



Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

June Newsletter

2019



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I Need More...REST

People put in many hours of work each week. Weeknight evenings are filled with activities for children and meetings of all sorts. When the weekend rolls around, there are many activities that we want to participate in. There are sports for children, recreation for families, and leisurely interests for individuals. Hours on Saturday are taken up by home improvement projects or needed maintenance. By the end of it all we are tired.

Finally, it is Sunday morning, a day of rest, and I get to sleep in. It is the one morning that if I don't get out of bed, my work will not call, and my children will not bother me. Nothing much happens on Sunday morning, so it is a good time to relax. I get so tired during the week. I need more rest and Sunday seems to be the perfect day to get it. If I sleep in on Sunday morning, I may be well rested physically but spiritually I am exhausted.

On the front wall of the church where I grew up is this Bible passage. "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Those are Jesus' words. It is his invitation to provide rest, not for our bodies but for our souls. There were plenty of times I walked into that church physically tired, but I always received rest for my soul.

I heard a message about my sin and Jesus' forgiveness. I was reminded every time that I had real rest in Jesus. I had the rest of a clear conscience because Jesus took my sin away with his death and resurrection. I had the rest of knowing that when I die, I will rest eternally with Jesus. I had the rest of knowing that the same Savior who loved me enough to die for me is ruling all things in this world for me, and for the benefit of all his people.

Such a **BUSY** life! It makes you wish you could have more rest. You do! In Jesus you have the rest you truly need. The church may not have that Bible passage printed on the wall, but through the Word of God you hear, you will receive rest for your soul in Jesus. Next Sunday morning, come and get some rest with us at church. It is good for your soul.



I NEED MORE...

A Message from our Administrative and Spiritual Growth Pastor . . .

The Ascension of our Lord is considered the 3rd great Festival of the Christian church (after Christmas and Easter). It celebrates that Jesus, who came into this world on what we call Christmas, completed His work to redeem mankind from sin, death, and hell when He died on Calvary's cross and then rose again on the 3rd day of Easter as promised; and now He ascends back into Heaven in triumphant glory to rule over all for the good of His church (Ephesians 1:22-23). Ascension has been called the coronation of King Jesus as He returns victorious from battling to win freedom for His children forever! What a day of triumph!

Before His Ascension, Jesus had promised His disciples: 'I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be where I am' (John 14:2-3). And as the disciples stared up into the sky on the Ascension day after Jesus had disappeared behind the clouds, angels appeared next to them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Jesus promised that He WILL return to earth one day – a day we know as Judgment Day, when this wicked world as we know it will crash and burn, and Jesus will take His own home to live with Him in Heaven's paradise glory evermore! Now we alertly await His return.

When I was little, I always awaited a visit from relatives that I knew were coming over with great anticipation. I would stand at the window or even jump on my bike, if it were nice, and ride down the street to watch for their car. Nothing could cure my anticipation! My mom said I drove everyone crazy, and even made myself sick to my stomach with my nervous eagerness! (For that reason, they tried not to tell me that someone was coming over too soon!)

Our risen Lord Jesus has promised His return. How wonderful it is know that this comes to us Christians not as a threat – 'Don't make me come down there!' – but as pure joy, 'that you also may be where I am' (John 14:3).

In the nighttime darkness, the street lights told me where I was as I rode my bike late into the evening on warm summer days. My mom would always turn the porch light on for me when I wasn't home yet; and it served as a beacon to help guide me on my way. So also we are called to keep the light of our faith burning brightly against the dark backdrop of this sinful world's night – not so He can find us when He comes again; for as the omniscient God, He always knows where His children are! But rather we, His followers, are called to reflect His Light (for He is the Light of the world) to this world sitting in darkness and the night of sin. We dare not get lulled to sleep, lest the darkness envelop us too. For Satan and this wicked world continue to do their best to lure us into their playpen in hopes of putting us to sleep spiritually so we can join them in hell forever.

So we need to be on guard! We need to wait with eager anticipation our Lord's return. For He is coming to bring us home with Him forever – even so come quickly, Lord Jesus! This is the encouragement the church father Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage (210-258 AD), gave:

"Let us rouse ourselves as much as we can. Breaking the slumber of our ancient listlessness, let us be watchful to observe and to do the Lord's precepts. Let us be such as He Himself has bidden us to be, saying, 'Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning' (Luke 12:35 KJV). We ought to girt about, lest when the day of setting forth comes, it should find us burdened and entangled. Let our light shine in good works and glow in such a way as to lead us from the night of this world to the daylight of eternal brightness. Let us always with care and caution wait for the sudden coming of the Lord, so that when He shall knock, our faith may be on the watch and receive from the Lord the reward of our vigilance. If these commands are observed, if these warnings and precepts kept, we cannot be overtaken in slumber by the deceit of the devil, but we shall reign with Christ in His Kingdom as servants that watch" (On the Unity of the Church, p.27).

