



## Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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### I Need More...Knowledge

*The Church of Scientology* teaches that people are basically good, that their capabilities are unlimited, and those capabilities can be realized. People can also achieve new, higher states of awareness and ability. *Scientology* claims that the secrets to this higher knowledge can only be found in their church through a process they call "auditing." Seems strange? But honestly, a cultic religion that encourages you to look within yourself for more knowledge can really satisfy an itch. Who doesn't feel they need more knowledge? And how about being able to pat yourself on the back for pursuing it and supposedly finding that knowledge within yourself? That's pretty appealing to the human heart.

But God's Word sounds much different than L. Ron Hubbard, who authored the book that has become *Scientology's* bible. God says people are not basically good, that people's natural capabilities are limited to sinning and rebelling against God. As a result, God says all people are the same: "*There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God...The way of peace they do not know*" (Romans 3:11,17) God is right! Not L. Ron Hubbard! Need proof? Think about Adam and Eve when they pursued more knowledge on their own apart from God. They rejected God's Word and sinned. Look at what their own inner pursuit of knowledge got them and us! A world infected by sin so badly that everyone eventually dies.

Jesus knows we all lack knowledge, and he wants to fill that void. He does so not by telling us to find it inside ourselves, but by telling us to look outside ourselves. We find knowledge in the Bible. Through his Word, God makes us wise; he gives us insight and understanding. (See Psalm 119:98-100.) That's because God's Word gives us knowledge that we can't find or discover anywhere else.

The Bible tells about Jesus. It tells how wide, long, high, and deep Jesus' love is for people. That love drove Jesus to come to this world, bear the sin of every person, die on a cross, and suffer the eternal punishment for all sins. That's love—love so amazing that God declares that your sins are forgiven because of Jesus. That's love—love so beyond understanding that Jesus, the righteous one, should die for the unrighteous. But he did! That's why the apostle Paul says that "this love surpasses knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19). In Jesus' love for you, you have everything you truly need to know, both now and forever.



# I NEED MORE...

# A Message from our Spiritual Growth Pastor . . .

## **WELCOME HOME!**

Is the church more of a country club or a hospital? Is a Christian community full of people who have it all together, whose lives are perfectly in line with God's will? Or is the church on earth an assembly of individuals who are all flawed and broken in multiple ways?

Scripture answers that question. God's Word tells us that everyone within the church was at one point deeply lost. What changed that? How were we "found"?

Amazing grace! God, in His grace, sought us out, called us to faith, adopted us into His family, and welcomed us home into His Church. Think of what this means. If the church is a collection of people who were lost in their sin, it is unrealistic to think that in the church everyone will be a perfect model of righteous behavior. No one is like that except Christ! Our salvation is an accomplished fact. But our Christian life is going to be one that often takes two steps forward and then at least one step back.

This is another reason we need Christian community! As a community of fellow believers, we love one another, forgive one another, proclaim God's forgiveness to one another. And when a fellow-Christian drifts back towards lost-ness, we give chase, striving to bring them back home. For we care. We are concerned about them!

Just read through Scripture and count the times it refers to believers as "brothers and sisters." You will reach triple digits quickly. The Holy Spirit is deliberate with His choice of words. If He frequently refers to the Church in those terms, there can be only one explanation. He wants us to think of each other as family – a family of faith.

We understand the important roles a mother and father play. We know the joys (and challenges) of having siblings. Do we grasp that it is just as important that we have a *spiritual* family? Scripture teaches that what unites us to our spiritual family is infinitely more powerful than any biological bond. Moreover, you can lose a blood relative; they can be taken away from you by death. But you will enjoy the companionship of your spiritual family for all eternity.

In an up-coming worship series this fall, we will look at how our Heavenly Father knits us together in love and unity into a spiritual family. We will see the benefits of being part of this family. In the Church, Christ has given us a better home – one with Him and our fellow believers.

This summer, we saw how important and precious worship is. Worshiping our God—listening to him speak to us in his Word and responding with our praise—is always special. However, worship can be especially joyful when the house is packed. Think of the singing on Easter Sunday ... or the way we had to set up chairs in back last Christmas Eve. Yet, even on those days, we have members who stayed away.

On Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, we will join our brothers and sisters in WELS in celebrating **Welcome Home** Sunday. The goal of this special emphasis is to have a day when everyone that is part of our Christian family worships together. After all, church is supposed to be a home, and believers are kin. Our worship focus on that day is the blessing of Christian community. Thus, we want 100% of our members there.

