



Lutheran Disaster Response

TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT CATALOG

SUMMER & FALL 2025





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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 Welcome

4 How to use this guide

An overview of how information is organized, and legends for the icons used throughout this guide.

6 Training and engagement calendar

A listing of all in-person or online trainings and engagement events from June through November 2025.

13 Just in Time training

Did your community just experience a disaster? LDR provides a variety of Just in Time training to help.

14 Self-Paced online training

A listing of all online self-paced courses available on LDR's learning management system.

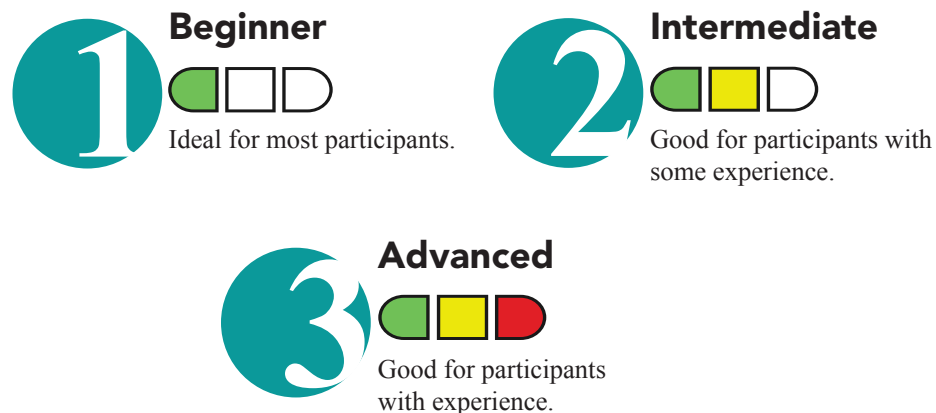


USING THIS GUIDE

From in-depth disaster preparedness courses to targeted training in recovery, volunteer coordination, and rebuilding efforts, the offerings in this catalog are designed to cultivate a culture of readiness and enhance community resilience in the face of disasters. Trainings and Community of Practice events are organized by month for easy navigation. To help users quickly identify content, icons and color scales are used throughout. All LDR events are free and open to the public. To register, please visit LDR's online Learning Management System at <https://collabornation.net/login/LDR>.

Course Difficulty

Lutheran Disaster Response courses are free and open to everyone, and we warmly invite all who are interested to participate. While many trainings are tailored for those new to disaster response and recovery, others are structured to be taken in sequence, allowing learners to progressively build their skills. As participants move through each course, knowledge is reinforced and expanded. To help guide learners, a color-coded system is used to indicate the recommended experience level or difficulty of each course:



Suggested Prerequisites

Lutheran Disaster Response may recommend certain prerequisites before attending specific courses. Most of these suggested prerequisites are available through LDR's online training platform and can be completed at the learner's convenience. While not mandatory, these recommendations are intended to provide foundational knowledge that will help participants succeed in more advanced training. Due to time limitations, some courses may not cover these foundational topics during the session itself. Prerequisites are indicated as follows:

SUGGESTED PREREQUISITES: *Introduction to Disaster* or *Just in Time: Disaster Response*

Have a question about a course or a prerequisite? Reach out to Sean Coffman, Program Director for Training and Networks, at Sean.Coffman@ELCA.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

From June through November, more than 20 unique trainings, workshops, and networking events are available. Here's how to identify and differentiate each opportunity:



Online Community Conversation

Opportunities highlighted in light blue with a telephone icon represent informal, 60-minute Community of Practice (CoP) online discussions, accessible via video or phone. These sessions foster connection, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among CoP members. While typically organized by region, all conversations are open to anyone interested in participating.



In-Person Training or Gathering

Opportunities shown in dark blue with a people icon represent in-person events or gatherings. Details about the hosting location are listed beneath each course title. These events may take place over a single day or span multiple days.



Online Facilitated Training

Opportunities marked in green with a globe icon indicate facilitated online trainings hosted via Zoom. These interactive sessions promote active participation through live discussions, polls, breakout groups, and other collaborative activities.



Partner Spotlight

Opportunities highlighted in orange with a spotlight icon represent *Partner Spotlight* sessions. In these events, LDR partners from around the world share innovative and impactful work happening in their communities.



ELCA Office Closure

Throughout the year, ELCA offices observe a variety of holidays and cultural events. Office closures for these occasions are listed in this guide.



ELCA Organizational Announcement

Throughout the year, the ELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response participate in events that require the presence of national staff. While staff will remain active during these times, please note that response times may be slightly delayed. These events are included in this guide for your awareness.

