

2020 Mid-Year Financial Update for TLC Congregation

2020 has been a challenging year for all businesses and organizations, including churches. We are a little over half way through the year and, fortunately, TLC has been able to manage our financial affairs as planned. The financial oversight plan we put in place two years ago is paying dividends. Pastor Arthur continues as chair of the Financial Team which provides counsel to church staff and the Church Council regarding expense control, revenue forecasting and our strategic plan.

TLC members have continued their solid financial support with total receipts of \$399,000 for the first seven months of the year. Pledged giving was strong while open and misc. giving was down due to lack of live church services. Total offerings for June and July were down from earlier in the year but we expect an uptick as we enter Fall. The second half of the year typically has stronger giving. Our stewardship committee recognizes that there are various ways to support our church financially and they are working on workshops and informational pieces to make it easier for members to give through online giving and estate planning. If you have not yet signed up for online automatic giving, we invite you to do so [here](#) or by contacting Michelle Reber in the church office. Automated online giving is the single most effective method we have for maintaining a strong financial position during this time of pandemic separation.

Total expenses for the first seven months of the year were \$450,266 which is higher than budget due to unplanned building repair costs and computer related expenses. Operating costs for our building have been reduced with fewer live services, however, building repair costs more than offset the savings.

Our staff has undergone numerous changes including Pastor Ed's reduced hours under the co-pastor plan, the retention of Pete Erickson to handle youth programs in place of Ben Cherland who left to take a pastoral calling in Montana, the addition of Grace Pardun Alworth as an intern, and Sue Brickley's retirement as our financial administrator. We are grateful to long-time TLC member Nancy Waldack who will be joining our staff in September as our new financial administrator. Nancy brings many years of experience in accounting and is already working closely with us to ensure a smooth transition.

In addition to these transitions, Deacon Renee Jefferson retired in July. We have a comprehensive plan in place to cover Renee's duties with existing staff, volunteers and eventually new hires. The bulk of Deacon Renee's duties are being split between Intern Pastor Grace and Interim Youth and Family Minister Pete Erickson for the immediate future.

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded earlier this year, TLC applied for, and received, a forgivable loan from the Payroll Protection Plan authorized by congress. Funds from this loan have enabled us to pay staff payroll as required under the program. They were not included in our analysis of the first half of the year, however, they could be essential in the second half. The pandemic is far from over.

The financial impact of all this is a year-to-date loss of \$51,266. Our hope is that the government loan will, in fact, turn into a grant as anticipated and that this will cover our current and any projected deficit if it is combined with continued strong giving from the congregation to finish out the year.

We are thankful for the continued financial support of our many members and we pledge to continue good stewardship of our church finances.

The Financial Team - Pastor Arthur Murray, chair, Karen Bonertz, Dan Larkin, Norma Macdonald-Ockwig, Jerry Olson, Bob Riley, Chip Smith