



Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

March Newsletter 2019



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I Need More...GOOD NEWS

Indeed, we live in frazzled and frustrated times. Just turn on the nightly news. So frequently we are given reports of events that have devastated property and lives; are told about individuals that have deviated from law and order; and hear of other stories that dampen our spirits. On a regular basis, most of the news is not good news, and a depressed sigh first finds solace in the silence of a turned-off television.

Turns out, though, that we don't have to turn on a TV to know that. We don't even need to be near it. As our consciences rerun the past, we see where our own deviations have had a devastating impact. As a direct result, our spirits are dampened and depressed. Even life-long Christians feel the sting of past sins as their consciences cry a guilty testimony. That's the "news" we know by nature. That's God's Law on sinful hearts, and that's why stricken hearts crave more good news.

The calm to the craving is not attained by turning off; we get it by tuning in. The answer is not in blocking out God's Word or dulling our consciences by making poor excuses. The solution is still found in what God's good news says to every individual—even to you. The calm, promise, and solution remains the message of the gospel! Hearts are calmed at the message of Christ for us! And it's in that message the apostle Paul, a very real sinner, would have sinners still take comfort and confidence. As he lifted Timothy's eyes and heart to the grace of the cross, so he lifts ours: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst" (1 Timothy 1:15).

Craving more good news? Forgiven sinner, tune in to the Savior who carried your every sin! See him in his Word! Redeemed believer, tune in to the gospel—God's good news that quiets sin's accusations! Hear that saving message! Beloved child of God, tune in to the trustworthy message of the Bible and let your heart sigh with thanksgiving. Jesus came to save sinners. Jesus came to save you! That's the good news! Crave it. Enjoy it. And stay tuned in!



I NEED MORE...

A Message from our Board of Elders . . .

It all happened so quickly... Jesus and his apostles are in the upper room; He institutes the Lords Supper. They all go to the Mt. of Olives where Jesus predicts Peter's denial. Then Gethsemane and the arrest.

Jesus is taken Caiaphas the high priest where there is a trial of sorts and beatings. Peter disowns Jesus and the rooster crows.

Then, something happens that we know nothing about... after the rooster crows, we are told, "*Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.*" (Matthew 27:1-2).

Early in the morning? All of a sudden, it is the next day? What happened to Jesus from the time Peter disowns Jesus to "early in the morning"? Jesus must have spent the night somewhere. But where?

Last year in January, my family and I went to Israel to visit the places that Jesus walked. We actually walked on stones that Jesus walked on; we stood in the ruins of Capernaum where Jesus taught and lived; we walked the streets of Jerusalem in places where Jesus walked. And, we visited the place that may have been the answer to my questions above.

The "trial" happened at Caiaphas's house. Caiaphas's house is about a 15 to 20 minute walk from the Garden of Gethsemane. To get to it, you must pass the temple and walk up some stone steps. Visitors are no longer allowed to walk on these steps because they are over 2000 years old. Did Jesus walk up those steps? He very likely did to get to Caiaphas's house! But that is not the most interesting part...

In Caiaphas's house, under the house, in the very bottom of the house, is the pit. Jesus had to spend the night somewhere and the Sanhedrin were not going to let Jesus get away so they lowered him into the pit. The pit has a small hole through which Jesus might have been lowered. 20 feet deep and maybe 10 feet by 10 feet around. This is where it is believed Jesus spent the night. Cold, empty, dark, bruised, beaten, alone.

When I think about lent, I could think of so many different things. But since going to Israel, I've been thinking and contemplating that pit. It was so real - standing there in that pit thinking about Jesus and the night he spent there alone. He did that for me; for you; for the world. He did that willingly; without a cry or a complaint.

As I stood in the pit that Jesus stood in, I was reminded of some verses of a Psalm but I could not remember which Psalm it was at the time...

Psalm 88:3-7

*3 I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.*

*4 I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am like one without strength.*

*5 I am set apart with the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.*

*6 You have put me in the lowest pit,
in the darkest depths.*

*7 Your wrath lies heavily on me;
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.*



As you make your pilgrimage through Holy Week this 2019, think about the pit. We do not hear too much about it, but it is real and Jesus endured it... so you and I would not have to. Thank you, Jesus, for the love you show us - even in the pit.

