

## November 2015 Council Corner

Thirty years ago, you probably could not have paid me \$1 million to get up in front of any type of large gathering and speak for an extended period of time. My fear of speaking in public has long since vanished, but my experience delivering the sermon on November 15 definitely gave me an even greater appreciation for Pastor Evelyn and all pastors throughout our country. Despite my heightened level of anxiety, I made it through in one piece. Ask me the topic of the sermon, and I probably could not have told you until a few hours later. It took me that long to regain my senses. Still, I would do it again in a heartbeat. That is what being part of small church is all about--helping out one another in times of need.

The council focused intently on the topic of Thrivent Action Team grants during our meeting this month. We were greatly impressed by Thrivent's recent presentation after services and wanted to discuss ways that these grants could be utilized to help out our church. Specifically, we looked at our planned renovation to the east side of the church (pastor's office, nursery, staff office, etc.) to make it more user-friendly to all of our members. Although our church cannot use the grants to pay for the labor costs associated with the renovation, we can use them to help pay for some of the supplies. This could greatly reduce our costs associated with such a venture. The council engaged in a lengthy discussion and decided that the topic definitely warranted further study in the very near future.

I want to send out some reminders to our members regarding issues covered in past columns. First, our youngest council member, Sky Dow, is presently attempting to form a Hope Lutheran youth group. Second, new member Sunday is set for December 6. If you know of any local youths who might be interested in getting together on a regular basis or possible new members who might be interested in becoming a part of our church, please contact Pastor Evelyn or Stan at the church.

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

- The ladies of WELCA for all of the hard work they put forth in planning and carrying out their annual bazaar. A great time was had by all.
- Gary Rantala for helping out with church services on November 15.
- Pastor Evelyn and Stan Dow, Jr., for chaperoning both the Gustavus Adolphus and Middle School Gathering Trips. Our youth greatly appreciate all of the time you take to help out with their various events.

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