May our Lord's coming again find us watching and ready, with our lights burning brightly as we continue to live for Him who died for us.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Steven Neumann

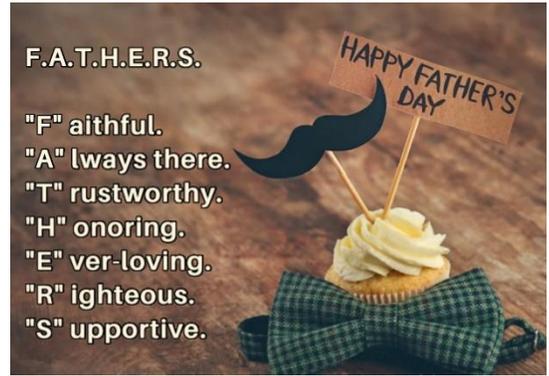
Financial Summary

Below is our information for May 2019:

Total Budget Needed: \$29,152.00
 Total Budget Received: \$25,053.00

We fell short of our budgetary ministry needs in May by \$4,099.00 (which is \$1,024.81/week).

Our current Fiscal Year to Date Budget is: +\$10,144.04 (which is \$211.33/week)



F.A.T.H.E.R.S.

"F" aithful.
 "A" lways there.
 "T" rustworthy.
 "H" onoring.
 "E" ver-loving.
 "R" ighteous.
 "S" opportive.



THANK YOU to all the Sunday School Teachers, their music director and all who helped with substitute teaching and special events for Sunday School!

A HUGE THANK YOU and YOU WILL BE MISSED (in Sunday School) to Teresa Smith for all her years of teaching!

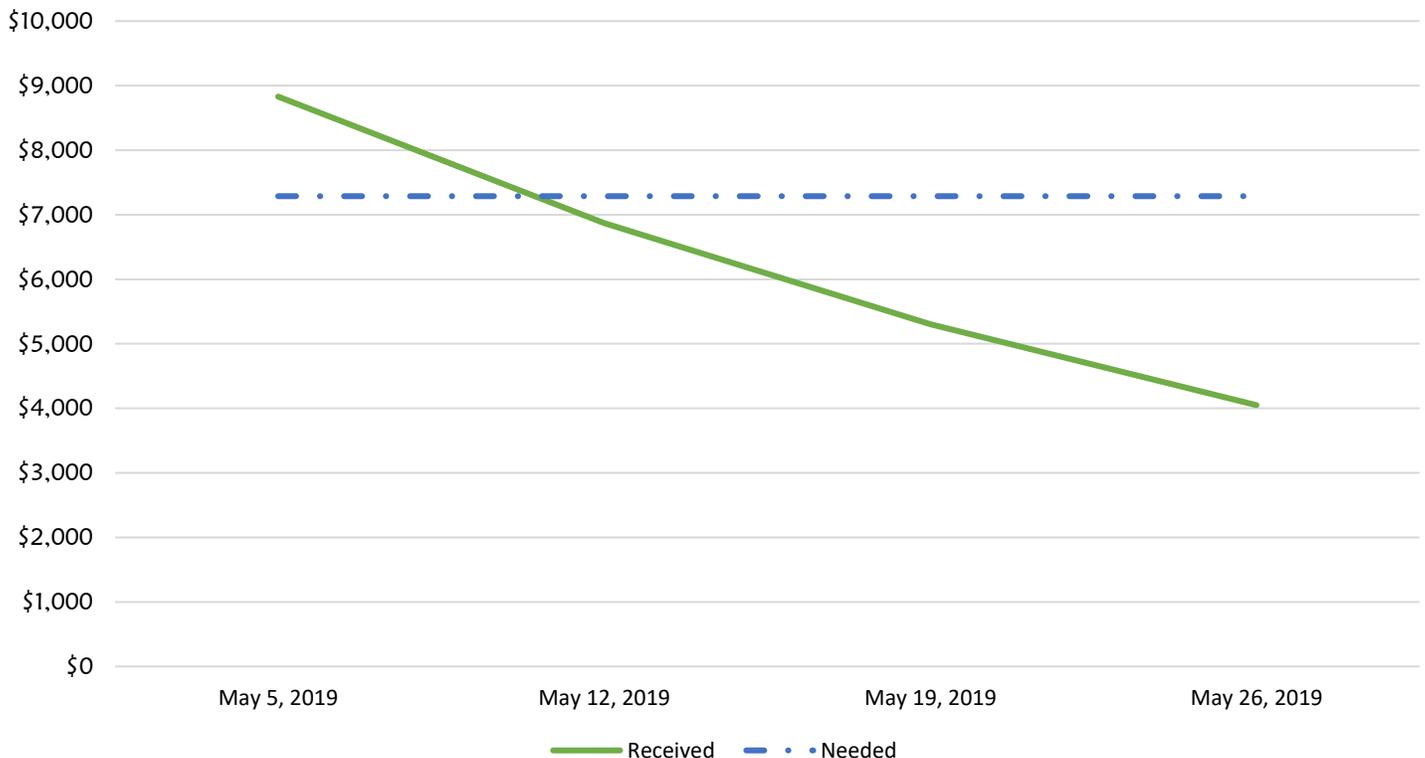
We appreciate you do!

