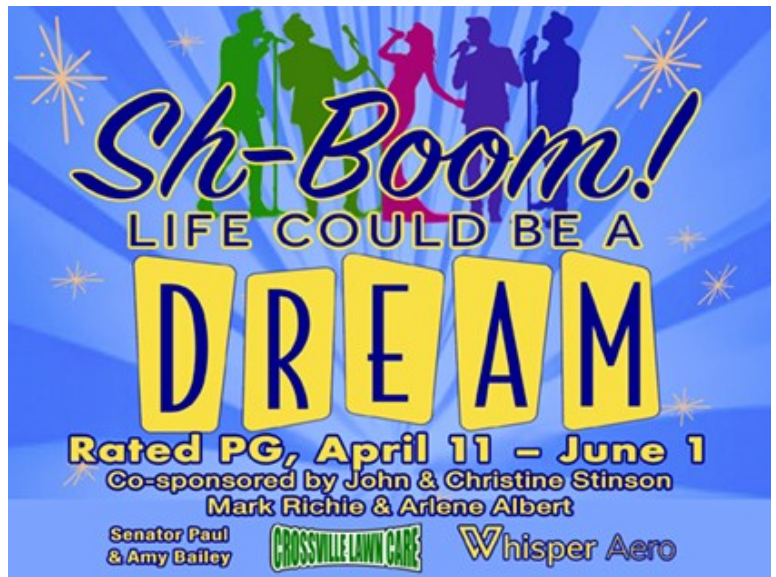
We'll be enjoying lunch out and carpooling to the Cumberland Theater for their performance of

"Sh-boom! Life Could Be A Dream".

We'll plan on meeting at church to carpool at 12:20pm and leaving soon after. The play starts at 2:30 (1 hour time difference). We should be back around 6:30pm. The tickets are \$30 payable to Jean Clesen, plus your lunch cost at the restaurant.

The deadline is April 13

Tickets will first be available to the first 25 women.



This is an event you won't want to miss!!

Mother's Day Brunch

Celebrating Women on Mother's Day: A Special Tribute



In a heartwarming show of appreciation, the wonderful men of So+L have organized a special Mother's Day tribute to honor the incredible women in their lives. The celebration, set for Sunday, May 11, promises to be a memorable event filled with love, gratitude, and heartfelt gestures.

Taking place after the worship service, this occasion provides a perfect opportunity to uplift and recognize the selflessness, strength, and care that define motherhood. Through meaningful words, gestures, and moments of reflection, the men will express their deep admiration for the invaluable contributions of mothers and women.

This tribute isn't just a celebration of mothers—it's a reminder of the importance of community and the profound impact women have on families, society, and faith. The men of So+L are setting a beautiful example with their thoughtful efforts to create a space where women feel truly appreciated and celebrated.

Mountain Views Article

SMALL CHURCH – STRONG FAMILY

In today's world of uncertainties, are you feeling a little lost, nervous, scared and confused. Do you feel like you have no anchor, no safe harbor, no trust? Perhaps you just feel a loss that you can't identify. Many of us have left our families in other parts of the country in order to enjoy life and retirement in East Tennessee. Are you missing those close connections? A huge reason for people moving from here back to "there" is to be closer to family. Perhaps, just perhaps, you could find your place today in a small church family.

Some polls are showing a surprising growth of small churches in our communities. Some of the advantages of attending a smaller church are a sense of belonging, the ability to build bonds in a like-minded community of faith and a strong experience of faith affirmation. Connection and bonding can happen in a sewing circle, but are you missing sharing and growing the faith part of who you are?

Are you are missing the beauty of a liturgical church where the gospel is preached and Holy Communion is offered weekly? Have you have lost that connection either by choice or by circumstance?

Shepherd of the Lake in Tellico Village offers a Word and Sacrament based faith community where all are welcome at The Lord's Table weekly - a church where faith is deep, worship is rich and meaningful and grace is for all.

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

Revelation 3:20

Shepherd of the Lake Church: A Community of Grace and Tradition

143 Chota Center
Loudon, TN

www.shepherdofthelaketn.org





RECURRING EVENTS

So+L has many recurring activities throughout the month. They are on our website should you wish to check them out and just maybe participate. See below what's happening! Go to the website and select:

GET INVOLVED — COMING EVENTS.