Have a question about an opportunity? Reach out to Sean Coffman, Program Director for Training and Networks, at Sean.Coffman@ELCA.org.

JUNE



Thursday, June 5 and Friday, June 4

Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Support Training (MESS)

In-Person | St. Simons Island, GA

Facilitator: Deacon Dorie Jones



The Southeastern Synod, in collaboration with Lutheran Disaster Response, is excited to offer Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Support (MESS) disaster training for clergy and lay leaders. This pilot program being hosted through the Southeastern Synod is designed to give church leaders the skills needed to respond to a disaster in both stabilizing (immediate, short-term need following a disaster) and support (long-term need weeks, months, or years after an event) roles.

SUGGESTED PRE-REQUISITES: INTRODUCTION TO DISASTER OR JUST IN TIME: DISASTER RESPONSE



Monday, June 16

Walking through the Maze of Long-Term Recovery

4:00 p.m. ET | 3:00 p.m. CT | 2:00 p.m. MT | 1:00 p.m. PT

2 hour | Online via Zoom

Facilitator: Sean Coffman



Walking Through the Maze of Long-Term Recovery is an introductory course designed to help participants understand the fundamentals of long-term recovery groups (LTRGs). The training covers key topics such as how to organize and manage an LTRG, the structure and roles of its committees, financial oversight and reporting practices, and strategies to ensure recovery efforts are both sustainable and comprehensive.



Thursday, June 19

ELCA Offices Closed for Juneteenth



Tuesday, June 24 through Thursday, June 26

Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards Training

In-Person | Chicago, IL

Facilitator: Subhashis Roy, Kristyne Duffy, and Sean Coffman



Over three-days, this course will systematically explain the main contents and practice of Sphere, including an introduction to the Sphere organization; the origins and core beliefs of Sphere, the Humanitarian Charter; Protection Principles; the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS); and the technical chapters as presented in the 2018 edition of the Sphere Handbook.

JULY



Wednesday, July 9

Southern Region Community of Practice Discussion



4:00 p.m. ET | 3:00 p.m. CT | 2:00 p.m. MT | 1:00 p.m. PT

1 hour | Online via Zoom

This is a recurring, quarterly online gathering

Join the Southern Region Community of Practice Discussion hosted by LDR to connect with peers, exchange insights, and receive the latest updates from Churchwide Lutheran Disaster Response.



Thursday, July 10

Bridging the Gap: Disaster Case Management 101



4:00 p.m. ET | 3:00 p.m. CT | 2:00 p.m. MT | 1:00 p.m. PT

2 hours | Online via Zoom

Facilitator: Kristyne Duffy

Take part in our comprehensive Disaster Case Management Training and play a crucial role in supporting disaster-affected communities. This course provides the foundational skills needed to assist individuals and families on their path to recovery. You'll learn how to assess needs, create personalized recovery plans, and connect clients with essential resources to help rebuild their lives.



Thursday, July 17

Eastern Region Community of Practice Discussion



9:00 a.m. ET | 8:00 a.m. CT | 7:00 a.m. MT | 6:00 a.m. PT

1 hour | Online via Zoom

This is a recurring, quarterly online gathering

Join the Eastern Region Community of Practice Discussion hosted by LDR to connect with peers, exchange insights, and receive the latest updates from Churchwide Lutheran Disaster Response.



LDR Community of Practice Members at the 2025 NVOAD Conference

TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE



Wednesday, July 23

Before the Storm:

Preparedness for Faith-Based Organizations

4:00 p.m. ET | 3:00 p.m. CT | 2:00 p.m. MT | 1:00 p.m. PT

2-hours | Online facilitated training via Zoom

Facilitator: Sean Coffman



Join our dynamic 2-hour training to gain a clear and practical understanding of what it truly means to be prepared. This course defines organizational preparedness, explores the six essential attributes of a resilient organization, and addresses common obstacles that can hinder readiness. You'll leave equipped with the knowledge and strategies needed to help your organization effectively respond to and recover from any crisis.

SUGGESTED PRE-REQUISITES: INTRODUCTION TO DISASTER OR JUST IN TIME: DISASTER RESPONSE

ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SELF-PACED ONLINE TRAINING IN ENGLISH & SPANISH



Wednesday, July 31

Midwest Region Community of Practice Discussion

2:30 p.m. ET | 1:30 p.m. CT | 12:30 p.m. MT | 11:30 a.m. PT

1 hour | Online via Zoom

This is a recurring, quarterly online gathering



Join the Midwest Region Community of Practice Discussion hosted by LDR to connect with peers, exchange insights, and receive the latest updates from Churchwide Lutheran Disaster Response.

