

## LUAD NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Todd Long



LUAD (Lutherans United Assisting after Disasters) stands ready to serve within South Central Synod of Wisconsin. While thankful we did not have a major callout/activation during past year, we have not been sitting idle. LUAD's leadership team has been running scenarios to prepare for events should they occur.

Although we didn't get activation, a few of our team members responded individually to this spring's local tornadic activity. As our members assisted with cleanup, we took notes on how we can improve our future responses. Our members picked up tin, cut logs, gathered nuts and bolts, trimmed fencerows for fencing repair and other tasks as needed. Our council discussed items learned during responding to these events. We added five-gallon buckets to enhance to our trailer. We discussed acquisition of magnets after picking up small metal items strewn over fields. We learned about potential ways to feed teams. I was in awe of how farming communities pull together to respond when needed. Many loaders were on scene to move trees as I cut them into manageable chunks. These operators made quick work of trees downed by the wind's destructive forces.

I want to give a shout out to our wonderful Synod staff as well. They have been a great conduit to reach out to local congregations to find needs. This was evident after the February storms.

During this past year, we visited congregations within SCSW recruiting to grow our leadership team. We need your help. Many current council members have served two terms and have moved to Emeritus status, leaving several conferences without representation. Personally, I have been involved with LUAD for eight years and now leave South Rock Conference without an official delegate. I have looking to find my replacement and have been visiting churches in other open conferences as well. I would like to visit your congregation in 2024. Reach out to me at [info@luad.org](mailto:info@luad.org) to schedule a council member visit to your church this year. Just this morning, we scheduled a November 2024 visit and we anticipate adding a council member at our next meeting. Please check our website [www.luad.org](http://www.luad.org) and our Facebook page by searching for LUAD Wisconsin – ELCA.

### MEET YOUR COUNCIL – Phil Ingwell



Besides having been involved in LUAD since 2011, Phil has also been very involved with Badger Honor Flight (BHF). Phil became involved in BHF in April 2015 after returning from Washington D.C. as a Chaperone with his

father. As a 21-year veteran himself (3 years active Army and 18 years in the Wisconsin Air National Guard), he knows the Veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam sacrificed much more than he ever had to and felt it was a great way to give back and honor these deserving veterans. In 2023 Phil took over the wheelchair operation and, with the help of many generous people, raised enough money to replace their fleet of 80 wheelchairs. Although well-worn the old wheelchairs are still helping others in Wisconsin, West Africa, and South America.

To date, over 5,000 Veterans have now flown with BHF over the last 13 years with a list nearing 1,000 Veterans waiting their turn for the experience. With six flights per year BHF flight is doing their best to honor these Veterans and giving them a welcome home that many did not receive. On flight days the Veterans report at 4:30 am and return to Madison around 9:15 pm where they are met by an airport full of people.

If you or anyone you know served during these times and would like to be on a flight, please visit [BadgerHonorFlight.org](http://BadgerHonorFlight.org).



### LUAD DEVOTIONS – Tom Irwin

During recent weeks, our lectionary gospels have guided through two post resurrection appearances with essentially the same language. Jesus appears to the disciples and proves that he is indeed Jesus and he is resurrected, not some ghost. See and touch the scars and in Luke, give me something to eat (because ghosts don't eat). I want us to think of the disciples as survivors. They have been through a traumatic experience that has turned their lives upside down. Everything they have worked for and experienced has come crashing down on them. Their rabbi and mentor has been put to death like a common criminal and then to make things worse, his body has gone missing. As they hide in a room together trying to figure out what comes next, here come Jesus who says "Peace be with you." It's okay. Don't be afraid. Jesus speaks words of reassurance and promises them that help is on the way.

When Christians are at our best, we are to be like Christ. As LUAD, we are to be Christlike and bring words/deeds of reassurance as we help survivors begin the process of recovery and restoration of their lives before the disaster struck.

### NEXT LUAD COUNCIL MEETING



The next meeting of the LUAD council is scheduled for **Sunday, June 9 at 6:00 pm** via Zoom. All members of churches within the Synod are welcome to attend. If you would like a Zoom invitation, please contact LUAD at [info@luad.org](mailto:info@luad.org) or 888-237-0433.