Wkly.	Al-Anon Meeting	Mon	10:00am
Wkly.	Women's AA Meeting	Mon	11:30am
Bi-Wk.	Dream Study Circle	Tues	2:00pm
Wkly.	Bible Study	Wed	10:00am
Wkly.	Small Group	Thurs	3:00pm
Mthly	Card Making Ministry	2nd Thurs	10:00am
Mthly	Creative Hands	2nd Thurs	10:00am
Mthly	Women's Fellowship	3rd Thurs	11:30am
Mthly	Men's Fellowship B'fast	3rd Sat	8:30am



SAVE THESE DATES

April 2, 9	5:00pm	Lenten Service & Soup Suppers
April 13	5:00pm	Palm Sunday
April 17	5:00pm	Maundy Thursday
April 18	5:00pm	Good Friday
April 20	5:00pm	EASTER SUNDAY
April 26	5:30pm	Come to the Water
May 11	10:00am	Mother's Day Brunch
May 15	12:20pm	Women's Fellowship Cumberland Playhouse
May 18	5:00 pm	Our PLACE Gala



**Saturday, April 19 at 8:30am
Friendship Hall**

Join the men for coffee and breakfast items of your choice as they fellowship together.

Go to SignUpGenius and make your reservation and select the food you plan to bring. It will be a great time to socialize.

Men's Fellowship: Men's Fellowship Breakfast
(signupgenius.com)

For questions, email Howard Kastner (howardkastner285@gmail.com) or call Sandy in the church office 865-816-4756



Women's Fellowship
Come and join us!

Go to SignUpGenius and be a participant.
Women's Fellowship: Women's Fellowship (signupgenius.com)

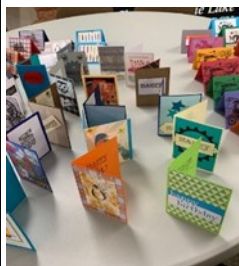
Women's Fellowship Committee

"Sh-boom! Life Could Be A Dream".



Thursday May 15
See details on Page 6

Card Making Ministry Thursday, April 10 at 10am



Our Card Making ministry serves a very special purpose at So+L. It provides fellowship, learning and creativity for those who participate, and it shows caring and love to those who receive the cards...a win-win for all involved.

We will be making Birthday and Get Well cards this month. Please join us on Thursday, April 10, from 10AM-Noon. It is a fun time and easy to learn!

All supplies provided.

There are lots of occasions to celebrate during our lifetimes, and we help by sending cards to remind all and celebrate all at these special times!

If you have a question, feel welcome to call me.

Carol Opsal, at 936-520-2271, or
e-mail csopsal@gmail.com.



Thank you to everyone who contributed a basic 9-patch block for our current project! Returning them in a timely fashion enabled

Susan Kastner, Christine Elbert and me to cut them apart and reassemble them in an exciting new way!

Next up was sewing all these squares into rows and then all the rows together. Voila' – one quilt top put together in record time! Yet to complete are the borders to set off our blocks. Watch for the finished product later this spring!

Donna Navratil



Easter Garden Plants REMINDER

Help beautify our sanctuary this Easter by providing a plant of your choice. You may bring your plant to church on Good Friday (4/18) from 9am until 3pm or Saturday 10am to Noon. Drop off location will be Friendship Hall. You may take plants home with you following our Easter service.

Need more information?
Please contact Sara Meilleur at 865-458-9633.

Mark Your Calendar

Lenten Services & Soup Suppers April 2, 9

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday with Holy Communion	April 13
Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion	April 17
Good Friday	April 18
Easter Sunday with Holy Communion	April 20



Prayer Ventures—April

1 Pray for lasting peace between nations and for the healing of people who suffer conflict, war and violence, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Syria, Haiti, Myanmar and regions of Africa.

2 Arab American Heritage Month Give thanks for the contributions and impact of Arab Americans in every aspect of society, including religion, education, science, business, government and the arts. Ask God to bless and further the work of ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage.

3 “You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only asking for me to follow” (WOV 784). Praise God for seeking us out and, despite our imperfection, making us humble disciples, equipped and inspired by the Spirit.

4 Pray for church leaders, liturgists, scholars and scientists gathering to discuss including the Feast of Creation Day in liturgical calendars, an effort organized by the Roman Catholic Church in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, World Methodist Council, Anglican Communion and World Communion of Reformed Churches. Ask the Spirit to guide their study and discussion of climate justice, the Nicene Creed, the role of the Holy Trinity in creation, and how Christians engage with the creation story.

5 Remember in prayer worship leaders and musicians participating in the ecumenical Music that Makes Community workshop in Waco, Texas, a day of building community through singing, learning and fellowship.

