



June 21, 2024

Dear ILM Brothers and Sisters,

Here is another in what will be ongoing communication with you about the status of our efforts to repair and restore our church buildings after recent storm damage. You'll recall that the spate of storms in May damaged both campuses. The Temple campus has roof damage, broken windows, dented siding, and likely some water damage due to leaks. The hail and then subsequent wind and rain caused much more severe damage at the Belton campus. Even after efforts to cover the roof over the sanctuary, extensive water damage is evident in all parts of the sanctuary and in portions of the sacristy and the nursery. Insurance claims are pending related to the repairs needed at both campuses. Specifically for Belton, an engineer was dispatched last week by the insurance company to provide a detailed analysis of the structure and contents to ensure the insurance claim will cover all aspects of the damage. We are awaiting the engineer's report and the initial claim estimate from the insurance company, along with assessing costs to replace our contents. As we wait, we cannot proceed with repairs quite yet. We have already been in contact with a roofing contractor so that when the claim is approved, we will immediately begin work to repair the roof.

Despite the delay from the insurance company, the ILM Board of Directors—including Pastor Albers—met on site at the Belton campus on Wednesday, June 19 to collectively survey the damage and to receive guidance from one of our own members who has extensive experience in construction and renovation. Regrettably, the Board of Directors was able to confirm that the Sanctuary is simply not usable for worship. Further, we cannot predict how long it will be until we may resume worship services in Belton.

To facilitate quick and efficient management of this situation, the Board of Directors voted to establish a crisis response team. The team will be led by Craig Randolph, with assistance from Gene Doss, Mike Ringstaff, and Dale Sitz. The crisis response team will be a single point of contact for insurance company representatives as well as contractors. Craig will stay in close contact with the Board of Directors as well as Pastor Albers and Business Manager Nikki Randolph. The team will bring recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors, which will authorize all spending related to repairs at both campuses. Meanwhile, an application for financial support has been submitted for review to the Texas District of the LCMS to help defray the cost of our deductible.

Both the Board of Directors and the ILM Church Staff ask for your prayers in this challenging situation. We are facing stiff headwinds, but we are not dismayed! We urge you to draw close to your ILM brothers and sisters by joining together each week to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament at the Temple campus at 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Bible study is at 9:15 a.m. We are now celebrating the Lord's Supper at both services each week in Temple. Further, Belton elders, greeters and others are assisting with worship services in Temple. We will continue to provide updates to all members frequently as the effort to repair and restore both campuses unfolds.

With you in Christ,

Pastor Grayson Albers and ILM Board of Directors