In Christ Our Lord,
Tim Knautz (Board of Elders Chairman)

Ash
Wednesday



Financial Summary

Below is our information for February 2019:

Total Budget Needed:	\$30,903.00
Total Budget Received	\$29,505.00

We fell short reaching our budgetary ministry needs in February by \$1,262.00 (\$315.50/wk).

Our current Fiscal Year to Date Budget is: +\$10,345.88 (which is \$333.74/week)



Weekly Total Budget Received

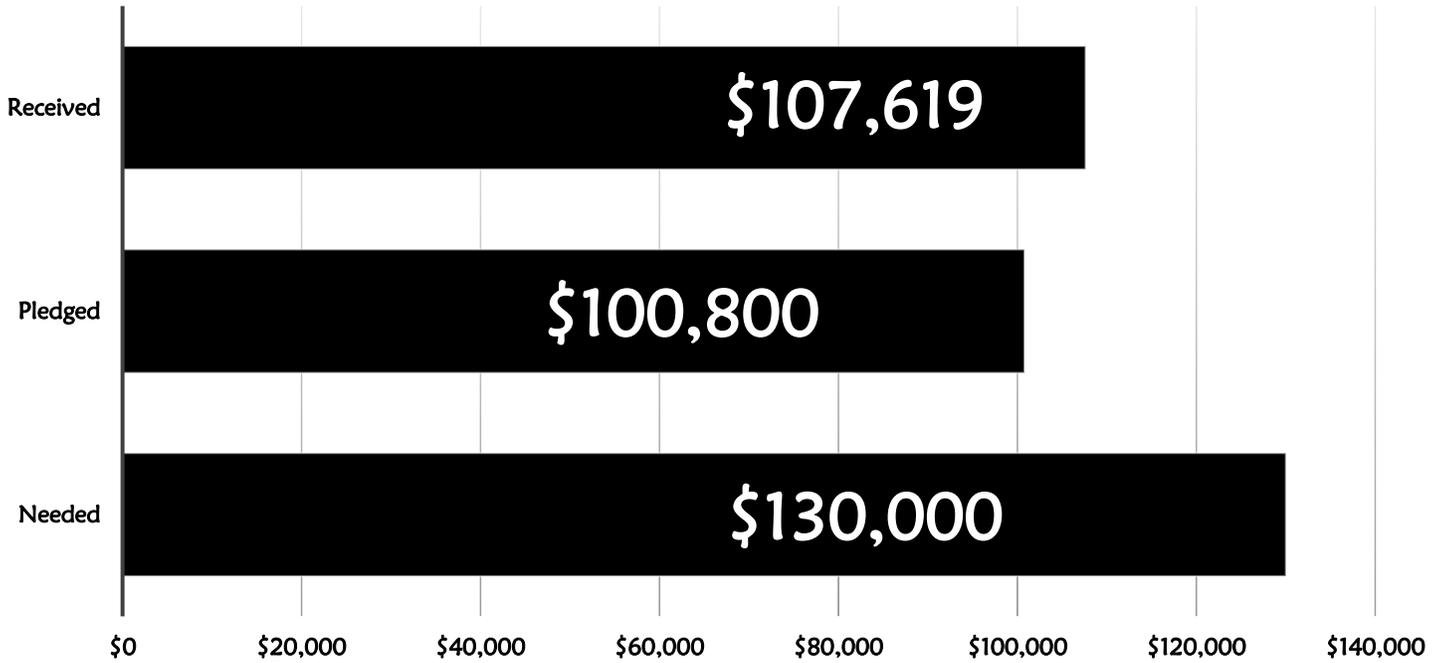
Needed Weekly: \$7,288

Weekly Average for Month: \$7,182.36 / Weekly Average for Fiscal Year: \$7,486



Capital Campaign

Progress towards \$130,000 our Goal
As of January 31st, 2019



Received & Spent Comparison

(Income & Expenses)

