

# NEWSLETTER

# THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

## MAY 2020



## WELCOME!

### GET IN TOUCH

**Church Address:** 115 N Washington Ave,  
Albert Lea MN 56007  
**Phone:** 507.373.2184  
**Fax:** 507.377.8990  
**Website:** salemalbertlea.org  
**Worship:** Sunday 9:00 am

### STAFF

**Pastor** Erica Cunningham  
Cell: 563.505.6417 | Home: 507.320.1950  
Email: [pastorerica1517@gmail.com](mailto:pastorerica1517@gmail.com)  
**Secretary:** Vicki Reichl  
Email: [secretary@salemalbertlea.org](mailto:secretary@salemalbertlea.org)  
Cell: 507.402.1775  
**Organist:** Eileen Nelson Ness  
**Custodian:** Ray Smith

### OFFICE HOURS:

Tue - Wed | 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Thu | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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[MAY AT SALEM](#)

### Worship during COVID 29

Because we unable to gather in person for worship, we are trying to come up with creative ideas to keep people engaged in worship and the life of Salem.

For those who have email, you will receive **Salem@Home** a modified service that allows you to worship at home. I am also emailing daily devotions. **If you are not receiving these emails, please email [pastorerica1517@gmail.com](mailto:pastorerica1517@gmail.com) and we will add you!**

Those who do not have email will be mailed a service each week.

These are challenging times. And we are navigating uncharted waters.

Thank you all for your patience and support during this time!

*While the in-person ministry is suspended if you need to contact Pastor Erica, please use any of the following:*

Pastor Erica Cell: 563.505.6417 (also texting)  
Pastor Erica Home: 507.320.1950 (also texting)  
Pastor Erica email: [pastorerica1517@gmail.com](mailto:pastorerica1517@gmail.com)

You can also find Pastor Erica on Facebook, Snapchat (reverica1517), Instagram (pastorerica1517), and Twitter (@pastorerica1)

You can also connect with Salem's Facebook page and our website!

*This is the update I recently sent to the council.*

I hope you are all doing well! I know these are trying times. This could be a long, rambling email and I apologize for that in the beginning! I have included Vicki and Eileen, since much of this will address worship. Please read carefully and let me know any questions you may have.

Window - We received a bid from Joseph on the window. It is about \$18,000. Our hope is to have this work done while we are still out of the building.

Zoom - I have been hosting a coffee hour on Wednesday mornings over zoom. I encourage those who can to participate! I can also add an evening option if wanted! If you need help with zoom, please let me know!

Offerings - We started this quarantine off strong. I don't expect that to last. (although it certainly could!) My plan is to keep all mail held at the Post Office until we are able to fully gather. We are also looking into getting a locked mailbox. Vicki will be calling the post office to see how to get this up and running. We had talked about it before, but just never got around to it. It would be helpful during this time, as well as in the future, so our mail isn't sitting outside.

Worship - This is the big one. I know everyone is wondering when we can gather again. I honestly don't see that happening before July. I obviously have no idea how/when we will be safe enough to gather. But I am trusting Dr. Fauci and Governor Walz to lead us. I am also in communication with the Freeborn County Dept of Health. All have been very helpful in guiding us. Recently a local pastor and funeral home got reprimanded for holding a graveside service with 25 people. They are watching very closely to keep us all safe.

It is likely even when we are allowed to gather again, we can only do so with minimal numbers. Those in the building will be required to wear a mask during worship. We probably cannot pass the offering plate for a while. I am unsure about communion. We may be able to safely do bread/wafers only, but that is TBD.

I am sure we will have to maintain 6 feet between us. For those who were at our last worship service on March 15, it will likely be very similar. We probably cannot sing. Eileen and I are tentatively talking about ideas. We could have a soloist. She could provide special music, etc.

There will probably be a time when we can have no more than 50 people. We will need to decide logistics. I am not sure we can safely have that many in our sanctuary.

At this point there is no point in making too many plans. As I learned when we closed down, things change very fast. As we get closer to opening, the worship and music committee will be working with the council to ensure all safety measures are met.