AUGUST



Wednesday, August 6

Decolonizing Volunteers

3:00 p.m. ET | 2:00 p.m. CT | 1:00 p.m. MT | 12:00 p.m. PT

2.5 hours | Online facilitated training via Zoom

Special presentation from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Facilitator: Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo



Volunteers often bring good intentions to their work trips—but good intentions alone aren't enough. Rev. Lydia Nshangwe of the United Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa offers a powerful shift in perspective: *"Don't go as missionaries to teach those on the margins how to fish—go and fish with them."* By joining in their experience, you begin to understand their challenges firsthand. Guided by this paradigm, participants will explore how to build equitable, respectful relationships with the communities they aim to support—before, during, and after their volunteer service.

SUGGESTED PRE-REQUISITES: INTRODUCTION TO DISASTER OR JUST IN TIME: DISASTER RESPONSE

**Thursday, August 7****Access and Functional Needs:****Ensuring Inclusive Disaster Response**

4:00 p.m. ET | 3:00 p.m. CT | 2:00 p.m. MT | 1:00 p.m. PT

2-hours | Online facilitated training via Zoom

Facilitator: Sean Coffman

Become an advocate for inclusivity in disaster response by joining our *Access and Functional Needs* training. This course equips you with the tools to effectively support individuals with disabilities, older adults, and other vulnerable populations during emergencies. You'll learn practical strategies for identifying and addressing unique needs, ensuring your response efforts are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to all community members. Gain the confidence to provide appropriate accommodations and resources when they matter most.

SUGGESTED PRE-REQUISITES: INTRODUCTION TO DISASTER OR JUST IN TIME: DISASTER RESPONSE**Thursday, August 13****Calm in Crisis:****Introduction to Psychological First Aid**

4:00 p.m. ET | 3:00 p.m. CT | 2:00 p.m. MT | 1:00 p.m. PT

2-hours | Online facilitated training via Zoom

Facilitator: Kristyne Duffy

Learn how to offer immediate emotional support to individuals impacted by disasters and crises through our *Psychological First Aid* Training. This course equips you with the skills to recognize signs of stress, provide practical assistance, and promote healthy coping strategies. You'll gain a solid understanding of psychological first aid principles and how to apply them to support emotional and mental recovery. Be a source of comfort and resilience—enroll today and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

SUGGESTED PRE-REQUISITES: INTRODUCTION TO DISASTER OR JUST IN TIME: DISASTER RESPONSE**ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SELF-PACED ONLINE TRAINING IN ENGLISH & SPANISH****Thursday, August 21****Western Region Community of Practice Discussion**

2:30 p.m. ET | 1:30 p.m. CT | 12:30 p.m. MT | 11:30 a.m. PT

1 hour | Online via Zoom

This is a recurring, quarterly online gathering

Join the Western Region Community of Practice Discussion hosted by LDR to connect with peers, exchange insights, and receive the latest updates from Churchwide Lutheran Disaster Response.

SEPTEMBER



Monday, September 1

ELCA Offices Closed for Labor Day



Tuesday, September 2 through October 21

Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards Training

Online | Tuesdays from 3-5 p.m. CT

Facilitator: Kristyne Duffy and Sean Coffman



Join our *Sphere Humanitarian Standards Training* to gain a solid understanding of the globally recognized principles and minimum standards for humanitarian response. This course offers a comprehensive overview of the Sphere Handbook, covering critical sectors such as water supply, sanitation, hygiene promotion, food security, nutrition, shelter, and health. You'll develop the knowledge and skills needed to deliver high-quality, accountable, and effective humanitarian aid.

This training will be held online every Tuesday from September 2 to October 21, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. Central Time. The course will conclude with a graduation ceremony at the 2025 LDR Community of Practice Gathering in Washington, D.C.



Thursday, September 4

Preparedness In A Year Facilitator Training

3:30 p.m. ET | 2:30 p.m. CT | 1:30 p.m. MT | 12:30 p.m. PT

2.5 hours | Online via Zoom

Facilitators: Sean Coffman and Kristyne Duffy



In partnership with the Oregon Synod, Lutheran Disaster Response is proud to introduce *Preparedness in a Year*—an interactive program designed to help congregation members build disaster readiness one step at a time. Each month, participants complete a simple activity to better prepare themselves and their families for emergencies. This session will introduce the program guide and provide tools and tips for facilitators to confidently lead the training within their own congregations.

