



Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

January Newsletter

2019



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I Need More Time . . .

As you reflect upon previous events in your life—gatherings, graduations, weddings, birthdays, business, kids, careers, vacations, and visits. Do you wishfully think: “If only I had a little more time? More time with my kids. More time with my elderly parents. More time to relax and enjoy life.” With a slight sense of regret and quick glance at what may seem like a schedule fuller than ever, you may feel like throwing up your hands and shouting, “I need more time!”

Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10). You might be thinking that your life is full enough. You do not need more things to do. You need more time! But Jesus is not talking about doing more things. Jesus is talking about a fulfilling life that has a purpose from beginning to end and into eternity.

Jesus entered our world 2000 years ago. Jesus’ purpose in life was simple. He came to earth so that when our time on earth comes to an end, we can spend eternity with him in heaven. In order to make that happen, Jesus lived every moment of every day in perfect obedience to his heavenly Father. His life temporarily ended at the cross when he suffered the punishment of sin for all people of all time. Just three days after his death, Jesus came back to life in order to proclaim his victory over death and his gift of life with God.

What a full life Jesus gives to us! We do not need to be weighed down by the guilt of our past—things we have regretfully done or left undone. Jesus came to live a perfect life in our place. We have confidence for the future because Jesus is already at the finish line, waiting to welcome us into heaven. Life is no longer about cramming as much as possible into every day. Rather, life is about living each moment of every day in gratefulness to our Savior Jesus.

Need more time? Spend time with Jesus. Get to know him through his Word. Discover the fullness of his love and purpose for you. While he may not give you the additional hour(s) you were hoping for each day, Jesus will help you to make the most of the time he gives to you.



A Message from our Outreach Pastor . . .

Hebrews 11:8 “*By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.*”

It is already a few days into the new year. None of us have been here before. It is truly uncharted territory. Yet we will make our plans to go here and do this. And we, by nature, draw conclusions according to our planning, how things will turn out. According to our planning, we proceed in confidence. Can it be that our confidence is in the wrong place?

We talk about God having plans for us, but do we walk in the confidence of his planning? He rarely reveals his daily plans for us, but they are there. Do we even ask the question: “Lord, what do you have in mind for me today?” Our God rarely reveals his plans for us each day, but he does reveal himself to us. He reveals his character, his love, his mercy, his grace. And according to his character he says: “Have confidence in me.”

You and I don’t know what he is doing, but it is always for our good. You and I don’t know what he is doing, but it is always for his glory. Do you believe in the God who loved you so much that he gave his only Son that you might live? Do you believe in the miracle working God who promises to take care of you and bids you to worry not? Do you believe in the God who was made flesh and who can sympathize with you in your weakness and then promises to uphold you in his righteous, omnipotent hand?

Abraham followed by faith. Even though he did not know where he was going, he trusted the God who was leading him. God is still leading, let us follow confidently in his plans. Do you think the wise men knew where they were going? They were going to a place far away they had never been before. And yet they followed the Lord and his miraculous star. They didn’t know where they were going, but they did. For they knew they were going to the place of the Christ child. They had full God given confidence of this as they came with gifts for their King.

We walk confidently into 2019. Not because of our plans. But because of the Lord’s plans. We may not know exactly where God will take us on this side of heaven, but we follow the Lord and his miraculous Word. That is our guiding Light! And it gives us confidence so bright! As we follow this Light it will bring us to those who are still in the darkness. Our God given confidence causes us to reach out to our family & friends in 2019. On Sunday January 20th I will be giving an interactive sermon on sharing faith. Then on Sunday February 3, we will have a WELS missionary equipping us with more of that miraculous Word that guides our ways with confidence. Happy Epiphany!

Yours in Christ
Pastor Scott Bergemann



Financial Summary

Below is our information for December 2018:

Total Budget Needed: \$36,437.50
 Total Budget Received \$47,342.66

We exceeded reaching our budgetary ministry needs in December by \$10,905.16 (\$2,181.03/wk).