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Weekly Total Budget Received

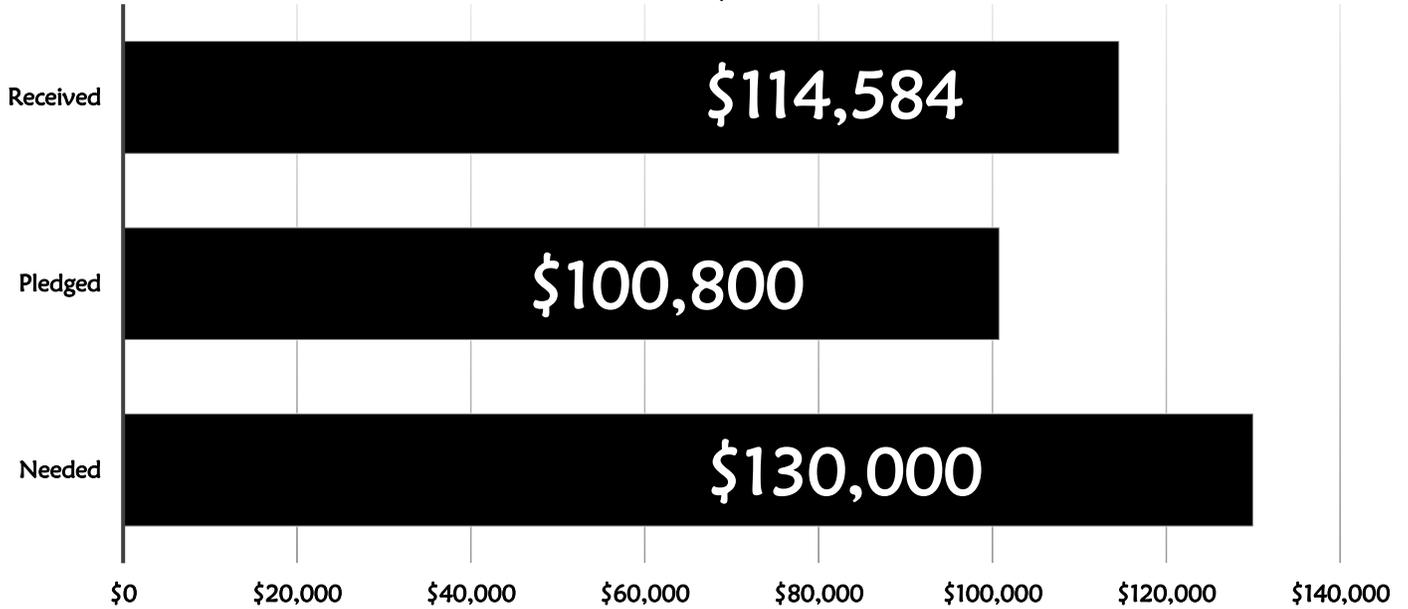
Needed Weekly: \$7,288

Weekly Average for Month: \$6,263.19/ Weekly Average for Fiscal Year: \$9,351.25



Capital Campaign

Progress towards \$130,000 our Goal
As of May 30th, 2019



Received & Spent Comparison

(Income & Expenses)

