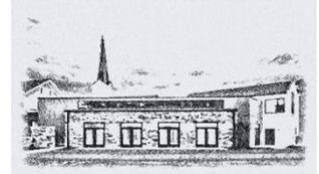


November 6, 2022



Dear Members of the Body of Christ at Zion,

Zion's leadership **thanks God for your continued support** of the mission and ministries of our congregation! Your faithful financial support has made it possible for our congregation to further our reach with gospel to those in our community, region and world. We have resumed regular ministries, such as Vacation Bible School and Long Valley Clergy Association events, had a record year for the Ort Farms social ministry fundraiser, and we have added new events such as an Easter egg hunt and Advent wreath making. Your support has enabled us to provide steadfast worship, including to people who are homebound, Christian education to youth and adults, hold many collections for food, hygiene supplies, and Christmas gifts; and to open our doors to numerous community support groups. Our congregation is supported solely by its members so that without your financial support, Zion would not exist.

Expenses increased in 2022 while Zion maintained our mission and ministries. Our major operating expenses include staffing, utilities (e.g., heating, cooling, electricity, trash removal, water & sewer), cleaning services, and lawn care & snow plowing. This year, Council thought it would be helpful to share a snapshot of the commitment and generosity at work in parishioners. Below, is 2021 giving at Zion when averaged out to a weekly figure.

Giving/week	# of households
Under \$10	8
\$10-\$25	13
\$25-\$50	20
\$50-\$75	5
\$75-100	1
\$100-\$200	3
\$200+	4

#### What's needed for 2023

Like so many congregations, Zion hasn't seen everyone return to church after the pandemic. This means that we continue to struggle to meet our expenses. In addition, in 2022, we started the year with a surplus balance of about \$32,000 (adjusted figure), mainly due to the \$18,657 PPP grant given to us by the federal government (a pandemic event that has never occurred before). As of 11/2, we are at least \$9,000 in the red, which is better than where we expected to be at this point and may change by year-end. This means that as of now, we need an extra \$41,000 (32 + 9) to be contributed in 2023 in order to meet regular ministry expenses. If possible, **we're asking parishioners to increase giving for 2023** by a little bit. For example, if all member households increased giving by \$5-10/week, we could meet all of our expenses and even fund new ministries since that would mean an increase of \$23,000 - \$46,000 in contributions from our approximately 90 member households.

#### Please share your estimate of giving for 2023

We are asking each household to prayerfully consider how they might financially support the ministries and missions of Zion in 2023. Please return the **"estimate of giving" card** enclosed with the letter by 11/27 either in person, by mail, or via email to Barb Schulz, who has faithfully and confidentially overseen giving for many years ([BarbaraLSchulz@gmail.com](mailto:BarbaraLSchulz@gmail.com)). If you do not already use **automated payments**, we invite you to consider doing so as it helps the congregation avoid occasional monthly cash flow crises. Please see the "Give" button on our website in order to enroll in "Simply Giving."

In closing we again thank God for your continued support of the ministries of this congregation. Without you we would not, together, be able to share God's ministry with others nor "love our neighbors as ourselves."

With Christ's love,  
Marcia Horner  
Stewardship Chair