

## January 2016 Council Corner

The council focused intently on the budget at our meeting this month. This represents a time-honored ritual that every council has focused upon since the inception of our church. We made some hard decisions on the bitterly cold Sunday afternoon and am proud to say that we came within a few hundred dollars of last year's budget. Let us hope that our budgetary decisions do not miss wide left this year. Sorry! I could not resist.

We also talked about the subject of church maintenance. While new doors were put on this summer and talk about renovating the orange room took a spot on the agenda of multiple council meetings, other issues within the church have surfaced. Sagging ceiling tiles and a dripping faucet in the basement need some attention. Additional problems may or may not pop up in the future. With this mind, the council would like to inquire if a person or persons would like to step up and take over the leadership position of maintenance director. The position has not been filled for a while. This person(s) would not go it alone. You still would have Hope Lutheran's stable of volunteers at your disposal. However, it would be greatly appreciated if someone local could fill this void.

In December, our church welcomed multiple new members to our fold. It was very nice to see people solidify their commitment to God. However, the council felt that we should not forget the foundation of Hope Lutheran. We have many members sitting in the pews nearly every Sunday who have belonged to our congregation for a number of years. Their contributions have molded the fabric of our church. In this light, the council felt that it would be nice to honor those who have belonged to Hope Lutheran for ten, twenty, thirty, or even more years. Please do not hesitate to send us names of people who you would like to see honored. We have set a ballpark date of this summer for this event to take place.

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

- The entire staff of the church. You may be small in numbers, but you give back to our congregation in so many ways that it is impossible to list them all in a mere newsletter.
- The congregation of our church. The amount of giving increased in 2015 compared to 2014. Quite a few of our members are on fixed incomes, and the local economy is struggling. Thank you for doing what you can to help Hope function financially.
- All those who have volunteered their time over the past budgetary year. I hesitate to mention your names for fear of forgetting someone. However, you know who you are. Events/functions such as Communion, Lent, the bazaar, Sunday school, confirmation, coffee n', etc., could not take place without your efforts.

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. Happy holidays. I hope all of our members enjoy a merry christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

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

Lance Kupka  
Council President  
Hope Lutheran Church