My only goal is to keep EVERYONE healthy. We have all seen the devastating effects in other states of churches and funerals that occurred and then people got sick and died. I do not want that to be Salem. It may be that some of the larger buildings may be open before us. Simply because of staffing and space.

I will keep offering online worship. I have no plans to stop anytime. It probably will be something we continue to offer even after we open.

You see I used the word "probably" a LOT. that is because we just don't know.

Thank you all for your service during this time. I miss you all!

*Pastor Erica*

# ROOF UPDATES

As of the end of April, the Gathering Space is complete! Carpeting has been installed! Now we can begin cleaning and resetting the space.

Thank you for all of your patience and support during this time. We will have a nice clean (DRY!) space in which to gather when we return!

The stained glass window and tuckpointing still need to be completed. Larry is working on getting bids for those.



## *Virtual Coffee Hour*

*Wednesday  
10:00 am*



Join us every Wednesday at 10am on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour!

If you need help connecting to Zoom, please contact Pastor Erica!

## Building Fund as of 5/1/2020

**Total Income: \$21,345.20**

### **Expenses:**

- Joseph Co ~ \$121,892.00
- Engineer (Short, Elliot, Hendrickson) ~ \$6,003.02
- Thompson Electric ~ \$5,983.63
- Slowinski Flooring ~ \$2,883.00
- Reim Roofing ~ \$545.68
- Water Softener ~ \$1,199.85

**Total Expense: \$138,507.18**

**Schwab Endowment Fund:  
\$117,000.00**



# FINANCIAL CORNER

MARCH INCOME

\$

MARCH EXPENSES

\$

MARCH INCOME VS. EXPENSES

2020 INCOME:

\$

2020 FROM SCHWAB:

\$

2020 OTHER TRANSFERS:

NOISY OFFERING:

2020 TOTAL:

\$164.19

QUIET OFFERING:

2020 TOTAL:

\$ 357.98

Memorial Gifts:

- Noisy Offering—in memory of JoAnn Nesje.
- Salvation Army Food Shelf—in memory of Emil Malakowsky.
- Sew 'N Tell—in memory of Delores Kraushaar.
- First Presbyterian Food Shelf—in memory of Clint Sanborn.



## Thank You for Doing All the Good You Can, Even In Times Like This

These are extraordinary times that call us back to our core values. As followers of Jesus, we want to do all the good we can, by all the means we can, in all the ways we can, in all the places we can, at all the times we can, to all the people we can, as long as we ever can. Mostly this plays out in all of the daily moments where faith and real-life intersect. Beyond ourselves, our congregation—and the broader church ecosystem we're part of—is another critical pathway for multiplying good. For many of us, the ministries resulting from our congregations and

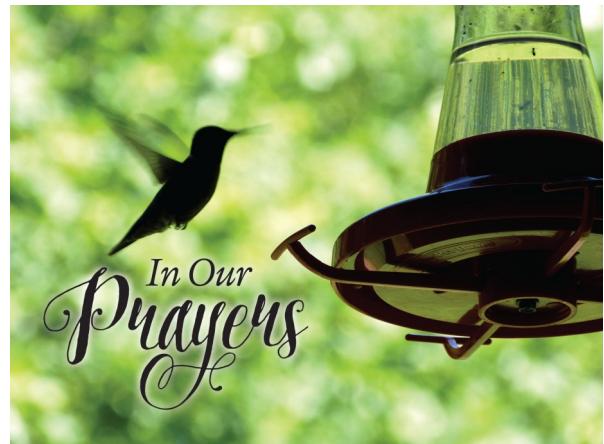
denomination are one of the most important ways we work collectively to make the world a better place. We want to thank you for your continued support of our ministry together! We know these are precarious times with the potential to undermine both our physical and financial health, and yet we still try to do all the good we can. Just as you are leading your families, leaders in our congregation are working thoughtfully and responsibly so that we might do all the good we can. There are real challenges, but also plenty to inspire both hope and gratitude.





