

A photograph of a forest path. The path is covered in fallen yellow and brown leaves. It splits into two paths: one leading straight ahead and another leading to the right. The right path is made of gravel. The trees are green, suggesting late summer or early autumn. The text is overlaid in the upper center of the image.

# The 2026 Appeal

## A Brief Church Financial Talk

# First, Our Balance Sheet Is In Great Shape!

Our net worth is  
about \$1.9 million.

But, we *operate* on yearly  
pledges/giving plus  
unpledged donations.  
So...



# Let's Examine The Recently-Completed Campaign's Results At A High Level.

**Stewardship** talent  
planning  
giving  
support  
LOVE  
treasure  
PLEDGE  
time  
caring  
faith  
community  
growing  
vision  
commitment  
blessing  
sharing

# ***Pledging Versus Previous Year:***

***Many pledged a little  
more.***

***Quite a few pledged the  
same as last year.***

***However...***



## ***Pledging Versus Previous Year:***

**Some pledged less due to  
personal circumstances.**

**A few donors moved or  
passed away- including  
some big ones.**

**Most importantly...**





Thank You  
FOR YOUR

Support

A collage of several US one-dollar bills is shown, overlapping each other. In the center, a wooden sign with two horizontal planks is placed. The top plank has the word 'FISCAL' and the bottom plank has the word 'DEFICIT', both in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The background bills feature the portrait of George Washington and various serial numbers and security features.

# FISCAL DEFICIT

## Did Pledges Meet The Total \$ Goal?

Fell about \$30K short.

### \$30K Could Cover:

- 3% inflation. (\$9K)
- New bookkeeping company. (\$15-20K)
- Other small items.

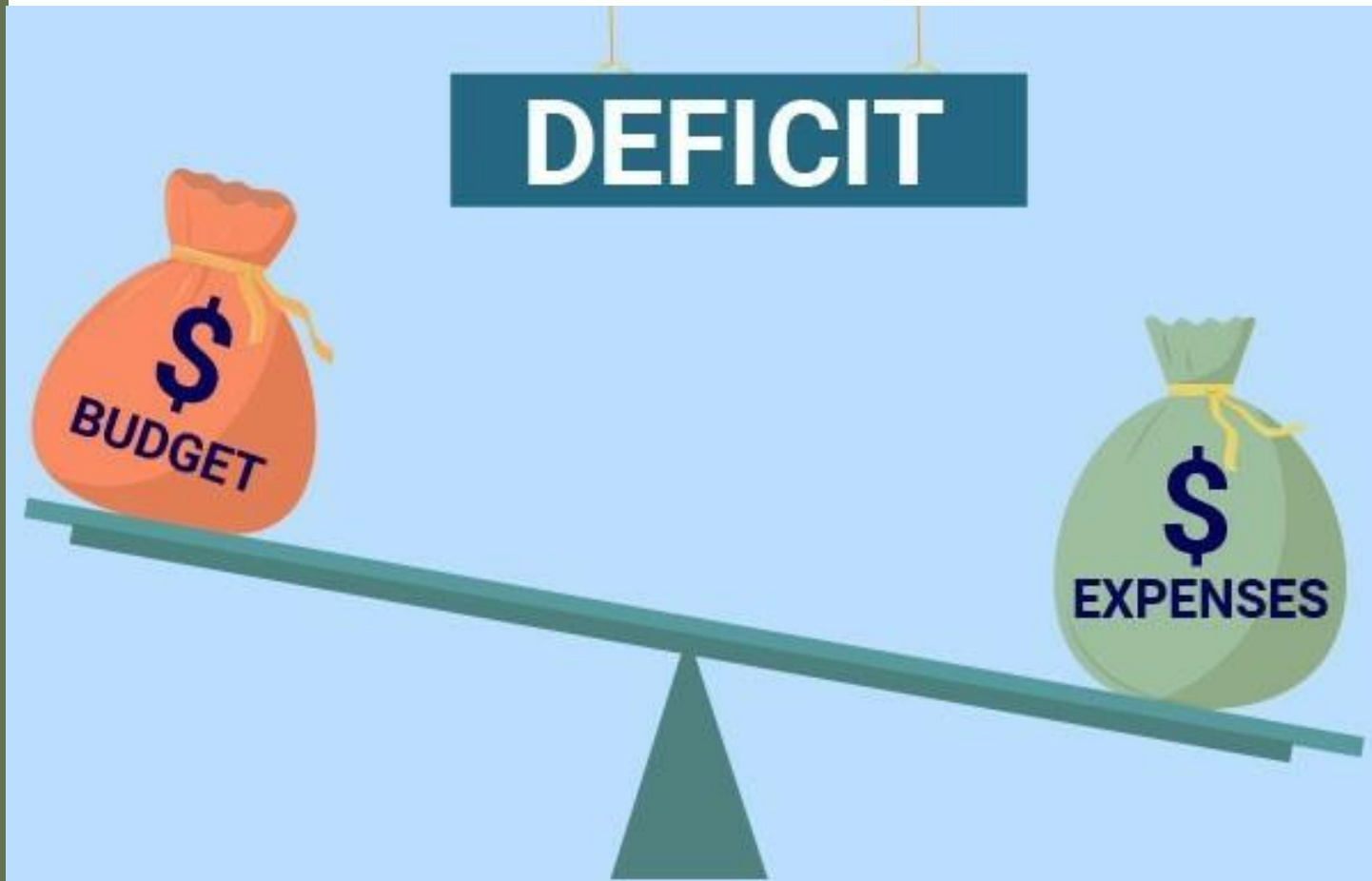
# What Do The Past And Future Tell Us?



**2025: Lower giving trend  
started.  
2026: Signs of it continuing.**

**Looking out 17 months:  
With no changes, deficit  
could be close to \$40K.**

# To Reduce/Possibly End Operating Deficits:



Now:

Raise \$30K. Or cut 30K in costs.

More likely: Combo.

Later:

See where we are in fall and re-approach.

# **A Note About Unpledged Giving:**

**First of all, thank you! Your contributions help a lot.**

**If there is any chance you can make a pledge, it will help us firm up budgeting and planning.**

**If pledging doesn't work for you, would you please consider increasing your plate/online donations?**

**We Have Arrived  
At A Fork In The Road.**



# Our Choices

**We can keep supporting Esperanza's growth with a bit higher funding each year.**

**For various reasons, we have hit a ceiling and must learn to live at the current funding level.**

# The *2026 Appeal* Campaign Starts Today.

## We Humbly Ask:

- Consider your stewardship pledge made in fall.
- If you can, please pledge a *supplemental* amount of **5-10% or any dollar amount** you are comfortable giving.
- Here's how to do so during this 3-week program...

# The *2026 Appeal* Campaign Starts Today.

## How To Pledge:

- Forms at tables by both doors.
- Only need name, email, phone, and the *amount* (not %) you are pledging in the *2026 Appeal*.



### 2026 Appeal

This is an appeal to further one's financial giving support for Esperanza Lutheran Church Financial Goals (2026).

Prayerfully, make your incremental intent (pledge) Today!

Family Name (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In response to God's grace and love I/we intend to give this additional offering during 2026 in support of Esperanza Lutheran Church's Appeal so that God can continue to Plant Seeds of Faith through Esperanza. I/We understand that this amount may be changed, if necessary, by notifying the Financial Secretary.

**Once Again...**

