

## Council Corner

Renovation took center stage as the hot topic of our most recent March 15 council meeting. Over the past year, our members have discussed various changes that we could enact to make our church more user-friendly to its members. In this light, we invited Anne Gierretts to visit our humble abode. Anne serves as a church building consultant for the ELCA Mission Investment Fund and covers the western half of the United States. We were fortunate to have her stop by and tour our church this past Ash Wednesday. She walked through with Bill Krueth serving as her gracious guide and gave us multiple, yet very practical, suggestions to improve the physical make-up of our building. Over the next several months, the council will attempt to make some of Anne's suggestions a reality. We will keep you posted.

The council also wanted to grant a heartfelt thanks to all of our members. Operating on a shoestring budget in the outreaches of northeast Minnesota is never easy for any small church. However, you have looked into your hearts and found a way to give just that little bit more every Sunday. As a result, the amount of giving compared to this time last year is up. Our income has exceeded our expenses on a number of occasions in the current budget year. Keep up the great work.

Finally, the council would like to express our gratitude to Jayanne Suikkonen for her multiple years of service as the church secretary for Hope Lutheran. She paid the bills, ran our financial reports, prepared the Sunday bulletins, got the mail, and put together all of the information needed for our annual reports--just to name a few of the many duties that she performed. In many respects, she functioned as the heartbeat of our church and made sure that everything ran as smoothly as possible during the multiple periods of transition that we experienced over the past several years. Good luck, Jayanne, in your future endeavors. We wish you nothing but the best. You will be missed.

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