Wolf Lake Laestadian Lutheran Church

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Cokato Laestadian Lutheran Church

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September 26, 2018

Dear Mike and Members of the Cokato Laestadian Lutheran Church Board: God's Peace!

I'm writing regarding your call on September 7th 2018 in which we briefly discussed the Cokato board's response to our letter. Please allow me to address a few points that were raised in our conversation, now that we, as a board in Wolf Lake, have had an opportunity to meet .

The dis-inviting of Phil from serving in your congregation remains a deep concern. As expressed in our letter we believe your decisions is divisive and wrong.

We are disappointed in your preference not to answer our congregation's request in writing. We desire to be as open books before God and men. The Paul writes good advice for all saying; “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.” (2 Cor. 3:2)

In our first visit, you mentioned both the robe of righteousness and withholding of forgiveness as reasons, when I inquired why your decision was made. But no details as what, if any, differences that exist were given.

In order to clear up the resulting confusion as well as for practical agenda purposes, we believe that it is of utmost importance that the Cokato board spells out in writing what the issues of concern are. Perhaps by doing this, we'll find our differences are only perceptions and not reality. It is important for all of to familiarize with the issues in the light of Scriptures in advance, so that we can come to the meeting well prepared for a successful outcome.

Should it be so that doctrinal differences of how we believe are found, a framework of points of different understandings would be in place to together discuss according to Scriptures.

Finally, regarding inviting third parties to join our meeting, we believe it unwise. My understanding is that Cokato's concerns are with Phil, who serves as both a speaker and board member here, likewise our concern is with the Cokato board. Unless your decision to dis-invite Phil is at the behest of a third party, it seems best to first meet only with those involved as the Church Law of Christ teaches (Matthew 18:15).

In summary, we ask you brothers to explain in writing; what are the issues that preclude Phil from serving in Cokato? In turn we are willing to answer your questions regarding any issue also in writing. Having then a clear understanding of potential differences prior to a meeting, gives the opportunity and time to ponder the matters.

It is our sincere desire to meet with you, dear brothers, in love and in the mind of Christ. May our Heavenly Father bless our mutual efforts to preserve love and unity of Spirit, that all of us would remain brothers in Christ Jesus.

On behalf of the WLLLC, board, God's Peace!

Roger W. Alajoki, Chairman

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