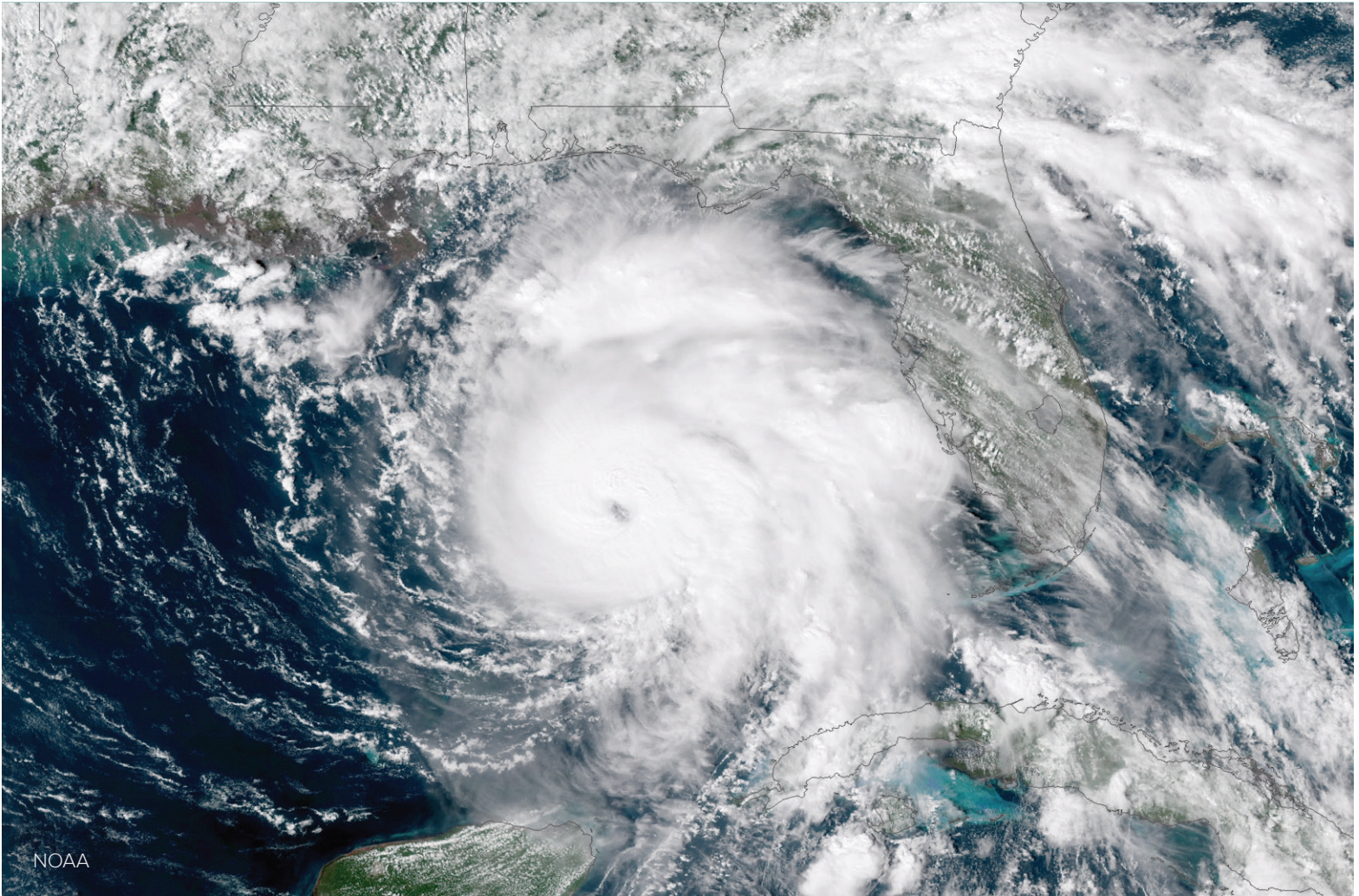


# 2018 HURRICANES

TWO YEARS LATER



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

TWO YEARS LATER



# Thank you

In September 2018, Hurricane Florence struck the Carolinas and surrounding states with dangerous winds, storm surge and extensive flooding. Many coastal cities experienced more than 20 inches of rain. The hurricane caused more than 50 deaths, displaced thousands of people from their homes and caused billions of dollars in damage.