Please do everything possible to set that date aside so that we can pack the house that day. And between services that day, we are foregoing bible class and Sunday school so we can enjoy brunch together in the fellowship hall; everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. So, if you worship at 8am, stay around for brunch afterwards. And if you plan to worship at 10:45am, arrive at 9:15am for brunch 1<sup>st</sup> before you worship. Help us make **Welcome Home** Sunday a wonderful reunion of our family of faith!

Privileged to be your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Steven L. Neumann

# Financial Summary

Below is our information for August 2019:

Total Budget Needed: \$29,332.00

Total Budget Received: \$23,866.00

**We fell short of our budgetary ministry needs in June by \$5,466 (which is \$ -1,366.61/week).**

**Our current Fiscal Year to Date Budget is: -  
9,345.75  
(which is -\$ 1,168.22/week)**



## Back-to-School Prayer

Dear Lord,

Please guard our children's hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Help them focus and learn this year. Give them favor with their teachers and peers. And help them make godly friends and be a godly friend.

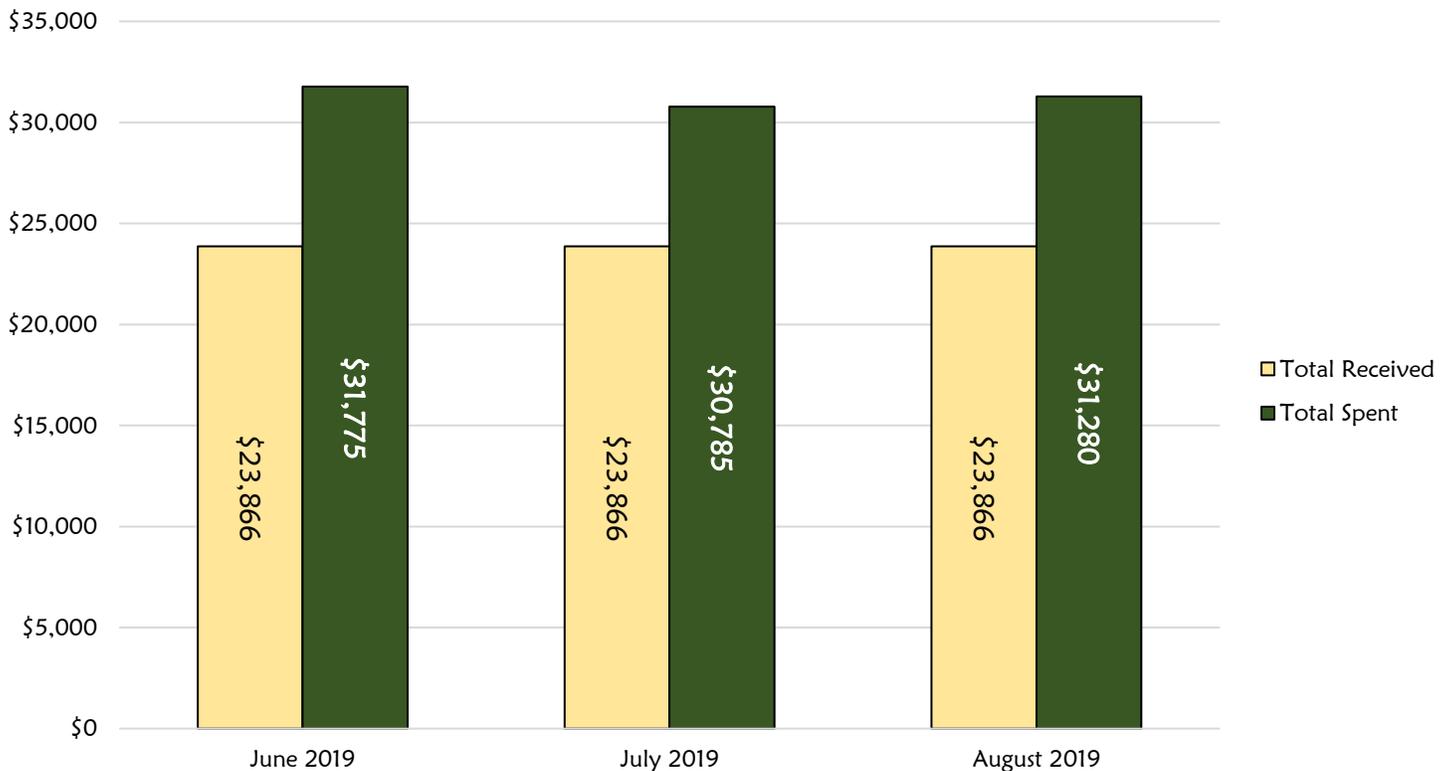
In Jesus' Name. Amen.



