

Greetings in Christ!

St. John's Lutheran Church in La Grange, Illinois is pleased to announce that [www.KatrinaChristmasCard.org](http://www.KatrinaChristmasCard.org) has evolved as a ministry to become Greetings in Christ at [www.GreetingsinChrist.org](http://www.GreetingsinChrist.org). We appreciated your order of Christmas cards last year and hope you will consider sending our cards once again!

Greetings in Christ offers a variety of Christian note cards and Christmas cards to benefit missions of mercy in renewal, rebuilding and recovery. All online purchases directly benefit Bayou Grace Community Services, serving the five Bayous south of Houma, Louisiana. Currently, funds are needed for construction materials.

The Bayous face unnatural coastal erosion due to decades of mismanagement of Mississippi River silt. Valuable wetlands are eroding at the alarming rate of the size of a football field every half hour or so. Coastlines are receding; barrier islands are sinking. With the loss of these natural buffers, every hurricane hits the Gulf Coast stronger and farther than it otherwise would.

Bayou residents had still been recovering from Rita when they were dealt an even harder blow by Gustav and Ike. A unique and lively culture, derived from various ethnicities merging here generations ago, is struggling to survive. These are a poor, hard-working people wanting only to keep their deeply rooted communities.

The good news is that in spite of setbacks and frustrations, the people of the Bayous are not giving up! Having neither the desire nor the resources to relocate from their ancestral wetlands, they are willing to fight for wetland restoration. Adult education classes are being funded. Awareness is growing around the country. Action after a hurricane is happening more readily. Advocacy for legislation is becoming increasingly effective.

Bayou communities will persevere with a newfound common voice, grateful for help along the way. Please join us in our support of Bayou Grace's efforts by visiting [www.GreetingsinChrist.org](http://www.GreetingsinChrist.org) and sharing our ministry with others.

Blessings to you and yours!

Mary Goldbeck  
Greetings in Christ