

# NALC News

North American Lutheran Church

Disaster Update - May 28, 2013

## NALC members responding to tornadoes in Oklahoma

*Pastor Keith Falk of Peace Lutheran Church, an NALC congregation in Edmond, Okla., was asked to share his reflections on disaster response efforts immediately following the tornadoes in Oklahoma that killed 24 people.*

*Moore, Okla., a city which received terrible damage from the May 20 tornado, is about 25 miles south of Edmond. Both cities are part of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. Officials estimate that more than 12,000 homes have been damaged and put total damage at \$2 billion.*

Less than six days after the tornado that went through our city of Edmond (doing little damage) and doing serious damage in Carney and other communities ...



*Lutherans serving meals to Department of Transportation works assisting in cleanup from tornadoes in Oklahoma.*



Less than five days after the devastating tornado that went through Moore, Little Axe, Shawnee, and other communities ...

Not only were we showered with phone calls and e-mails from people all over North America wanting to help immediately after the May 20 tornado, but Peace Lutheran Church hosted a group from St. John Lutheran Church, an NALC congregation in Boerne, Texas, Memorial Day weekend.

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The people from St. John came to work and serve our Lord Jesus by serving others, and several members from Peace joined them. Initially working with St. John Lutheran Church, a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation in Moore, we served families, volunteer crews, and work crews from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

Throughout the weekend they helped clear debris, took people to shop for needed items, and did ministry near and dear to Lutheran hearts — they made food! A vital support ministry in disaster relief is providing food, both for displaced families and volunteer workers. Just as important as meeting material needs is making connections with people, sharing the love of Christ Jesus.



*Photos by members of St. John Lutheran Church, Boerne, Texas, and Peace Lutheran Church, Edmond, Okla.*

At the end of each work day, members of Peace graciously opened their homes so that the work crews from St. John could shower. We worshiped together on Sunday, shared meals, laughter, and lively conversation. It was truly a blessing for both St. John and Peace to work and serve together.

We at Peace Lutheran are ready to host work crews as congregations respond to this disaster. We already have a work crew from Eagle Grove Lutheran Church, an NALC congregation in Eagle Grove, Iowa, scheduled to come Aug. 11-17. If you are interested in coming down to volunteer, we are happy to host. Please contact Pastor Keith Falk at [pastorkeith@peace-lutheran.net](mailto:pastorkeith@peace-lutheran.net) or 405-341-3205 for available dates or if you have any questions.



We are able to receive material donations at Peace Lutheran Church, 2600 E. Danforth Road, Edmond, OK 73034. Every single day the need for material donations seems to change, so we'll take anything that might help others. We especially need plastic storage containers (since survivors have nowhere to store things!), trash bags, non-perishable food, diapers, baby formula, baby wipes, sun screen, rakes, shovels, chainsaws, and sports drinks like Gatorade.

Financial contributions may be given through NALC Disaster Response at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org) or sent to:

NALC Disaster Response  
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220  
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

Please note "tornado relief" on your check. All gifts given for tornado relief will be used for these disaster response efforts.

The work in Moore and the surrounding communities will continue for many, many months. Please continue to keep those affected in your prayers, and thank you for the prayers, material needs, and financial contributions you have already offered!

