



*Serving Those Affected by Natural Disasters*

The Disaster Response Team at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler, Texas, was established in 2017. Members of other LCMS congregations from the Texas District and other districts come and join them as they set up base camps to respond to natural disasters. They participate in the LCMS training, Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT).

Natural disasters (hurricanes, tornados, floods, wildfires, and earthquakes) occur without warning. They cause loss of lives, damage to property, roads, bridges, buildings, and powerlines. There is a lack of food and water. All these conditions cause injuries and impact the health of those affected by the disaster. To respond to the disaster, it is important to have equipment and trailers. It is important to maintain the tools and equipment as well as purchase new updated equipment. Some members stay for the duration and others rotate out on a weekly basis.

Reflecting on the words of St. Paul, *If one member suffers, all suffer together* (1 Corinthians 12:26), the Disaster Response Team responds to clean up the damage caused by the natural disaster, and they also reach out and listen to the victim's stories and feelings of despair and hopelessness. They share Jesus' love, compassion, and concern. Victims hear the Words of Jesus that bring hope, healing, and comfort during their time of despair. This mission grant will help maintain current equipment and purchase needed equipment to help the team as they respond to natural disasters and bring comfort, peace, and healing to the troubled hearts of victims of natural disasters.



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