**A U T U M N**  
*crunching in the leaves*  
**CIDER AND DONUTS**  
**APPLE PICKING**  
 🌳 🌳 🌳 🌳 🌳 🌳 🌳  
**HOT CHOCOLATE**  
*listening to the wind blow*  
**FOOTBALL**  
 wood smoke & leaf mold  
**BRILLIANT COLORS**

## Received & Spent Comparison

(Income & Expenses)

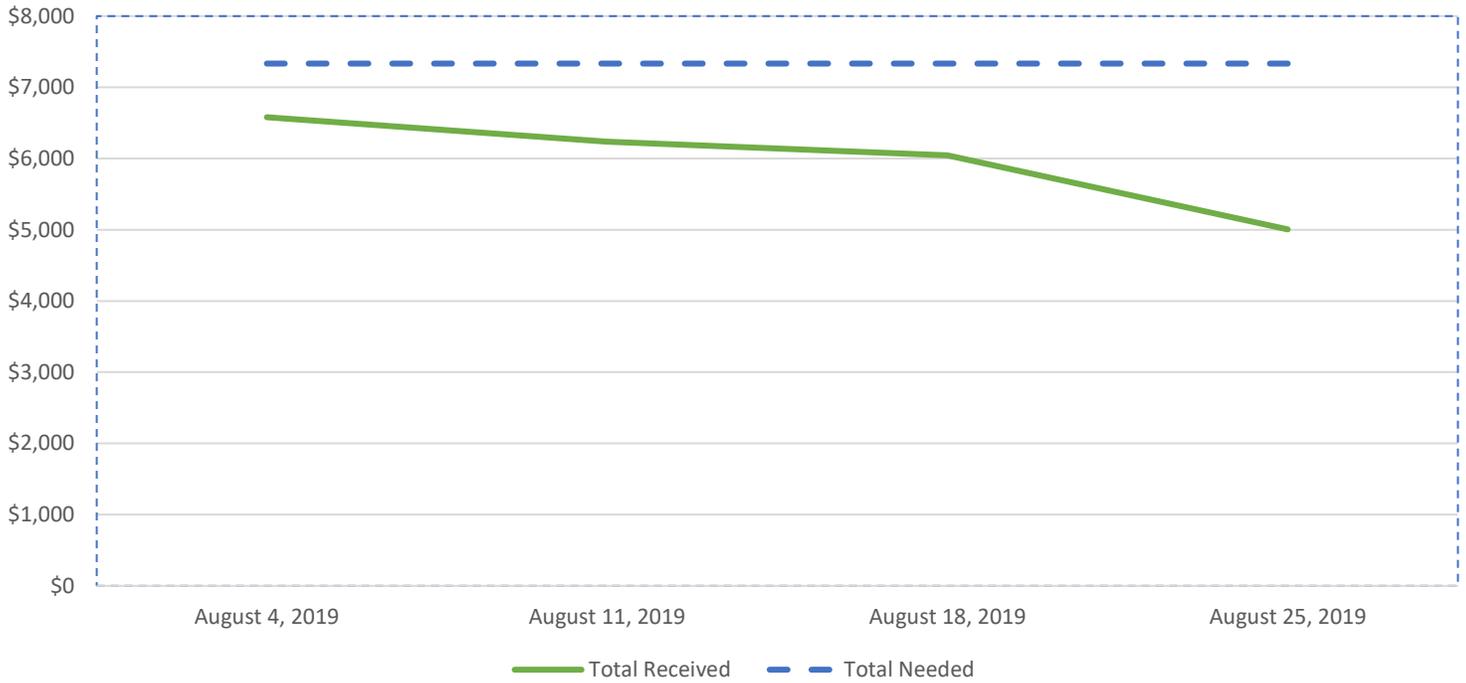


### Weekly Total Budget Received

Needed Weekly: \$7,333

Weekly Average for Month: \$5,966.40 / Weekly Average for Fiscal Year:

\$6,165.17



### Capital Campaign

Progress towards \$130,000 our Goal

As of August 31st, 2019