# MAY Birthdays

<b>May 2</b>	Patti Cotton
<b>May 3</b>	Bev Wessels
<b>May 4</b>	Glenn Holty, Lynden Matthies
<b>May 7</b>	Jade Burns, Hunter Reisdorfer
<b>May 9</b>	Karla Kelly
<b>May 11</b>	Justine Jensen, Carol Wendel
<b>May 12</b>	Scott Jacobsen
<b>May 13</b>	Ken Laite, Lauren Rhodes
<b>May 14</b>	John Anderson Jennifer Ewing
<b>May 19</b>	Tom Eustis
<b>May 20</b>	Joshua Kelly
<b>May 22</b>	Sue Micklick
<b>May 23</b>	Sue Sherman
<b>May 24</b>	Hailey Deming, Aeron Mangskau
<b>May 31</b>	Lester Anderson, Kurt Cheever



## LET US PRAY...

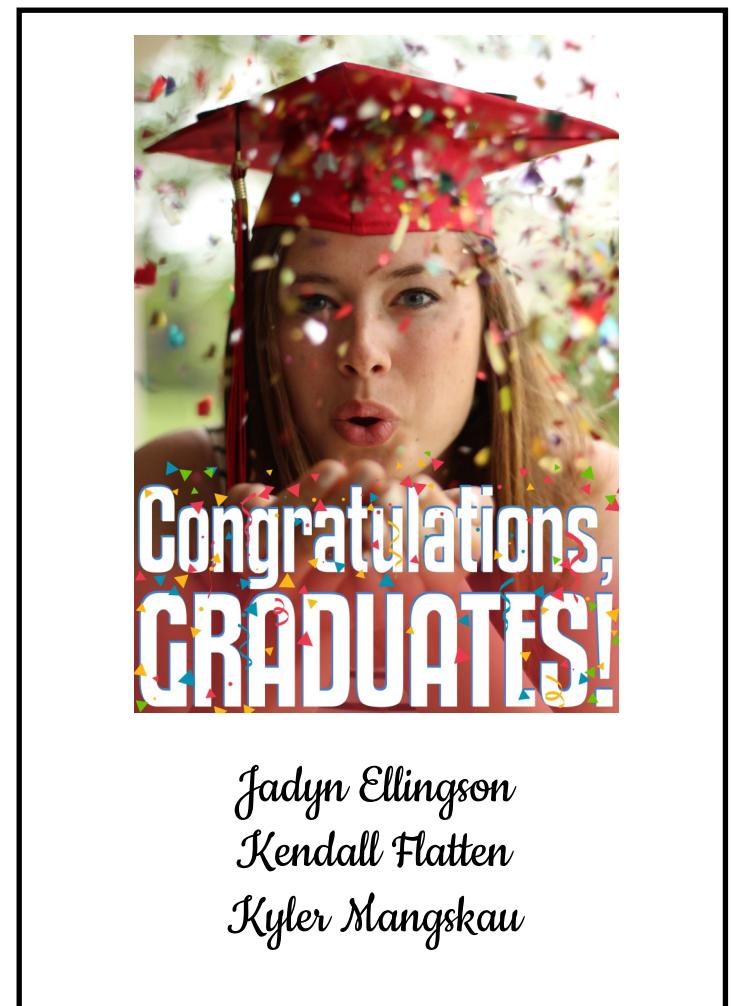
Darleen Zimmerman  
*Duane Wessels*  
*Mary Thompson*

