

Be a-LERT – Updates & Deployment in March 2026

THIS YEAR

Our District Disaster Response -Lutheran Early Response Team (DR-LERT”) service is active and growing. Basic LERT and Chainsaw training events and deployments within the district provided clean up after windstorm damage and flooding as well as responding to yard work assistance to seniors in 2025. 35 volunteers completed basic LERT training. Mr. Tim King joined Rev. Gary Rehborg as a LERT Chainsaw Trainer with 25 trained chainsaw operators.

After serving our district as a District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC) for 21 years, Rev. Steve Breitbarth recently resigned due to health issues. We express our appreciation to Rev. Breitbarth for his many years in this capacity reaching back to Hurricane Kateria in 2005. Rev. John Beck (john6beck@gmail.com) and Rev. Gary Rehborg (drwho270@yahoo.co.uk) continue serving as our DDRCs.

2026

Deployment to North Carolina - At the annual fall LCMS Disaster Response Conference, presenters shared the ongoing need for LERT volunteers in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene from 2024. Camp Linn Haven and Mountainside Lutheran Church damage estimates exceeded one million dollars. The recovery work at the camp continues. A deployment from MN North is being organized for March 21-29 (travel days included) to participate in a Southeastern District LERT deployment scheduled for March 23-27 -- “Damage Repairs in Avery County, Camp Linn Haven, Linville NC”. LERT volunteers can sign on for this deployment by using the LERT website and go to Southeastern District page for the deployment signup and details. Then send an email to Rev. Gary Rehborg notifying him. He is coordinating travel plans for our district.

LERT training – Basic LERT training has streamlined to a **three-hour training** replacing the six- hour class which allows greater flexibility in scheduling training. Training can now be done on weeknights as well as Saturdays or even Sunday afternoons. A new participant’s training manual is in use and additional online resources are in development. Invitations from congregations or circuits to host training are welcome. Basic LERT training is a prerequisite for LERT deployments. Contact our DDRCs to get more information and to schedule your event in 2026.

Want to learn more - Create your own free LERT account by going to www.lcms-lert.org/ and sign up. You can explore what’s happening through LCMS Disaster Response-LERT in all LCMS districts. “Fan” MN North District to get district information updates.

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