6 Pray for a spirit of humble generosity that recognizes and encourages the diverse gifts and contributions of our siblings in Christ, who give as they are able and are inspired by their gratitude towards and love for God.

7 Praise the Creator for the new life of an emerging spring, which inspires our joy, awe and hope.

8 There are about 390,000 people in foster care in our country, ranging from infants to young adults. Pray that these young people will experience love, understanding, security and encouragement in their foster families. Give thanks for foster parents and remember those young adults who, aging out of foster care, may face new uncertainties.

9 Seek God’s forgiveness and mercy for the times when we have hurt, offended or demeaned others, intentionally or unintentionally. Pray for the Spirit to grant us humility, penitent hearts and a compassion that stirs us to make amends and heal broken relationships.

10 Lift up in prayer farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers. Give thanks for their efforts to feed the world and care for creation, and pray for abundant harvests.

11 Give thanks that God is always doing something new in and through us, wonderful things that impact others when they witness Christ’s awesome love reflected in our lives as disciples.

12 Pray for youth in our congregations and communities, recognizing the challenges they face, celebrating the joys they experience and showing gratitude for what they add to our faith communities, which need the gifts of all generations to do God’s work in the world.

13 **Palm Sunday** Pray that we might accompany Jesus in his journey of persecution, suffering, death and resurrection, a journey of love and sacrifice for our sake.

14 Pledge to bear hope, grace and newness in Christ to our neighbors in need, especially those who are poor, hungry, sick, imprisoned, unemployed or plagued by war or domestic conflict.

15 Praise God for the strength we draw from Scripture, from our siblings in Christ, from living in community and from the tireless work of the ever-present Spirit.

16 Pray to the Lord for comfort, strength and renewed faith when you feel broken and worn-out.

17 **Maunday Thursday** Today we end our observation of Lent and shift our attention to what God has done for the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, son of God and son of humankind. Give thanks for the gift of new life in Christ, a life wrapped in God’s boundless grace.

18 **Good Friday** “Start being brave about everything. Drive out darkness and spread light. Don’t look at your weaknesses. Realize instead that in Christ crucified you can do everything” (Catherine of Siena, 1347-1380). Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our faith so that, through us, God’s love and mercy might shine brightly in the world.

19 Ask the Spirit for a faith that is certain and resilient, even when we don’t fully understand or appreciate what God has done for humanity through Jesus Christ.

20 **Easter Day** Sing praise and thanksgiving to God! This is the day the Lord has made for us to gather as loved and forgiven children, celebrating our freedom from the bondage of sin and death.

21 When you reflect on who might need your presence, comfort and reassuring words of love and hope, who comes to mind? Include them in your prayers and reach out to them.

22 Give thanks and pray for directors for evangelical mission, who serve in partnership with ELCA churchwide ministries and synods, helping them to found “new start” ministries, renew congregations, nurture stewardship, and identify, develop and equip leaders for ministry.

23 Every day, Jesus walks with us, sharing good news and wisdom just as he did with Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus. Pray that the Spirit will help us express that good news and wisdom in our conversations with our neighbors.

24 “We are not fed by only doing one way of ministry. Instead it is about seeing the face of God in every person who walks through the door, about embracing the inherent dignity of every individual, regardless of their circumstances” (the Rev. Esther K. Sianipar, “Serving With Shobi’s Table: A Reflection,” shobistable.org). Pray for our neighbors who suffer hunger, lack reliable access to nutritious food and yearn for the support of caring communities, and thank God for our congregational, synodical and churchwide ministries that serve them without bias or judgment.

25 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Alaska Synod, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod and Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

26 Thank God for the spiritual nourishment we receive when we gather around the table to celebrate communion, and for the Triune God, who calls and equips us to do God’s work in the world.

27 Like the apostle Thomas, we all experience moments of doubt and disbelief. Pray that God will be patient and forgiving with us, rekindling our trust in a Spirit that helps us when our faith weakens.

28 Thank God for volunteers who respond to the needs of the church and society by sharing their time, gifts and passion. Pray that we will extend to people of all ages the invitation to serve God.

29 Pray for those who suffer the trauma of gun violence in their communities and elsewhere. Ask for wisdom in responding to our stricken neighbors, for guidance in working to ending gun violence and for fearless respect for human life — a precious gift from God, our creator.

30 Again, we rejoice and shout, “**Hallelujah! The Lord, our savior, is risen!**” The good news and power of Easter that we experience cannot be confined to a single calendar day.



