



**Lutheran
Social Services**
OF NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA

Grace at Work The LSS online newsletter

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You and a guest are
invited to a
Merry Day
in
May
Sunday, May 15th
at the home of
Lois and Gordon Peacock
70 West Clay Street
San Francisco
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Enjoy wine and Hors
d'oeuvres, Silent Auction
and tour of one of
San Francisco's classic homes in

West Clay Park
\$20 per person
Proceeds to Benefit

Lutheran Social Services
of Northern California

Please RSVP by
May 10th
925-280-1060 ext. 10
crobinson@lssnorcal.org

Thrivent Choice Gives Back

Giving back makes an important impact in people's lives. Last year alone, Thrivent Financial provided more than \$100 million to support congregations, communities, and individuals in need. Members who own Thrivent Financial products help make this support possible.

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Greetings!

Welcome to Grace at Work, our monthly email newsletter, designed to keep you up to date on LSS news, events and service program highlights.

Dear Judith,

As many of you may know, Lutheran Social Services of Northern CA is the Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) affiliate for our region. Because of this partnership we are involved in a myriad of partnerships and relationships with other disaster responders. This past few weeks my email has been inundated with updates and reports as the reality of the tragic situation in Japan unfolds. In amongst the stories of unbelievable loss and destruction there were a few pieces of good news:

The 22 ELCA missionaries currently serving in schools and churches of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) have all been accounted for and are safe. LCMS World Mission has confirmed that all LCMS missionaries in Japan are safe.

Tears of sadness for the incredible losses that so many families have incurred are mixed with tears of joy and prayers of thanks for those who are safe. Our dear friend Ann Brannen reported that her daughter Cristalyn is now home safe and sound after a harrowing 12 hour trek to get to an airport and flight home.

One of the most poignant comments I read is from Tomohide Atsumi, Ph.D. Professor at Osaka University and President of the Nippon Volunteer Network Active in Disaster. He comments: "...we need both earthquake-style...and flood-style approach responses. They (the survivors) lost each and every thing. We, disaster responders, have learned each approach, but we have never taken both at the same time...It took 5 years for the last family to leave their temporary housing unit in Kobe, and it has never full-recovery yet. It will take more than a decade or two for simple recovery. We have already taken such a long-term perspective in our vision...The earthquake has different names in media. Eastern Japan Earthquake, Tohoku-Kanto Earthquake, Tohoku-Oki Pacific Earthquake and so on. Under which name are we going to (re-) construct our society after this devastated disaster?'

You can find a great deal of information and more stories of hope and survival from our brothers and sisters in faith at www.elca.org and www.lcms.org as well as www.ldr.org

At this moment, the greatest need is for prayer, most especially for the tens of thousands affected directly by this earthquake and Tsunami, and for all people affected by the sudden tragedy of natural disasters. Donations of money can be made to either church body to support the recovery efforts. As is always the case in this type of tragedy, among the leaders in long term recovery are the faith-based agencies. Lutherans are already there working alongside our partners in Japan.

**Nancy Nielsen and Sue Laliberte,
Co-Directors,
Lutheran Social Services of Northern California**

Disaster Response Coordinator Disaster Response Closer to Home -Tri-LERT

The Tri-Lutheran Emergency Response Team (Tri-LERT) is a collaboration of the California, Nevada, Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (CNH), Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (LSS-NorCal), and the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (SPS).

This new partnership has been developing over the past 2 years with support from the partner organizations and LDR - Lutheran Disaster Response. Team members have participated in HAM radio training, conducted personal preparation workshops, and have created an immediate response network to assist CNH District and SPS Synod leaders to quickly check-in with congregations and their pastors when disaster strikes.

In recent months Nancy Nielsen, LSS Co-Director, Pr. Phil Zabell CNH District Disaster Response Coordinator and Pr. Brian Deckinger, SPS Synod liaison were among the first callers to congregations in San Bruno as well as most recently to those in our coastal counties in danger from the tsunami. The purpose of these calls is to determine immediate needs as well as begin the process of long term recovery when needed.

For more information on the work of Tri-LERT you can contact: Pr. Phil Zabell pzcard@yahoo.com, Pr. Brian Deckinger pastorbrian@trinitypleasanton.org or Nancy Nielsen nielsen@lssnorcal.org.

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What if you were told you had only a few minutes to leave your home because of an impending disaster? What would you take? How would you grab all of your critical documents and items for survival and recovery? The Red Cross and other disaster responders recommend creating a Go-bag along with other preparations you can take at home or work.

One resource we recommend is www.72hours.org It provides a great deal of information and suggestions.

Here's what they recommend for your "Go-bag."
Put the following items together in a backpack or another easy to carry container in case you must evacuate quickly. Prepare one Go-bag for each family member and make sure each has an I.D. tag. You may not be at home when an emergency strikes so keep some additional supplies in your car and at work, considering what you would need for your immediate safety.

Flashlight
Radio - battery operated
Batteries
Whistle
Dust mask
Pocket knife
Emergency cash in small denominations and quarters for phone calls
Sturdy shoes, a change of clothes, and a warm hat
Local map
Some water and food
Permanent marker, paper and tape
Photos of family members and pets for re-identification purposes
List of emergency point-of -contact phone numbers
List of allergies to any drug (especially antibiotics) or food
Copy of health insurance and identification cards
Extra prescription eye glasses, hearing aid or other vital personal items
Prescription medications and first aid supplies
Toothbrush and toothpaste
Extra keys to your house and vehicle
Any special-needs items for [children](#), [seniors or people with disabilities](#). Don't forget to make a Go-bag for your [pets](#).



**Our heartfelt thanks to Sleep Train
and their *Mattress 4 Kids* program for donating mattresses
for our foster youth in transition**

It is through such donations that we are able to fulfill our mission responding to the biblical mandates to affirm the inherent worth of all people and strive to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

Mattress Discounters is proud to support Lutheran Services of Northern California through the Mattresses 4 Kids program. Each year through the Mattresses 4 Kids program, new twin size mattress sets are donated to children in need.

Mattress Discounters believes that children are our future leaders, and we must invest in their lives while they are young. A new mattress set will not only help children get the proper night's rest they require, but will give them yet another tool to overcome the challenges they face. For more information about Mattresses 4 Kids, please visit www.saveatmd.com.

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