



# Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

## July Newsletter

### 2019



5927 – 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Kenosha, Wisconsin 53144  
 (262) 652-3054  
 www.mtzionwi.org



Pastor Steven L. Neumann  
 pastorN@mtzionwi.org  
 Pastor Scott W. Bergemann  
 pastorB@mtzionwi.org

## I Need More...SECURITY

Everyone knows disappointment sooner or later. It's that time when the car broke down, when national security was breached, when we lost our job. It's that time when doctors couldn't cure us or our loved ones, our investments disappeared, friends disappointed us, when we disappointed ourselves.

We try to limit disappointment or prevent disappointment from becoming a disaster. We make promises. We buy insurance. We do our homework before making big decisions. We search for what is "guaranteed or your money back." We go to the doctor recommended by trustworthy friends.

What we're really looking for is security. We just want something we can count on; something that is stable; something that is safe and stays that way. But isn't it striking that even with all the protection agencies, certifications, types of insurance, promises, and money-back guarantees in today's world, we're still left searching for more security?

When it comes to things that can threaten our sense of security, the possibilities appear endless. You probably have had that sinking feeling and said to yourself, "There's always something. What am I supposed to do? If it's not one thing, it's another. Either *this* or *that*..."

At such trying times, find strength from these verses in the Bible: "I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Notice: "neither" *this*, "nor" *that* "will be able to separate us from the love of God..." The love of God is a faithful, stable, and dependable love. And if we want proof of that, we need only consider how God sent his only Son for us. Jesus came and died on the cross, and he rose again. Our sins weren't too much for him to bear. Death itself could not hold him in his grave. Satan could not stop him from carrying out his mission. Many religious leaders hated Jesus. One of his own disciples betrayed him. One denied him. The rest abandoned him. And the vocal majority crucified him. Did any of these prevent Jesus from keeping God's promise to save us? No! God's love prevailed for the whole world, and now whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life!

God's love will never disappoint you. Nothing in all creation can separate you from God and the power of his love in your life. For Jesus came, he died, and he rose again. We have this as our security: God's love is **GUARENTEED**.



# I NEED MORE...

# A Message from our Board of Elders . . .

## Free? How can it be free?

I stood behind a table where a line was forming. A fresh pan of hamburgers and hot dogs had just been given to me. I removed the foil top and made sure a fork was available for people to use to get a hamburger or hot dog.

An older woman came through the line and stood in front of me. "Who do I pay?", she asked. "No one. It's free", I responded. The look on her face showed confusion with a touch of frustration. "What do you mean, it's free", she demanded. "You mean I don't have to pay for it?" I chuckled and said with a big smile, "Yep. That's what free means!" She smiled and said, "You've got to be kidding. Can I take a hamburger and a hot dog?" I replied, "You can take two of each if you want!" Then came the big question – I knew it was coming: "Why are you doing this?", she asked. I smiled and said, "Because that is what we do here at Mt. Zion. We give to others, because Jesus gave his life for us." I could tell from her expression that it was not the answer she was expecting. She thanked me and moved on.

Later, a man came through the line and, basically, asked the same thing. His reaction was a little different. He insisted I take \$2.00 to pay for the hamburger – a donation to the church, he called it. I agreed on two conditions: first, that he would come back and take a hot dog for free and second, that he would take a Mt. Zion water bottle and one of each of the movies we were giving out. He laughed and agreed. I took his \$2.00.

It seems that people have a hard time understanding, "free". We've all been told, "there is no such thing as a free meal". I remember a lesson from an economics class: nothing is free – at a minimum, it will cost you time. While both of these lessons are true, Jesus shows us the real meaning of free: he gave his life for our salvation, free of charge – it costs us nothing because Jesus did it all for us!

The message of Jesus free forgiveness and freedom it gives is what was preached at the Mt. Zion Block Party. Statistics say we served over 150 people; we even had to buy more food before it was over, because we ran out! Why? Our goal was to serve 100, which would have been 20 more than previous years but we blew that goal away! Another interesting occurrence was that people did not simply grab something to eat and then quickly leave, but instead, lots of conversation was held by our members with our guests – the message of "free".