Lutheran Disaster Response

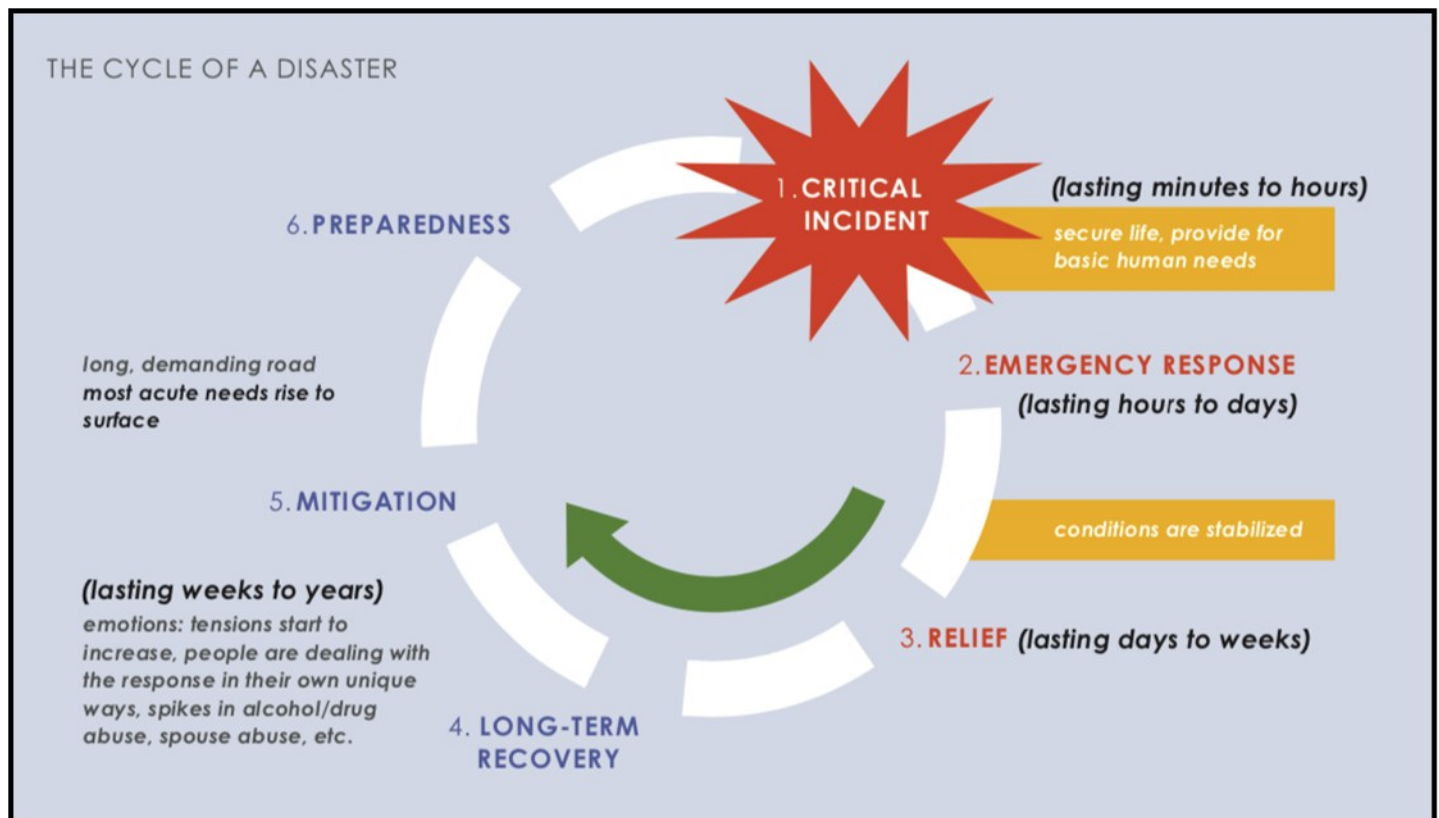
Disasters come in many varieties and sizes, from localized disasters affecting just one household or congregation to a disaster affecting an entire community or even larger geographic area. These can be natural disasters, such as tornadoes, wildfires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes; or events caused by humans, including acts of violence and terrorism.

Definition of a Disaster: *An event beyond the control of those affected, which causes great harm, suffering, and damage and for which those who are affected need outside assistance in order to sustain and rebuild their lives.*

Lutheran Disaster Response “shares God’s hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.”

Take a moment to review the Cycle of a Disaster. If our community should experience a disaster - tornado, severe storms, flooding, wildfire - these are the stages to expect.

The length of each stage varies from one disaster to another, but this process always longer than expected.



