

September 21, 2017

Hi,

Thank you Pastors, congregations and individuals for your generous financial support for our outreach to the Texas District, for the sheet rock purchase and for your donations to LCMS WRHC! Praise God for the generosity of His people!

As many of you know, the load of sheet rock was loaded on Monday and delivered to the Lutheran School Academy in Houston on Wednesday morning. If not, check out the photos on the IOWAY facebook. An interesting fun fact about the September 18th post is that at this time more than 25,000 people have viewed it. That's unbelievable!

In visiting with Gregg Pinick, with the Lutheran School, I asked if our focus should now be to get another load of sheet rock down there or if we should focus on the needs of the faculty families. He immediately said, "The families".

In last week's update, I shared the adopt a family outreach. That email, along with needs of four faculty families to adopt are listed at www.idwlcms.org under District News. Several people shared with me that it is too much for a single congregation to adopt a family so as we move into the next phase of helping, I will leave that up to you and your congregation. Let me know if you wish to sponsor a family or if you wish to support part of their needs. You can support the faculty families by making a check to Iowa District West-families.

Lutheran School Academy is now having school in a huge Baptist Church that is near them while their school is being repaired. It is a huge challenge for the teachers as they have to deal with the temporary location, the losses their students are dealing with and their own loss of property. Thirteen faculty families experienced major property loss and most are living in motels with their families now. Not ideal situations! Teachers and 800 students set up each Monday for school at the church and on Friday have to take everything down so the church returns to "normal" for the weekend church activities.

NOW for FLORIDA: I have been asked about reaching out to Florida. I researched it but until this morning, I was not able to connect with a place to focus on. Today Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Myers contacted me. Tim Richter, DCE at Zion, originally from Adair, IA contacted me to see if I had any hygiene items, diapers, cleaning products, etc. that I could send to them. Amazon Prime to the rescue! He will be receiving an order on Monday. In visiting he also shared that they need bleach and cleaning products because they are now just starting to muck out houses since the water just is not receding.

If you wish to donate for the Florida relief, make a check to Iowa District West-Florida.

Following is his request:

Hope this email finds you doing well. I am down in Fort Myers, FL as a DCE. We got hit hard in this area by Irma. Not sure if you still do them or not, but the towels with bathroom supplies in them would really come in handy down here if you had any. Or just the supplies. We have a lot of people down here still with no power or water after 10 days and its bad for them in this heat. Little gifts like that stuff is a huge blessing. Let me know if you could help get something like that to us. Also, baby supplies like diapers, formula, wipes, pediasure/pedialyte for children going through heat exhaustion is needed. Thank you and God's Blessings to you.

God's blessings,
Ellie Menz
IDW Disaster Response Coordinator
[515-370-1159](tel:515-370-1159)