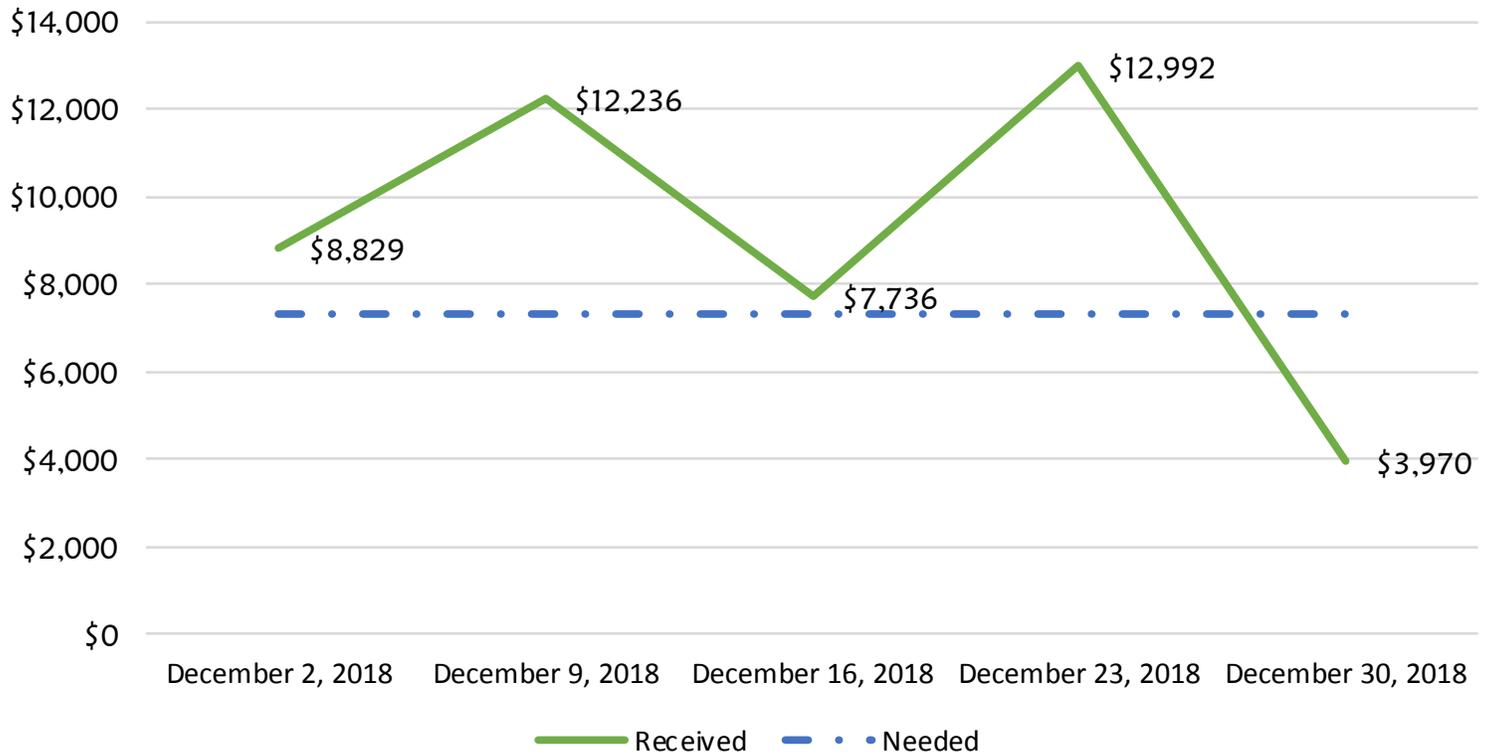
Our current Fiscal Year to Date Budget is: +\$9,083.88 (which is \$336.44/week)

Happy New Year

Weekly Total Budget Received

Needed Weekly: \$7,288

Weekly Average for Month: \$9,153 / Weekly Average for Fiscal Year: \$7,624



Capital Campaign

Progress towards \$130,000 our Goal
As of December 31st, 2018



Received & Spent Comparison

(Income & Expenses)

