

NOVEMBER 2013

AP Photo/Bullit Marquez



# TYPHOON HAIYAN

*“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ... If one member suffers, all suffer together ...” (I Cor:12:12,26 ESV).*

**TYPHOON HAIYAN**, which ravaged the Philippines Nov. 8 killing thousands, is one of the strongest storms in recorded history. It is an unbelievable crisis for the people there.

In response to a request from our partner church, the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP), the LCMS is providing assistance. Three LCP congregations are located in the hardest-hit area. At least one of those congregations and its parsonage suffered significant damage, as did the homes of its members. Area Lutherans have lost crops, livestock and livelihoods.

We have committed up to \$100,000 for immediate aid for those affected and extended a \$50,000 challenge grant to our partner churches in the International Lutheran Council for additional gifts. Our disaster-response team will soon be on-site to meet with LCP leaders, assess the situation and determine a long-term plan for walking together with LCP and helping its congregations to share the mercy and love of God with their neighbors affected by this devastating storm.

You can help support the LCMS relief effort in the Philippines most by contributing to LCMS Disaster Response over and above your year-end gift.

You can respond through a gift of help and hope:

- make an online gift at [www.lcms.org/givenow/disaster](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/disaster).
- mail checks payable to “The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” (with a memo line or note designating “LCMS Disaster Relief”) to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.
- call toll-free 888-930-4438 (8:10 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday).

You can keep up with information about the Synod’s response to Typhoon Haiyan and other disasters at [www.lcms.org/disaster](http://www.lcms.org/disaster). Thank you for your prayers and gifts for these brothers and sisters in Christ in their sufferings.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison  
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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# *A Prayer*

for those affected by Typhoon Haiyan

*Father of mercy, God of all comfort, hear our prayers as we cry to You for all Your children who suffer after Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.*

*Remember those who have lost loved ones and give them the peace that You alone can give.*

*Remember those who are injured and hurting, those who are hungry and thirsty, those who wait for help and begin to despair; comfort them with Your presence, Your healing mercy.*

*Bless and speed the endeavors of all who would bring aid.*

*Guide the government of the Philippines as it organizes its relief efforts.*

*Destroy the plans of any who would use this catastrophe for sordid gain.*

*Help Your people around the world to open hearts and hands to all those who knew the terror of the storm.*

*Your Son commanded both wind and waves and drove away fear with His strong Word; grant that His Word of hope would be spoken abundantly as Your people share the love that they have known in Him, a love that is stronger than death or anything in all creation.*

*We ask these things in Jesus' strong, holy, living name. Amen.*



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