*The family and friends of Vivian Brudvig (sister of Woody Hestness).*

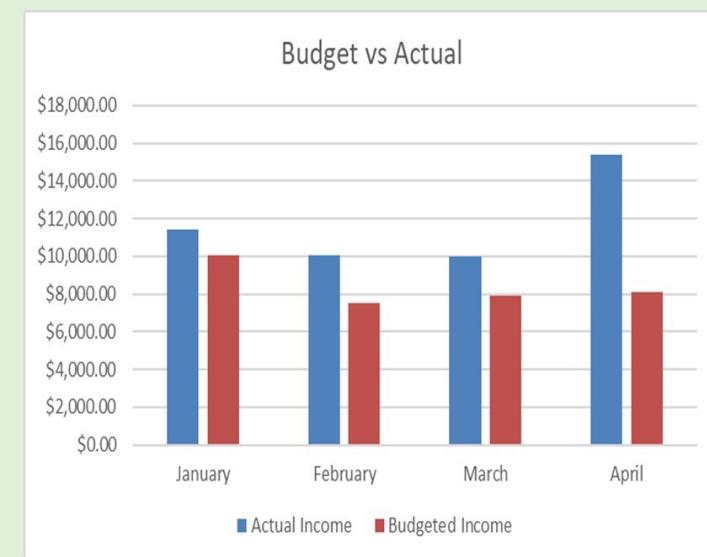


# MAY Anniversaries

<b>May 17</b>	Derek & Anne Sternhagen	12 years
<b>May 18</b>	Aaron & Lindsay Reisdorfer	9 years
<b>May 24</b>	Paul & Mary Thompson	67 years
<b>May 25</b>	Jack & Donna Werner	52 years
<b>May 26</b>	Eugene & Sharon Weckwerth	42 years



*Jadyn Ellingson  
 Kendall Flatten  
 Kyler Mangskau*



Giving is consistently over budget.

We have not had this since 2013!

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

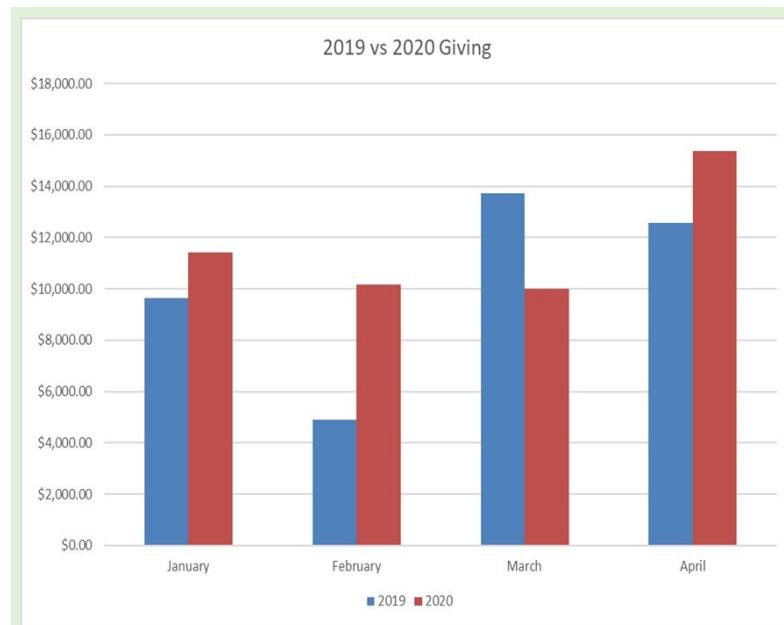
Currently at 140% of our budget!

Budget: January – April  
\$33,528

Actual: January – April  
\$46,839

This is on top of the Building Repair costs!

Please continue to give as you are able!



## THANK YOU!

Giving has increased from 2019 to 2020

Monthly Giving (on average) is 15% higher than last year.



### Paycheck Protection Program

Federal program through the Small Business Administration

Forgivable Loan which can be used for payroll, utilities, rent, mortgage

Council approved applying and we were granted \$17,820 through Home Federal.

This must be used over the next 8 weeks.

Thank you to Bruce and Jim for all of their work!

**SBA Loan**  
**APPROVED**



Salem Lutheran Church  
115 N Washington Ave  
Albert Lea MN 56007-2488

"Change Service Requested"

Postage Paid  
Permit No. 229  
Albert Lea MN 56007-  
2488  
Non-Profit Organization

## THE BUILDER | MAY 2020

### THE SIMPLICITY OF PRAYER

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of my miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Psalm 40:1-3

Dear Lord, you are with me in these fearful and uncertain times. You give me strength to face the difficulties that we are experiencing as the health of the world is at risk with the pandemic. As I pray, I feel your strength and love surrounding me. I know that you are with us as we turn to you knowing that you are listening and will help us throughout this fearful time. Thanks and praise to you, Lord God!!

