

March 31, 2019

Dear members of Mount Olive,

Greetings to you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in Whom we have received all things!

We are facing a significant shortfall in the General Budget here at Mount Olive. As of 3-11-19 we are behind \$62,448.59 and need a total of \$364,148.59 to meet our budget by the end of the fiscal year. This would mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that we have run a deficit at Mt Olive. We have been updating these totals in the bulletin and hope that this has been helpful and clear for everyone.

Despite this shortfall God has greatly blessed our church. We continue to see membership on the rise. In the last year, there were 32 baptisms at Mount Olive. Our Day school continues to flourish. Many different groups gather here for various activities. Each week we see the progress taking place in our building project. (Please remember that our pledged support for the building is in addition to our regular offerings.) All of this makes it clear that Mount Olive is a very special place where we can hear God's Word and worship Him.

The Board of Stewardship has seen time and again how the members of Mount Olive rally around a cause and make things happen! Understanding our shortfall, we would like to kick off a **“Getting To ZERO Campaign”!** Our fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. What a blessing it would be to end this year with a **ZERO deficit**. This would allow us to continue with our work in the Church, School, Synod, MVL, and missions uninterrupted by a financial shortfall. This would also, in turn, allow us to start the next year moving in the right direction.

Our giving passage in the bulletin this past month was **2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.*** This passage reminds us that we are to cheerfully give a portion of those blessings that we ourselves have received from God. God of course does not need our gifts, everything already belongs to Him, but we set aside a portion for Him out of thankfulness for what He has done for us! If you are a regular giver to Mt. Olive, we thank you! If you are not a regular giver, remember what Jesus said about the widow's offering. (Mark 12:41-43). Even the smallest of gifts is precious to God if it joyfully comes from the heart. As you evaluate your personal giving please consider Mt Olive and helping us to get to **ZERO**.

There are many ways to be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us. Giving of our time is also a way to give thanks to God for all that He has done. The Stewardship Board humbly asks that ALL members fill out the Time and Talents form now available online and on the table in the Narthex. So much of Mt Olive is kept running by volunteers. Please consider giving of your Time and Talents to enhance the work being done at Mt. Olive.

The Stewardship Board would like to thank everyone for taking the time to understand these important matters. The deficit is a challenge, but by God's grace we will see through this and become better suited to carry out His mission!

Yours truly in Christ,

The Mount Olive Board of Stewardship