

NEIGHBORS IN NEED



Volunteers from Christ Lutheran, Hickory, NC and St. Peter's Lutheran, Conover, NC pose with a Lumberton flood victim.

Do you remember Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)? The Lord encourages us to show mercy to our neighbors in need. "Go and do likewise," Jesus said. Our neighbors in the Lumberton, North Carolina are in need, struggling to recover after Hurricane Matthew flooded their communities in October, 2016.

HURRICANE MATTHEW DAMAGE

\$1.5B


\$1.5 billion in damage



More than 100,000 structures damaged in North Carolina



Estimated 50% of residents didn't have insurance

HOW TO HELP

VOLUNTEER!

Workers (labor & construction) are desperately needed to help families return to their homes.

- Attend the spring trip on March 5-10, 2017. Day trips are available, too.
- Overnight accommodations: Camp Rockfish, near Lumberton. Cost is \$15 day/person for meals, lodging is free. Donations are appreciated, but not expected.
- Contact Hope Lutheran Church (Wake Forest, NC) at 919-554-8109 for more information, dates, or to register to volunteer.

DONATE!

- Visit www.se.lcms.org/disaster to make a donation through the Southeastern District for Hurricane Matthew Relief. Mark your donation "ATTN: Lumberton Project."
- Mail donations to: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 114 Poplar Mt. Rd., Norlina, NC 27563, ATTN: Lumberton Project.

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“ I had lost all hope...and then the Lutherans showed up! ”



*Eric Hollar, Claremont, NC;
Michael Meyer, LCMS Disaster Response;
Ms. Bernice; Lew Upchurch & Wayne Puls,
Wake Forest, NC*

Ms. Bernice Cromartie is a short, non-intimidating figure. Her voice is soft, yet her heart is big. She has owned and operated Nanny's Korner Day Care in Lumberton for eleven years. Last

October, when Hurricane Matthew's rising flood waters overwhelmed earthen dams, her daycare was inundated with water – along with many of her neighbors, most of which were without flood insurance.

Ms. Bernice did what she knew to do. She started helping others. She had helped others through taking care of their kids at an affordable daycare, and now she would help others in need. She served neighbors, strangers, anyone she could because that is what she knew to do...and because she didn't know where to start in getting help for herself.

One day, her granddaughter brought home an "LCMS Flood Bucket" filled with basic supplies to begin cleaning out her daycare. "Grandma, it's time you started getting help!" her granddaughter told her. She started lifting supplies out of the bucket and at the bottom was a card that had contact information on it. On a whim, she called the number. Before she knew it, she was connected Joel and Kathy Matthews of Mercy in Action Disaster Resources (an LCMS ministry based in Florida, serving last fall in NC). They weren't sure how much they could help, but they began helping Bernice muck out her water-logged day care. Then volunteers from St. Paul's Lutheran, Norlina, NC came calling. They were blessed with a licensed contractor, Victor Tucker, and many servant hearts willing to do what they could. To date, \$21,000 has been raised by St. Paul's and Hope, Wake Forest, NC. It will take a total of \$40,000 to fully repair the daycare. There's a long way to go, but God has brought us this far, and we are confident he will see it through.

How can you help? For more information on how you can help with this project, or others like it, please contact **Hope Lutheran Church, Wake Forest, NC (919-554-8109)**, or visit www.se.lcms.org/disaster.

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