During a disaster

Phases of a disaster

1. Rescue or emergency (chaos and confusion are experienced)
   - Needs: food, shelter, energy (electricity, natural gas, etc. for food preparation and warmth)
   - Items needed: dry ice, generators, chain saws
   - Your church may be needed as temporary shelter (Red Cross inspection needed).
   - Pastoral services may be needed where there are casualties or deaths.
   - Survey staff and members to determine needs.
   - Inspect congregation’s facilities; make temporary repairs.
   - Contact your synod.

2. Relief phase begins (abandonment and fear are experienced)
   - Meeting secondary needs: patching roof, removing debris, cooking
   - Contact the Illinois Conference DREAM Team coordinator in your Association.
   - Provide volunteers at feeding centers, Red Cross shelters, where clean up is needed.
   - Provide a listening ear.
   - Discourage rumors.
   - Encourage all persons affected to apply for assistance.
   - Start planning long-term recovery.
   - Plan to receive special offering.

3. Recovery (emotions span from anger and depression to hope and acceptance)
   - Stay involved in the disaster-response ministry that begins to evolve.
   - Mobilizing a community interfaith response
   - Work in cooperation with the local Lutheran social-ministry organizations.
   - Call and/or attend an emergency meeting of religious leaders in a ministerial association or already established interfaith group.
   - Establish human needs - immediate relief and long-term recovery both spiritual and physical.
   - Explore available resources of the religious community including provision of emotional, spiritual and pastoral care.
   - Match resources to needs without duplication and waste.