

# A Short History Of God at Work Through Trinity's Disaster Response Team

- 12/26/15 Garland, TX EF-2 Tornado: We assisted with clean-up in February.
- 4/29/16 Lindale & Hawkins, TX EF-2 Tornado: We assisted with clean up in late May
- 8/14/16 Baton Rouge Flooding (31" ... 2-3" per hour ... the equivalent of 7.1 trillion gallons, 3 x as much rain in Louisiana than Hurricane Harvey spilled across Texas. Enough to fill Lake Pontchartrain 4 times!)
- Multiple weeks on site. Muck-out and completely sheet rock an A/C contractor's home.
- Plans began to form Trinity's Team to be far more pro-active and ready to help in meaningful ways.  
Trinity purchased 16' enclosed trailer that we built out to carry supplies and equipment.**
- January 2017 **LERT** (*Lutheran Early Response Training*) and spiritual care training provided for 30 + people, always insisting on safety first!
- 4/30/17 Canton, TX EF-4 Tornado: On-site with LCMS Disaster Coordinators in < 20 hrs. Tree removal, tarped roofs and with the combined generosity of Trinity and the Emerald Bay Christian community, we were able to replace 3 mobile homes and furnishings!
- 8/25/17 Hurricane Harvey, Cat 4, 57" of rain  
Multiple weeks on site in Beaumont, Vidor, Lumberton & Orange.  
Muck-out, Tree & Sheetrock work. Replaced sheet rock in old sanctuary & school at Grace Lutheran, Orange, TX.
- 2018 Purchase & build-out of Trinity's 28' enclosed trailer, complete with water tank, toilet, shower & vanity.
- 10/10/18 Hurricane Michael, Cat 5, 160 mph winds.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> most intense Atlantic hurricane in the US. Set up volunteer camp (a 1<sup>st</sup>!) in Panama City. Shared a Trinity member-provided travel trailer with Pastor Dave in Mexico Beach to live in after his house was destroyed.
- Multiple trips to the area (700 + miles). Steve Lockhart coordinated the recovery, staying on-site for over 6 months.
- 9/17/19 Tropical Storm Imelda (*Texas Gulf Coast, especially the Golden Triangle*), 44" rain in 14 hours, 95 deaths  
We sent teams for multiple trips to help with the recovery.
- 4/23/20 Onalaska, TX Tornado, EF 3, 3 deaths, 170 homes lost.  
Multiple trips

- 5/22/20 Bowie, TX Tornado, EF 1  
On site in, 20 hours with equipment & manpower for tree removal.
- 8/14/20 Midwest US Derecho ("Inland Hurricane"), 112 mph wind, 700 miles across 6 states
- 8/27/20 Hurricane Laura, Cat 2, Lake Charles & Sulphur, LA  
Set up volunteer camp in Sulphur  
Multiple trips
- 10/10/20 Hurricane Delta, Cat 2 (*struck southern Louisiana, still reeling from Hurricane Laura.*) We resumed tree cutting operations out of the came used following Hurricane Laura.
- Feb 2021 Assisted at least 6 homeowners with damaged trees in Tyler after record-breaking snow and ice storms.
- 3/25/21 24 Tornadoes around Tuscaloosa, AL  
On site April 18 to do tree work. Stayed most of the week.
- 8/29/21 Hurricane Ida Cat 4 struck New Orleans area. We were already on site to cut trees on Sept 2, making multiple trips up through and including the October/November camp building.
- Oct & Nov 2021  
Set up volunteer camps preemptively in Metairie, Slidell & Houma, LA
- When Southeastern District Disaster Coordinator mentioned the project, one of his key volunteers asked, "Is Texas coming?" (A huge compliment to Tyler's team!)
- Dec, 2021 LCMS national directors asked Tyler's team to preemptively build out 9 additional sites along the Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle to Louisiana. These sites at LCMS congregations were completed before May, 2022.
- April & May 2022  
Following sustained high winds in Tyler, our team deployed locally for multiple days. clearing 10 residents' trees from Lake Tyler, Lake Palestine, and throughout north Tyler. A large oak was also cut up and moved to the street for one of our ECM teachers, as well as removing a large pine from Trinity's Faith & Life Center.
- June 2022 The team was asked to construct a screen porch on the mobile home for one of Trinity's widows.
- August 2022 Two requests from widows at Trinity to cut and remove a standing dead tree (requiring a 50' lift) and other limbs too large for the homeowner to handle.
- September 2022 Cut and removed a large tree from a Trinity widow's home in Henderson.
- November 2022 Cut 3 large oaks alongside the fence of a young Trinity couple's home in Cherokee County.
- December 2022 Applied to the LCMS for a grant to purchase a MT100 Bobcat skid steer.

- Jan 29, 2023 Deployed to Selma, Alabama, to assist with clean-up from Jan. 12 tornado(s).
- Feb, 2023 Purchase of Bobcat MT100, with the help of a grant.
- Feb 2, 2023 Returned home early from Alabama to assist with significant tree damage in Tyler from an ice storm. Worked partial days over a 4-week period serving 18 families and our own congregation by cutting and removing trees. We served 23 households, 248 man hours, 6 Bobcat hours.
- April 2023 Served in Little Rock, Arkansas, cleaning up very large trees following a EF-3 tornado, damaging nearly 3,000 buildings, including 89 homes along the 6 mile path. Served 11 home owners, 237 volunteer hours, 27 Bobcat hours.
- May 2023 Served in Selma, AL. May 7-12. 7 volunteers continued cleaning up Tree damage from the January 12 tornado. 9 homes, cutting 47 trees with 239 man-hours, and 39 Bobcat, plus 8 hours travel time each way (508 miles.)

**Additionally ...**

2019 - Lockhart's purchased a Bobcat skid steer & grapple to greatly increase efficiency & prevent Injury. (However, after stepping down from his leadership role in October 2023, the Bobcat was sold to another LCMS District's Disaster Team.)

2019 – The LCMS honored Steve Lockhart with the Disaster Response Volunteer of the Year.

2022 – Our team leaders have conducted required Lutheran Early Response Training workshops in Texas and Oklahoma.

2023 – Received the Bobcat MT 100, with the assistance of the LCMS and an anonymous gift from a congregational member.

**Equipment** 16' enclosed saw trailer ... 28' enclosed self-sufficient equipment trailer (with shower, water, toilet and sink) ... 16' flatbed, and a 7-ton capacity dump trailer.  
Purchase of new Bobcat MT 100, with help by a grant from LCMS.

16 saws ... 9-ply chaps ... cut-resistant gloves ... safety approved helmets