

We now find ourselves well into the second quarter, looking back at the first quarter of 2020. What a quarter that was! In a time when variables have variables, it is comforting to know that Silverdale Lutheran Church is one constant in this whirling world. While the pandemic and financial matters continue to challenge us, we can report that Pledge Drive 2020 is now complete and was very successful.

With great relief to all of us, we received a number of large one-time financial gifts and a solid pledge obligation from 139 pledge cards. "Thank you so much" for your wonderful contributions and support. With that support, combined with a number of costs cutting efforts, along with pursuing other financial avenues, we have closed the spending gap we experienced. We have found a way forward financially for the rest of the year. While we are not out of woods yet, we are in a much better place in the woods!

We now set our sights on other challenges. For example, how do we open the church in this new environment while balancing the following topics?

- Healthy and Safe Environment for the Congregation, Employees and Volunteers
- Church Mission/Ministry
- Strategic Planning for Short Term and Long Term
- Church Communication
- Leadership
- Managing the Finances
- Getting The Word Out
- Emergency Planning
- Event Planning

I kept a book written by Tom Peters in my library, "Thriving on Chaos." Written quite a few years ago, it more or less gave notice to all leaders and managers that change would be a familiar issue in everyday life. While the title gives away the premise of the book, both the title and the book seem to resonate at this time. I recall one humorous quote from the book. "If you're not confused, you're not paying attention."

The Trustees and Council, with the ministry team and support staff, are working diligently to keep Silverdale Lutheran Church the familiar, vibrant, and welcoming place that you remember. Please keep all of us in your prayers as we find our way through this time of chaos and confusion. Hope to see you soon and in person!

Again, thank you so much for your patience, time, and your financial support.

Grace and Peace,
David Soine, Council President