

June 5, 2007

Dear Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram
Michigan District – Missouri Synod
3773 Geddes Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Dear Rev. Wolfram,

We sincerely hope that this letter finds you doing well and enjoying the work that you do in the Lord's name.

When originally you sent us a very large check to help us in storm recovery, (both for our needs and for the needs of other affected), you asked us to account for how we used it. I believe that we have given you and others some information accounting for what we have used to this point. We have not sent a letter for some time, because the process of rebuilding our facilities has just begun. That is to say, we have not used any more of the money than previously reported. As you may well know, rebuilding in New Orleans in general is going at a slow pace. There is much competition for supplies and labor. The contractor who is overseeing the rebuilding of our facilities has only begun the work a week and a half ago.

With a true sense of appreciation for what you and the LCMS people of Michigan have done for us, I am writing now to ask if more financial help can be given to us. The rebuilding of our three storm damaged buildings will cost around \$350,000. We find ourselves lacking almost \$50,000 of this amount. As the construction work began, and as we were reinspected, more damage was found. Costs for repairs have gone up beyond original estimates. Although not all damage was a direct result of Katrina wind and water, we have no choice but to make all repairs to allow us to pass inspections after construction. These building restorations, of course, will also allow us to restore and expand ministry. I am writing to you personally, because it is my understanding that we lost our contact person in your district, and that this person was not replaced. Could the LCMS people of Michigan help us again with an another special offering?

Please know that we are also pursuing other avenues of achieving our goal. We have dropped some of our plans to alter our buildings. We are challenging our own membership to give to our rebuilding above and beyond their normal offerings. We are seeking other grants and special funding. We will, if necessary, seek a loan to cover the shortfall.

Whatever can be done will be appreciated. For us, this is not just a matter of making buildings whole, but of restoring and expanding ministry. We had hoped to do a "Camp Noah" this Summer, but all of our buildings are currently under reconstruction, and that will not be possible. We had even tried to partner with other congregations to do

outreach, and that did not work out. I tell you this to let you in our hopes and dreams for the future, and how our current situation is setting up barriers to these. We are also asking for help, because although we have taken in new members since Katrina, we still find that we are a congregation diminishing in size, having lost 16 individuals or family units. People, our people and others in the city and area, are moving on to restart their lives in other places. Yet, there is more ministry to be done here! More than in ways we are currently able to do, as we anticipate the continued rebuilding and repopulating of our city.

Rev. Wolfram, thank you for considering this request. I know that you will respond in a way that you see is best for the whole church.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Hayman, Pastor