(Continued on next page.)

Presently, our SE Synod LDR is engaged in Long-Term Recovery efforts for these communities. (Note the dates of the critical disaster incidents.)

2022 Summer - Jackson MS Water Crisis
2023 January - Georgia Tornadoes (Griffin)
2023 January - Alabama Tornadoes (Prattville, Autauga County - Selma)
2023 March - Mississippi Tornadoes
2023 July - Mississippi Floods (Louisville)
2023 June - Mississippi Tornadoes (Moss Point)
2023 March - Georgia Tornadoes (West Point / La Grange)
2023 March - Tennessee Tornadoes (Readyville)
2023 August - Georgia - Hurricane Idalia
2023 December - Tennessee Tornadoes (Sumner/Montgomery/Davidson Counties)
2024 October - Tennessee / Georgia - Hurricane Helene

Recovery takes time... AND volunteers.

Volunteer teams are needed in the following locations:

Greeneville, Elizabethton, and Erwin TN
Augusta GA
Richmond Hills / Bryan County GA
Selma AL

You can find more information on the SE Synod website:

<https://www.elca-ses.org/volunteer-for-synod-disaster-ministry>

Contact Ingrid Schalk with questions or to express your interest in serving on a team.

Disaster Preparedness

Are we prepared should a disaster occur in (or near) our community?

as an individual or family?
as a congregation?

If we are not directly affected,

what resources do we have to help others who need assistance?

as individuals?
as a congregation?

Lutheran Disaster Response - It's all about loving our neighbor...

Come to the Water



Help Send Kids to Camp
An Evening of Purpose and Fun
BANQUET AND BENEFIT
 Delectable Dining
 Music by Sandra Bohlken
 Spirited Live Auction
 Guest Speaker









Saturday, April 26, 2025
5:30 – 8:45 PM
Rothchild Catering
8807 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN

Tickets \$65 each or \$350 for a table of 6.
 All proceeds send middle school youth of East Tennessee to a week of Christian summer camp.

For tickets, contact: coordinator@ComeToTheWater.us
 or scan the QR Code.




Come to the Water, Inc. is a fully volunteer Tennessee 501(c)(3) nonprofit. It strives to enable youth of east Tennessee to experience a life-changing week of Christian camp who, because of life circumstance, would not otherwise have the opportunity. Every penny of every gift helps send kids to camp. For more information: <https://ComeToTheWater.us>

My, how time flies! It's almost Spring ... so **mark your calendar: Saturday, April 26** ... a delight-filled evening with friends and neighbors for the *Come to the Water* banquet and live auction!

Come to the Water connects middle school kids across East Tennessee through the shared experience of a week of camp, and then **nurtures** them in a Youth Network engaged in fun and community service.

Susan Rasmussen, seventh grade ELA teacher at Meadowview Middle School in Morristown, accompanied the sixty-nine kids to camp last summer. When she returned, she penned this note:

The benefits of the camp experience for these children are immense. They develop important social skills, build self-confidence, and create lasting memories and friendships. The chance to step out of their everyday routines and explore new activities helps them gain a sense of independence and resilience. I kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring that more students can receive this life-changing experience. Your dedication to making a positive impact in their lives is truly commendable, and with your help, we can continue to provide these enriching opportunities for years to come. Thank you once again for your unwavering commitment and generosity.

Make plans now - bring neighbors and friends. It's all about the kids.

WHEN

Saturday, April 26, 2025
 -- 5:30pm Mix and Mingle
 -- 6:00pm Dinner and Program
 -- 7:30pm Live Auction

WHERE

Rothchild Event Center
 8807 Kingston Pike
 Knoxville, TN

SEATING:

(Tables seat six)
 \$65 per ticket, or
 \$350 for Tables of Six

To reserve seats, make your ticket donation now; tickets will be mailed.

a) By check ... payable to *Come to the Water*.

Mail to: CTTW

PO Box 7163

Maryville TN 37802 or

b) Contact Tim Schalk for tickets

Thank you ... for helping change the lives of area youth



2025 Study

Bible Study Opportunities

Lectionary study with Pastor Phil Vickers
Wednesdays at 10am, in Friendship Hall

For any questions
call the church office 865-816-4756.

+++++

Small Group Ministry

*The small group ministry studying
"Love's Braided Dance"
Hope in a Time of Crisis
by Norman Wirzba
in Friendship Hall at 3pm*

For questions contact: *Shari and Tom Lillestolen,*
865-603-9467

May Newsletter



APRIL 25