

A Unique and Unexpected Opportunity

“My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Philippians 4:19)

COVID-19 has robbed us of many things: hugs and kisses, smiles hidden behind masks, freedom of movement, businesses, jobs, recreation, socializing, freedom to worship in the way we've always worshiped, and loved ones who have died and gone to heaven (a blessing for them, a heartache for us). But one thing it can never rob us of is the pure gospel of Jesus Christ. We know that Jesus—fully God and fully human—lived a sterling life of perfection and holiness in our place. On the cross he suffered the curse and condemnation that we deserved for our sins. He died to give us the priceless gift of eternal life. He rose from the dead, taking the sting out of death for us. We have the free gift of peace with God today and forever in heaven. These treasures can never be taken from us—no matter what.

COVID-19 has also brought our St. Peter's family a hidden blessing through the CARES Act. Under this act we were granted a loan of \$192,200 through the Paycheck Protection Program. We will soon apply for that loan to be forgiven. If it is not forgiven, we will have to pay the loan back. If it is forgiven, we will have a unique blessing that together we can bring to fruition.

The *Stewardship of First Fruits to the Lord* report in our bulletin for November 15 is something that we as individuals and as a church family will want to address. For the week of November 8 our offerings fell \$13,175 short of weekly budgeted expenses, leaving a shortfall of \$184,546 for the amount budgeted year-to-date. In the past, going into the Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas seasons, we have been able to eliminate similar deficits by the end of the year. I am confident that together, with hearts warmed by Christ's love, we can eliminate this deficit by December 31.

This is where the unique blessing comes in. *If* the loan through the Paycheck Protection Program is forgiven (as we expect it will be), and *if* we eliminate our 2020 deficit by the end of the year, **then our church family's Accumulated Deficit of \$261,877 will be eliminated.** You and I have no control over the first *if*. But together we can fulfill the second *if* and rise to meet the challenge and blessing that the Lord has placed before us.

Once again, we rejoice in God's unearned, priceless blessings that Christ purchased for us on the cross: the certainty that God is with us, even during a pandemic, and the sure and certain confidence that we will be forever with him in the Paradise of God. What other motivation do we need to work together to meet our shared goals?

Remember: **“My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Philippians 4:19)**

In Christ,

Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier

Please share this with a fellow member who you know does not have access to the internet. Thanks.