We now have a list of 45 people who left names and addresses so we could follow up; 5 said they want more info about preschool, 16 about our church, and 19 about future kid's events we host. God be praised for these opportunities, which Pastor Bergemann and our evangelism team will now be following up on. Please pray for them as they do this important follow up work; pray that they would lead to opportunities to share Jesus, and to invite more opportunities to do so moving forward.

In addition, the success of the Block Party is all despite the fact that Pastor Bergemann, was unable to attend the majority of the Block Party due to an unexpected funeral that was scheduled at the same time (unfortunately, Pastor Neumann was out of town and unable to help with the funeral). But knowing it was coming, he got busy and made sure to contact people so we would be sure to have plenty of helpers; and we did, by all accounts. In fact, as only God could direct it, this may have been a blessing in disguise, for it identified people that do not usually volunteer to help with the Block Party, but who did so this year to help us out in a pinch. They saw that it is not hard work and even had a good time! So, the likelihood of them helping again in the future is higher, and Pastor Bergemann has their names to be able to proactively approach them and invite them to do so in the future.

So, please join me in thanking God, Pastor Bergemann, the Board of Evangelism, and all of the volunteers (especially the last minutes ones) who helped make this event the wonderful one that it was! 'Well done, good and faithful servants!'

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

# Financial Summary

*Below is our information for June 2019:*

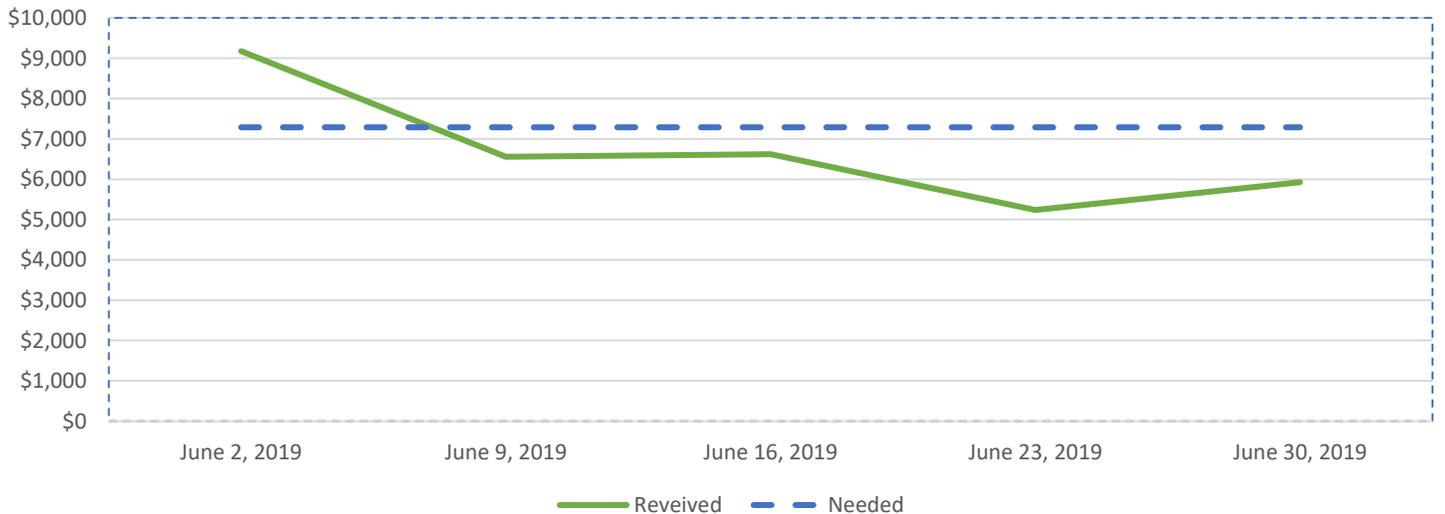
Total Budget Needed: \$36,440.00  
Total Budget Received \$33,515  
**We fell short of our budgetary ministry needs in June by \$2,925 (which is \$731.34/week).**

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



Weekly Total Budget Received  
Needed Weekly: \$7,288

Weekly Average for Month: \$6,702.93 / Weekly Average for Fiscal Year:  
\$9,015.23



## Capital Campaign

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



## Received & Spent Comparison

(Income & Expenses)

