

## TEXAS HURRICANE HARVEY and FLOODING

We are all aware of the terrible devastation in south Texas caused by Hurricane Harvey and subsequent flooding. Here are some updates:

- + Former St. John's members Charles & Stephanie Sexton and family, who now live in Houston, at the time of this emailing are safe and dry – but Stephanie notes that floods are still rising.
- + Herman Yoos, the Bishop of the South Carolina Synod, sent us the letter below...
- + I echo Herman's encouragement that you can help best with this disaster through prayer AND donations. While there are a myriad of ways to donate dollars, we have decided to recommend three options:

**ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response.** We agree with Bishop Yoos that ELCA LDR is a great organization. 100% of your donation goes to relief because our regular offerings support organizational costs! You can donate online at this link [www.SJBft.org/2wm1L0f](http://www.SJBft.org/2wm1L0f) OR by check, made to "Lutheran Disaster Response" and mailed to: ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.** The affected areas of our country fall into the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. You can make a donation directly to your Lutheran brothers and sisters who are affected by this storm and are working to help one another. Again, you can donate at this link [www.gulfcoastsynod.org/about/donate](http://www.gulfcoastsynod.org/about/donate) OR by check, made to Gulf Coast Synod, marked for Disaster response, mailed to: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, 12941 I-45 North Freeway, Suite 210, Houston, TX 77060

**The St. John's Love Fund.** If you want to simply make a donation through St. John's, you can. We will use it to support direct response for Hurricane/Flood Victims. For example, our first donation this morning went to Pastor Kara Steward, Campus Pastor at Texas Lutheran University, to help pay for supplies being used by students at our university to do relief work. You can give online at the link [www.SJBft.org/GiveToStJohns](http://www.SJBft.org/GiveToStJohns) at or in person in worship or at the Church Office. Please mark check or envelopes with cash: **Love Fund/Hurricane Harvey.**

### From Bishop Yoos about Hurricane Harvey Support

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

I know that you have been deeply moved by the images and stories of rescue and neighbors helping neighbors in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. It was only two years ago that we experienced devastating flood waters in the midlands when between 24-30 inches of rainfall came down. By comparison, there are places in Houston and the Gulf Coast that have already received over 50 inches of rainfall.

Please keep the families and individuals in your prayers of those who have lost their homes and those who are now living in shelters. At the same time, pray for the Texas

National Guard, the local authorities, and all the volunteers that are still rescuing people from flooded neighborhoods.

There is one more thing you and I can do to make a difference. The ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response has a long history of faithfully responding to disasters and staying involved through every phase of response, recovery and rebuilding. Cindy and I just sent a check in this morning marked for Hurricane Harvey. There is a link in this enews that will give you the information you need to make a difference.

In Isaiah 43, God speaks to his people saying, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they should not overwhelm you."

You and I can help remind our brothers and sisters in Texas that God is with them and will continue to walk with them through these raging waters and in the recovery that lies ahead.

Peace, Rev. Herman Yoos  
Bishop, South Carolina Synod