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In recent years, we have witnessed an increase in natural disasters and crises across the country that can leave communities reeling. We know this all too well in IDW! From hurricanes and floods to local emergencies like fires, the need for immediate disaster relief is clearer than ever. LERT equips volunteers with the skills and resources they need to respond quickly and effectively. This mission aligns beautifully with the Christian call to service, providing an accessible avenue for volunteers to make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals affected by disasters.



Joining LERT not only means rolling up your sleeves to help during a crisis; it opens opportunities to engage in outreach within your community. By participating in training and hands-on deployments, volunteers gain essential skills in disaster response, and the individual talents God has gifted you can be used in tangible ways. One of the most valuable skills LERT volunteers can utilize is the ability to listen. One of the most impactful

aspects of LERT’s mission is the ability to foster connections between various community members and congregations. This involvement can lead to lasting partnerships that strengthen local outreach efforts beyond emergencies.

Participating in LERT can deepen your faith journey. Serving others in times of crisis often draws volunteers closer to God as they witness the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of community support. Every little act of kindness, every shared prayer, can ignite hope in the hearts of individuals facing hardship. As volunteers, you have the opportunity to share testimonies and experiences that reflect the love of Christ, encouraging others to consider their faith journeys.



We are rebuilding LERT teams across Iowa District West and you are encouraged to join in this important arm of outreach and mercy. Training continues to happen across our district. If your congregation would like to host, please reach out to me at the district office. If you're close to Carroll, we will be having LERT basic training on the afternoon of August 24. Please create a profile at [www.LCMS-lert.org](http://www.LCMS-lert.org) if you are interested in getting more information about LERT training and deployments. Remember, it's all volunteer, but more hands, hearts, and listening ears make difficult times a bit less daunting.