Then, in October, Hurricane Michael made landfall as a powerful Category 5 hurricane with wind speeds over 150 miles per hour, striking several states that included Florida, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. More than 30 people died, and Mexico Beach and Panama City were devastated. The storm caused major damage from extreme winds and storm surge.

You responded to these disasters with generosity. Between June 2018 and May 2019, supporters donated more than \$2.4 million for hurricane response. Thanks to you and other Lutheran Disaster Response supporters, people whose lives were interrupted by these disasters have been connected with crucial support — from emergency relief supplies to emotional and spiritual care, as well as the repair and rebuilding of their damaged homes. Because of your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors of these hurricanes.

## POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Lutheran Disaster Response works in partnership with synods and their congregations, Lutheran social service organizations and other partners in the United States and around the world. With their deep knowledge of local needs and how to address them, our affiliates help us work in ways that are relevant and effective for each community. Through these partnerships, we accompany survivors from the time a disaster strikes until communities are rebuilt.

This work is made possible by the Lutheran Disaster Response network. We are particularly grateful to:

- The Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA
- In Spiritus (formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia and Lutheran Services in Tennessee)
- Lutheran Services Carolinas
- The North Carolina Synod, ELCA



## THE RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response provided hurricane survivors with immediate relief items such as **groceries, bedding, clothing, daily-life necessities** and **temporary supplies**.

As relief has turned into long-term recovery, support has included not only volunteer coordination, financial assistance and construction management but also connecting survivors with case managers who can help them make an individual recovery plan and connect with existing resources. In Florida, for example, Lutheran Disaster Response funded the Florida-Bahamas Synod to support a local disaster coordinator and construction manager in Panama City.

Inspiritus (formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia and Lutheran Services in Tennessee) focused on hiring a disaster case manager, filling unmet needs through financial assistance, connecting people to community resources and working with Lutheran churches to engage volunteers in Georgia coastal areas.

Lutheran Services Carolinas developed a major response program with disaster case managers and community liaisons, working directly with survivors and assisting communities to be better organized to address needs in at least seven counties in North Carolina. And the North Carolina Synod established a disaster response program, hiring a liaison for disaster response work, offering support to congregations that provide meals and hospitality to volunteer rebuilding groups, distributing grocery gift cards for survivors, and meeting survivors' needs that had not been fulfilled by other disaster response organizations. The synod plans to continue and grow its work in the long term.

## SUPPORTING HURRICANE SURVIVORS

During Hurricane Michael, two large trees fell on opposite ends of Jill's home in southwest Georgia, trapping her inside. When she was finally able to escape, Jill\* discovered that her car was also trapped and the road was completely blocked by fallen trees. For two days she was stuck, with no running water.

During the recovery process, Jill was able to begin work on her home by replacing the roof, but workers she had hired to make repairs kept the money she'd given them without returning to finish their work. Jill didn't know what to do next.



Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate Inspiritus accompanied Jill, moving her recovery forward. Volunteers from Messiah Lutheran Church in Alabama completed the outside repairs and encouraged Jill as well; one even sewed her a quilt for her newly repaired home. Their compassion filled Jill with love.

In North Carolina, an 86-year-old couple with disabilities were slammed by both Hurricane Michael in 2016 and Hurricane Florence in 2018. Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate Lutheran Services Carolinas helped turn their longtime house back into a home, installing a new roof, a wheelchair ramp and carpeting to replace those damaged in the hurricanes. Now they have a safe, secure and clean home. **“God is good, God is GREAT!”** one of the homeowners reported.

*\*Name has been changed for privacy.*





## LOOKING AHEAD

Because of the severity of these storms, the recovery process for many of our neighbors is ongoing. Work still underway includes repairing and rebuilding homes and providing emotional and spiritual care. Please give to support this response and others like it, and show disaster survivors that they are not alone.

## WAYS TO SUPPORT THIS ONGOING RESPONSE AND OTHERS LIKE IT:

### ONLINE

[ELCA.org/disaster](http://ELCA.org/disaster)

### BY MAIL

Make a check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

### BY PHONE

Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central time.



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