

January 2017 Council Corner

Wow! Time has truly flown. This represents my last article for the newsletter for at least the next twelve months. As per our constitution, my time on the council has come to an end. I have immensely enjoyed serving our congregation in various capacities on the council over the past six years. I will miss the protracted discussions in which members engaged during this time in order to make Hope Lutheran a better place. I may or may not miss getting to see the first half of Viking games. To my successor, I wish the best of luck. May you have the strength, faith, and wisdom to make decisions that help Hope Lutheran to prosper well into the future.

At our most recent council meeting a few weeks ago, our members finally resolved the longstanding dilemma of what to do with the old parsonage well. Many of you know that the county told us last spring that our church could face a fine if we do not properly maintain the well. After a great deal of time and effort, Stan heard from C.C. Winger that we only have to cut the electrical chords and place a hand pump on top in order to meet code specifications for the county. What could have been a costly solution turned into a relatively economical fix. The loud noise you heard a few weeks ago on Sunday afternoon was the council collectively breathing a huge sigh of relief.

The main item from our meeting centered around the formation of our 2017 budget. For the first time in ages, council members started this process dealing with a budget surplus (albeit small) from the previous year. Nonetheless, we went through our budget on a line-by-line basis and made decisions that were not always easy. This resulted in a budget that totaled an amount slightly larger than the 2016 version. In this light, council members urge our congregation to maintain our levels of giving. The budget problems of the past were fixed by all of us working together. Let us keep that spirit of giving going well into the future.

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

- To all of the council members with whom I have served over the past six years. I learned a great deal about our church working with all of you.
- To everyone who has helped out by shoveling snow, salting both entrances, and cleaning up the leftovers from the plow during the current winter.
- To C & C Winger for your guidance in helping solve the issue with the old parsonage well.

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