

Hurricane Michael

The Lord placed Trinity Lutheran Church in the heart of the disaster area and this brought the mission field to them. Pastor Paul McComack and the members of Trinity were blessed with two opportunities of service: Trinity's food bank and the Lutheran Early Response Teams' (LERT) chainsaw efforts.

Five days after the October 10th landfall of Hurricane Michael, Trinity began a food bank to serve the people of Panama City and the surrounding areas. Trinity gave out food, tents, bought shoes for children, but most importantly gave hugs. Even though people were sad, they knew we were there to help them any way that we could. We began with donations from Lutheran churches locally, then from all over the country.

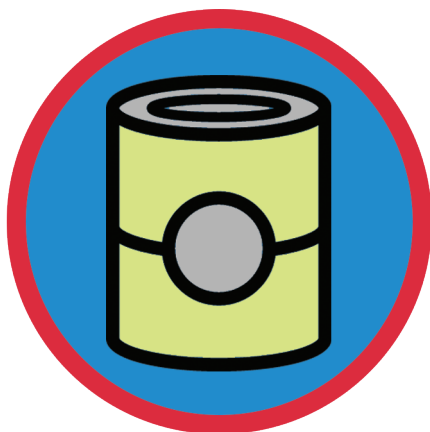
The food bank does far more than just give out food. Volunteers from Trinity take food, blankets, grills, and charcoal to displaced families living in tent cities. The children whose lives have been so disrupted, who now live in a tent, receive books, games, coloring books, and crayons. The love of

Christ can be seen in the hope which sparkles in the eyes of these children. Trinity volunteers also work with the newly combined schools to hand out bookbags, school supplies, snacks, and personal care products.

The Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) have been active since early in the recovery as well. Teams have come to Panama City from over half a dozen states to show the love of Christ by offering free tree and debris removal at the homes of Lutheran families and community members. LERT volunteers have worked at all three LCMS churches in Panama City and one in Mexico Beach.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP! Hundreds of homeowners still have trees down in their yards. Hundreds of people have lost their jobs and need temporary assistance with food and cleaning supplies. To donate or to volunteer in the food bank, text Kathy Roberts at (850) 624-9887. To volunteer with a chainsaw crew, text Pastor Ed Brashier at (205) 296-3714. SOS

Food Bank

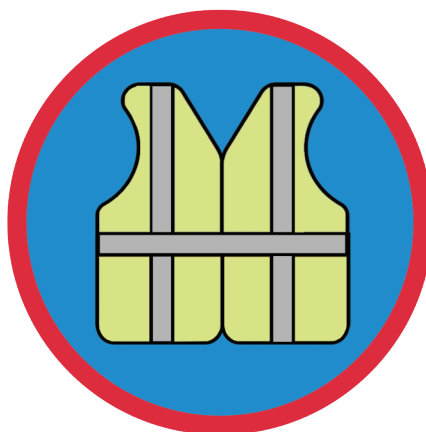


5,000 people,
representing
22,000 family
members served

20+ large truckloads
of supplies distributed

75+ churches have
sent supplies

LERT Teams



41 homes: tree
removal completed
13 homes: tree
removal in progress

Dozens of roofs
tarped

48 work requests
to be assessed

\$950,000 in tree work
saved by Panama City residents

Sponsors



LCMS Disaster Response

LCMS Southern District

Lutheran Church Charities

Orphan Grain Train

Countless LCMS
Sister Congregations

Relief Ongoing

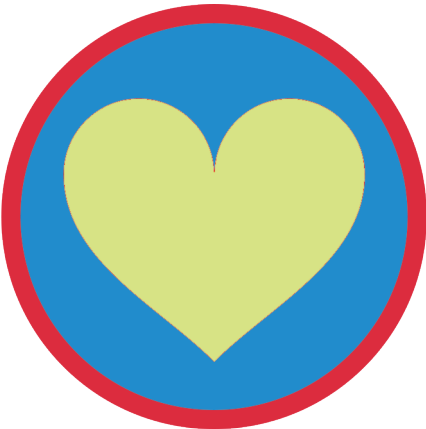
Current Conditions for Camp Trinity (host church and volunteer center)

Camp Trinity is located at Trinity Lutheran Church: 1001 W. 11th Street - Panama City, FL - 32401



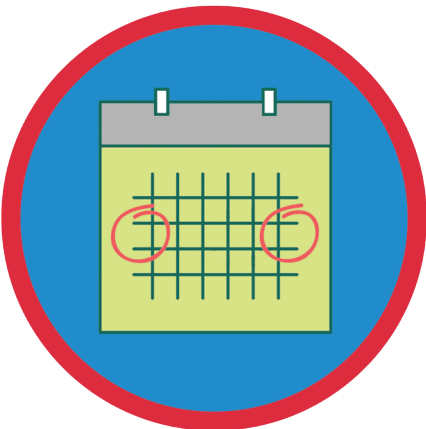
THE FACILITY:

- Camp Trinity now has HOT SHOWERS!!
- 32 beds are now available for volunteers WITH confirmed reservations.
- Kitchen is available.
- There is NO CHARGE to stay at Camp Trinity.
- Power is on. Water is on. Cell service is better now.
- NO internet. Bring a hotspot.
- Sunday services are being conducted by Trinity's pastor, Rev. Paul McComack.



THE WORK: Sharing the Love of Jesus

- Tree and Debris Removal Ministry:
 - Chainsaw operators, limb draggers, and skid steers especially needed.
 - Chainsaw operators do NOT have to be LERT-certified, but MUST be willing to follow all LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) safety rules.
 - Certification is available onsite. Safety equipment available onsite.
- Distribution Center Ministry:
 - Volunteers needed to help unload trucks, organize and distribute food/cleaning supplies, etc.
 - To donate to the Trinity Food Pantry & Distribution Center, text Kathy Roberts at: (850) 624-9887 for a current "needs" list.



THE WORK WEEK:

- The usual response team arrives on Sunday and leaves the following Saturday, working Monday through Friday. However, special arrangements can be made for weekend teams.