SUGGESTED PRE-REQUISITES: INTRODUCTION TO DISASTER OR JUST IN TIME: DISASTER RESPONSE



The Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards Training



Monday, September 8, through Wednesday, September 10



Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Support Training (MESS)

In-Person | Arden, NC | Registration deadline: Friday, August 8

Facilitator: Deacon Dorie Jones

The North and South Carolina Synods, in collaboration with Lutheran Disaster Response, are pleased to offer *Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Support (MESS)* disaster training for clergy and lay leaders. This program equips church leaders with the skills needed to respond effectively in both stabilizing roles (immediate, short-term needs following a disaster) and support roles (long-term care weeks, months, or even years after an event).

Space is limited. Priority registration will be given to clergy, lay leaders, and disaster responders from North and South Carolina. Remaining seats will be made available to the broader LDR Community of Practice. To register, request more information, or join the waiting list, please contact Ruth Ann Sipe at ruthann@ldrcarolinas.org.

SUGGESTED PRE-REQUISITES: INTRODUCTION TO DISASTER OR JUST IN TIME: DISASTER RESPONSE

OCTOBER



Wednesday, October 8

Southern Region Community of Practice Discussion



4:00 p.m. ET | 3:00 p.m. CT | 2:00 p.m. MT | 1:00 p.m. PT

1 hour | Online via Zoom

This is a recurring, quarterly online gathering

Join the Southern Region Community of Practice Discussion hosted by LDR to connect with peers, exchange insights, and receive the latest updates from Churchwide Lutheran Disaster Response.



Wednesday, October 8

Community of Practice Pre-Event Discussion



5:00 p.m. ET | 4:00 p.m. CT | 3:00 p.m. MT | 2:00 p.m. PT

1 hours | Online via Zoom

Facilitator: Christine Moffett and Andrew Fuller

Before we gather in Washington, D.C. for the 2025 LDR Community of Practice Gathering, join us online for a special conversation featuring Christine Moffett and Andrew Fuller from Witness and Society. In this interactive session, Christine and Andrew will share insights on how to effectively engage with elected representatives, explore current policy issues, and highlight the power of storytelling as a tool for advocacy.

TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE



Thursday, October 16

Eastern Region Community of Practice Discussion

9:00 a.m. ET | 8:00 a.m. CT | 7:00 a.m. MT | 6:00 a.m. PT

1 hour | Online via Zoom

This is a recurring, quarterly online gathering



Join the Eastern Region Community of Practice Discussion hosted by LDR to connect with peers, exchange insights, and receive the latest updates from Churchwide Lutheran Disaster Response.



Tuesday, October 21 through Thursday, October 23

2025 Community of Practice Gathering

In-Person | Washington, D.C. | Registration deadline: Friday, July 31



The Lutheran Disaster Response Community of Practice Gathering returns this year from October 21–23 in Washington, D.C. This special event will bring together members from the Eastern, Midwestern, Southern, and Western Regions for two and a half days of learning, advocacy, and connection. Together, we'll engage with elected representatives and advocate for disaster policies that prioritize the most vulnerable in our communities. LDR will cover expenses for up to two individuals per organization who are actively involved in disaster services. The registration deadline is Friday, July 31.



Wednesday, October 29

Midwest Region Community of Practice Discussion

2:30 p.m. ET | 1:30 p.m. CT | 12:30 p.m. MT | 11:30 a.m. PT

1 hour | Online via Zoom

This is a recurring, quarterly online gathering



Join the Midwest Region Community of Practice Discussion hosted by LDR to connect with peers, exchange insights, and receive the latest updates from Churchwide Lutheran Disaster Response.

NOVEMBER



Thursday, November 20

Western Region Community of Practice Discussion

2:30 p.m. ET | 1:30 p.m. CT | 12:30 p.m. MT | 11:30 a.m. PT

1 hour | Online via Zoom

This is a recurring, quarterly online gathering



Join the Western Region Community of Practice Discussion hosted by LDR to connect with peers, exchange insights, and receive the latest updates from Churchwide Lutheran Disaster Response.



Monday, November 24 through Friday, November 28

ELCA Offices Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

JUST IN TIME



A disaster has struck your community—what happens next? Recognizing the urgent and unpredictable nature of such events, Lutheran Disaster Response emphasizes the importance of quickly mobilizing skilled responders. Just in Time (JIT) Training delivers essential information exactly when it's needed most, empowering communities to act swiftly and effectively. Lutheran Disaster Response offers a range of JIT training opportunities designed to meet immediate needs and support rapid recovery.

Online, In-Person and Hybrid Training

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) offers a variety of free, self-paced online courses—each averaging about 60 minutes—covering topics such as disaster response basics, case management, construction management, and psychological first aid. A full list is available in this document or on LDR's online learning platform, CollaborNation.

