



A Self-Guided Prayer Pilgrimage To New Orleans Area A How-To-Guide

The devastation from Hurricane Katrina is well-documented. Come, pray with and for the people of the New Orleans area. Come; help our hurting economy by staying in our hotels and eating at our restaurants. Thank you.

Ways to Prepare For Your Trip

- ❖ Pray for God's guidance.
- ❖ Consider gathering a group to make a prayer pilgrimage to the New Orleans area. This could be a special trip for your family, friends, church group, or others. Or, this could be part of a conference, seminar, or event taking place in New Orleans.
- ❖ Publicize the possibility of a prayer pilgrimage to New Orleans.
- ❖ Book hotel reservations. (Overnight lodging at volunteer sites is reserved for long-term disaster volunteers.) Three good choices for hotels include:
 - the airport area
 - downtown
 - North Shore (Mandeville/Slidell)
- ❖ Learn about the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the area ELCA churches. The TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod's website (www.futurewithhope.org) has pictures of the churches affected by the storm. Other resources are suggested on the "Links" page of this website and include reading materials and the video "Faith in the Midst of the Storm." (www.futurewithhopepress.org).

About the Pilgrimage

- ❖ The prayer pilgrimage can be as long or short as you want. Options are given on the guide.
- ❖ The ELCA pastors and church leaders are aware that groups might be coming to pray for them and their ministry. If you happen to show up at a site and find someone at the church, be sure to introduce yourselves, but please try not to interrupt ongoing activities. Quietly, walk around and pray. Find a quiet place to sit and pray for God's healing.
- ❖ The Prayer Pilgrimage starts and ends at Grace Lutheran Church, Lakeview, but other sites can be used to gather your group. Directions begin at I-10 and the Williams Blvd/Airport exit. (Out of courtesy, please notify the location if you will be leaving cars for an extended time period.)
- ❖ Listen as you travel. Ask store clerks, restaurant staff, and all you meet to share part of their story. How has their life changed since Katrina? How are things going today? Listen and silently pray for that person.
- ❖ Journal your observations.

- ✦ When you return home, find ways to share your experiences with others. Continue to hold in prayer those impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

The Prayer Stations (plan at least 10 minutes at each station)

- ✦ Short Loop (approximately 43 miles total)
Station 1: Lakeview and Grace Lutheran Church
Station 2:
 - Option A: Cemetery (to French Quarter)
 - Option B: Bethlehem Lutheran Church(via St. Charles Ave)Station 3: Lower Ninth Ward
Station 4: Chalmette and Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Station 5A: Return to Grace Lutheran Church via New Orleans East

- ✦ Long Loop (approximately 105 miles total)
(Same as above, but adds the North Shore Loop and returns to Grace Lutheran Church via the Causeway)
Station 1: Lakeview and Grace Lutheran Church
Station 2:
 - Option A: Cemetery (to French Quarter)
 - Option B: Bethlehem Lutheran Church (via St. Charles Ave)Station 3: Lower Ninth Ward
Station 4: Chalmette and Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Station 5B: Peace Lutheran Church and Slidell
Station 6: Hosanna Lutheran Church and Mandeville
Station 7: Return to Grace Lutheran Church (or the airport)
via Lake Pontchartrain Causeway