

Prayers

Prayer #1 — Heavenly Father, you sent your Son to earth to serve others, to care for the sick, the poor, and the weary. Jesus spoke to disciples saying ... *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you ...* (John 15:12). Let us share the love of Jesus with those who have been hurting for so many years with our prayers and our mites for the people of New Orleans in these hurricane-ravaged neighborhoods. In Jesus precious name, Amen.

Prayer #2 — Oh, God, our Father, hear our prayer. Paul wrote to James words we need to heed. *If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?* (James 2:15–16). We see the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ in New Orleans still hurting and still needing shelter and food and someone to show them love. We pray for the pastors of these six churches that with this grant they may ease the distress and show the love of Jesus. In His Holy Name, Amen.

Prayer #3 — Gracious and merciful God, hear our prayer. It is written in Proverbs that *Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God* (Proverbs 14:31). Help us to honor you through our prayers and our mites for the pastors and volunteers in New Orleans who are working to feed, clothe and shelter the many poor and needy in their neighborhoods. They are reaching out to them with a helping hand and the message of love and forgiveness that Jesus has for us all. We pray for the pastors and for their friends and neighbors and ask for your blessings on them. Amen.

Story

Hurricane Katrina changed everything. After the worst residential natural disaster in United States history New Orleans is still devastated. But there is hope. Six inner city Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) churches, part of the Black Clergy Caucus, have banded together to rebuild their communities and their lives.

So many people left as a result of the flooding. Those that came back were faced with the monumental task of starting over. Part of the problem is just that — one in five didn't come back. Neighborhoods have been lost.

Six pastors of churches that experienced incredible flooding are reaching out to their friends and neighbors with the help of the NOLA 4H grant. This grant will help fund the mercy ministries as the pastors serve Christ by serving their neighbors. They will be offering hot meals, food pantries, food bag distribution, homeless sheltering, homeless emergency care, health care, and counseling for hurting hearts. The grant will pay for the food, emergency care, scripture items, and toiletries as the pastors minister to their friends and neighbors.

The pastors have found many hurting people in their congregations and communities, struggling with anxiety and depression and poor health. They are reaching out to them and with the aid of this grant will be able to expand their outreach.

April 2018

NOLA 4H: Hearts for the Hungry,
Homeless, and Hurting \$100,000



Prayers (cont.)

Prayer #4 — Dear Lord, we know that good works of love and kindness are a response to your love for us. We pray for the New Orleans pastors showing this same love to their community ... They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven as a good foundation for the future ... (1 Timothy 6:18–19). We ask you to bless them as they share your love. In Jesus Holy Name, Amen.

Story (cont.)

These NOLA 4H churches will partner with several organizations and schools to help clean up, to repair; to train lay health advocates, and to provide students to help staff the food pantries and soup kitchens.

Jesus told his disciples ... For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink ... “Truly, I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

NOLA plans to spread God’s love and care to the Hungry, Homeless and Hurting of New Orleans with this grant and we can help them with our prayers and our mites.

