

Zion Lutheran Church



202 Erie Street
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 2M8

Tel: 519-271-8527

Email: zionlc@golden.net

Website: www.zionstratford.com

October 30, 2021

Dear Fellow Members of Zion:

As I write this letter, some of the COVID-19 restrictions are starting to be lifted. Of course, it is everyone's hope that the lifting of some of these restrictions will not hinder our progress as far as the virus as we move forward with these changes. More information regarding the lifting of the restrictions will be announced to our members during the month of November. As we all know, the journey these past nineteen months has greatly impacted all our lives in many ways and the hope is that as we move forward at this time, the changes that we are forced to endure will have positive effects on our lives. At least this needs to be our prayer. Enduring difficult times is a time that hopefully forces us to relook at our lives and make changes for the better along with gaining a keener insight to what is really important as well as focusing our thoughts on the things for which we need to be most thankful. As your Treasurer, I will be one of the first that needs to follow my own advice as I oversee my role along with walking alongside each one of you. For me, I must admit that the past nineteen months have been very stressful. This time has created financial challenges for our Church much more than in the past. The financial changes that we instituted during this period helped us weather this time to the best of our ability. For your support of these changes as well as your financial support during these past nineteen months, we extend our sincere appreciation on behalf of the Congregational Council along with the Finance Committee.

As I look into the future, especially the next two months, I am required as your Treasurer to share with you the current financial status of our Church. As far as expenses, most of our expenses are in line with budgets that were approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting earlier this year. As far as our income, we need to be most grateful to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program that continued to offset some of our salary expenses with these Grant funds totalling \$18,650.00.

.....OVER

PAGE 2

However, this program is coming to an end shortly. In addition, our rental income for both our building and our parking lot across the street from the Church increased dramatically over this income in the past. As I write this letter, the combined rental income this year is \$15,450.00 versus \$4,450.00 last year, an increase of \$11,000.00. The increase in the building rental is due in a large part to our rental agreement with Avon Mennonite Church. This arrangement is working well and an excellent opportunity for us to share our building with our brothers and sisters at Avon Mennonite Church. But even with this combined income, Zion's Current Fund has a deficit balance of \$45,779.12 as of September 30th. Therefore, having shared this information with you, each member is being asked to assist in whatever way you are able to help eliminate this shortfall over the next two months.

We ask that you prayerfully consider our request of helping to eliminate the shortfall by year end and responding as you are able. A special envelope marked "Current Fund Deficit" is enclosed for your use in making an offering to decrease Zion's deficit.

Thank you for your continuing faithfulness to the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ here at Zion Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. L. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "L".

Gerald Cook, Treasurer
on behalf of the Finance Committee & Congregational Council