

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOD'S WORK • OUR HANDS • FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD

9944 Leslie Road at Braun Road and Loop 1604 • San Antonio, Texas 78254-9547

October 20, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

October is our annual financial stewardship emphasis at Zion, planning for the year ahead. God has truly blessed us and it is our joy to **celebrate God's generosity** with our "thanks – offerings."

We started 2016 as a year of adventure and generosity, but any adventure will have obstacles. Zion has met this obstacle with amazing generosity. Early in the renovation of the sanctuary, our contractor found that previous poor construction practices had allowed significant water damage, to the tune of about \$1.3 million. We had no way to know about or budget for this expense, so our leadership had to figure out how we would pay for this unforeseen issue.

Borrowing more was not fiscally responsible. The congregation made the difficult decision to finish the exterior of the new education building, and to complete the interior at a later time. This move saved us most of what we needed to cover the cost of repairs to the sanctuary, but we were still about \$300,000 short of what we needed.

An anonymous family in the congregation offered a challenge to raise the \$300,000 quickly. They would match the first \$150,000 given! Their generosity inspired others to be generous and as of today we've raised over \$331,000, with more on the way! These were "above and beyond" gifts, so people did not divert what they have already pledged to **Connect • Give • Grow**, nor did they divert from their offerings to the General Fund for normal expenses. Praise God!

This is the sort of generosity we celebrate at Zion! We exceeded the challenge grant and have a margin to finish the first steps of construction on the sanctuary. We are so thankful for the generous and gracious attitude of this community of faith. In the midst of a hard situation, you have been generous with your time, talent, and treasure.

The past several Sundays we have shared video temple talks in worship. Filming these stories has reminded us that God is doing some very important things through Zion Lutheran Church. Some of the videos, along with stewardship materials are now on our website at www.zionsa.org/stewardship.

It's now time for us to prayerfully consider what we will give to the General Fund for 2017. Because of your generosity, **we have been able to do so much this year**. We have no doubt that this will continue in 2017 as we move into our renovated sanctuary.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering to Zion if you are able. God is doing so much good through this congregation and it happens because of your generous support. Enclosed you will find a commitment card for the 2017 General Fund. **We will receive them in worship on Reformation Sunday, October 30**; however you can return the card early by mail or in the offering plate or you can fill out your intention to give online at www.zionsa.org/stewardship.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dave Schulte

Pastor Russell Peek



David Schulte
Senior Pastor

Russell Peek
Pastor

Suzie Wyatt
Administrator

Karen Stein
Education

Travis Baker
Youth

Rob Mikulski
Music