

February 2016 Council Corner

Another annual meeting has come and gone. We covered a lot of the same old/same old, but also made some choices that will hopefully bode well for the future of our church. Specifically, I would like to talk about the decision to reduce Pastor Evelyn's call from 50% time to 33% time. Hope Lutheran could not continue its decade-long trend of deficit spending. We would not last for too many more years if this was the case. The council had cut our budget to the bare minimum in most categories during previous budgetary cycles. We did not have too many areas to which we could turn.

In this light, I would like to give kudos to Pastor Evelyn. Not too many leaders would possess the intestinal fortitude to cut themselves from full-time to part-time without the guarantee that other sources of income would take the place of her lost salary. Yet, Pastor Evelyn stepped up to the plate and did what was best, not for her or her family, but for the long-term future of our church. The council hopes that this decision will help us balance the budget of Hope Lutheran and keep us from diving into our savings at the same rate as we have in the past.

It may sound like a broken record. However, the council felt that we need to emphasize further the importance of giving. It remains incredibly important that our members continue at their present rate in this category. Over the last two years, our congregation has increased the amount that they have given. We cannot cut back in this category just because our church saved a significant amount of money within our budget. Doing so will put us right back in the same position that forced Pastor Evelyn and the council to recommend this gut-wrenching move. Please find it in your hearts to continue supporting Hope Lutheran at your present rate.

On a lighter note, the council decided to recognize the entire membership of our church. In this light, we scheduled the date of April 24, 2016, for our first annual Hope Lutheran Spring Tea. The council specifically wants to focus upon the members of our congregation who have been with us for a while (10+ years). This includes people from the current church, the former Pike church, or any other church that may have been associated with Hope Lutheran in the past. Please contact Laura Rosenthal, Stan, or Pastor Evelyn if you know of anybody who you feel should be recognized for their contributions to our member churches. Also, if you have any pictures or mementos from yesteryear that lend to the history of our member congregations, do not hesitate to get in touch with the same people. We would like to share these treasures with the rest of our members on April 24.

In closing, I would like to send out a number of thank you's to the following members and/or groups:

- The members of WELCA for buying new faucets for the basement sink and Bill Wright for installing them. The faucets were bought locally at Pohaki's in Virginia.
- Lisa & George Myers for donating a 55-inch television to the church. Could we find ourselves on the precipice of the 2017 Hope Lutheran Super Bowl party???

The council and all the members of church appreciate your efforts. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to lend a hand. Our church could not function without great, caring people like you.

May God grant you peace until we meet again next month.....

Lance Kupka
Council President
Hope Lutheran Church