LDR also facilitates in-person training for Long-Term Recovery Groups, Disaster Case Managers, and Volunteer Managers. We collaborate with communities to identify training needs, schedule sessions, and provide experienced facilitators. Trainings range from half-day to multi-day formats. To ensure effective use of resources, we generally require a minimum of 10 participants for in-person sessions, but virtual options are available for smaller groups.

On-Going Mentorship and Collaboration

Lutheran Disaster Response also offers ongoing mentorship and collaboration for Synods, congregations, and Social Ministry Organizations involved in disaster response. We connect your team with experienced members of the LDR Community of Practice for phone or video consultations, providing guidance and support as you navigate specific challenges in your work.

For more information on how to schedule Just in Time Training or access ongoing mentorship, contact [Sean Coffman](#), Program Director for Training and Networks, or [Maryn Olson](#), Director, Lutheran Disaster Response.

ONLINE TRAINING

Lutheran Disaster Response's online learning platform, CollaborNation, offers foundational courses that participants can complete anytime, from any device—computer, tablet, or phone. Most courses take about an hour and cover a wide range of topics, from preparedness to long-term recovery, tailored to various skill and experience levels.

All courses are free, self-paced, and open to the public, available 24-hours a day, seven days a week at <https://collabornation.net/login/LDR>.



Disaster Case Management Part 1: Introduction to Disaster Case Management



Average of 60 minutes | Online self-paced training

Disaster Case Management Part 1: Introduction to Disaster Case Management is a beginner-level course designed to teach participants the basics of disaster case management (DCM), its role in disaster recovery, and the benefits a disaster case manager can offer to communities impacted by disaster.

SUGGESTED PREREQUISITES: *Introduction to Disaster* or *Just in Time: Disaster Response*



Disaster Case Management Part 2: Core Considerations



Average of 60 minutes | Online self-paced training

Disaster Case Management Part 2: Core Considerations is a beginner-level course designed to teach participants the basics of disaster case management (DCM), its role in disaster recovery, and the benefits a disaster case manager can offer to communities impacted by disaster.

Suggested prerequisites: *Introduction to Disaster* or *Just in Time: Disaster Response*, and *Disaster Case Management Part 1: Introduction to Disaster Case Management*



Introduction to Construction Management



Average of 60 minutes | Online self-paced training

Introduction to Construction Management is a beginner-level course designed to teach participants what construction management is, its role in disaster recovery and how the construction management process fits in with other long-term recovery activities.

SUGGESTED PREREQUISITES: *Introduction to Disaster* or *Just in Time: Disaster Response*



Introduction to Disaster



Four modules with an average of 60 minutes each |
Online self-paced training

Introduction to Disaster is a foundational four-module course designed to give active disaster response or recovery participants the foundational tools needed to help their community. It is for individuals new to disaster response and provides a basic understanding of the agencies and organizations they may encounter. It also explains the phases of disasters, the services that may need to be developed, and the role of the local, state, and national emergency management agencies and offices of emergency management during the disaster's phases. Finally, it will offer ways your social ministry organization, synod, or congregation can assist in natural and human-caused disasters. This course is self-paced, and the modules can be taken independently. Each module takes approximately an hour, bringing the entire training to roughly four hours.



Just In Time: Disaster Response



Average of 60 minutes | Online self-paced training

Just In Time: Disaster Response is a shortened version of *Introduction to Disaster*. It covers the same information, in less depth, and is designed for participants responding to an active disaster or recovery response. This course is self-paced, and can be taken in roughly an hour.

ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH



Preparedness for Nonprofit and Faith-Based Organizations



Average of 60 minutes | Online self-paced training

Preparedness for Nonprofit and Faith-Based Organizations is an entry-level course designed to teach participants how organizational preparedness is defined, what it entails, the six attributes of a prepared organization, and common challenges that organizations face in becoming prepared.

SUGGESTED PREREQUISITES: *Introduction to Disaster* or *Just in Time: Disaster Response*

ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH



Psychological First Aid: An Overview



Average of 60 minutes | Online self-paced training

Psychological First Aid (PFA): An Overview will introduce the principles and core actions of PFA and describe ways to apply them in post-disaster scenarios and with different survivor needs. PFA, the practice of recognizing and responding to people experiencing crisis-related stress, can be used to help yourself and others to cope in the face of stressful events.

SUGGESTED PREREQUISITES: *Introduction to Disaster* or *Just in Time: Disaster Response*

ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH



Lutheran Disaster Response

DISASTER@ELCA.ORG
ELCA.ORG/DISASTER