

## October 2016 Council Corner

At our monthly meeting, the council took formal steps, based upon our discussion at the congregational meeting, to set our worship service at 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve night. This gives members an opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus and travel our winter roads at a reasonable time. We also decided to forgo a Sunday morning service for this year. With our worship service the previous night, the council felt that it did not make much sense to hold two services within sixteen hours. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Members also talked about our southern property line. Two years ago, many trees blew down during the unforgettable July thunderstorm that left multiple people without power for a few days. The passage of time has caused many of those trees to lean perilously close to falling on our property and even structures on our property, most notably our garage. This presents a huge safety concern. However, the council did not want to move on this issue until we followed the proper steps and communicated with our neighbor. Now that this has been done, expect the trees to come down sometime next spring, summer, or early fall.

If you have an opportunity, please take a gander at the new administrative assistant's office. Stan has done wonders with the room. The only major thing that remains is the transfer of the phone line. Bill Krueth and I looked at the possibilities to run the line from its present location over to the new office. With deer season now completed, we hope to have this done sometime in December. This hopefully represents a quick fix. However, you never know.....

The council was overjoyed to hear some good news regarding Pastor Evelyn's family. Her husband, Pastor Steve, recently started an interim ministry in Isle, Minnesota. This occurred after multiple previous interim jobs fell through for various reasons. Many of us on the Iron Range have experienced economic hardships during our lifetimes. Although this takes Pastor Steve away from his family for large periods of time, we are thankful that a certain level of stress was lifted from the family. My wife has always stated that the Lord never gives us more than we can handle at any given moment. This phrase seems especially true when looking at this situation.

Finally, I wanted to mention just a word regarding our cancellation of church services this past Sunday. This was not an easy decision. However, given the weather that resulted in various power outages in the area surrounding and including the church, the council felt that holding services would present numerous safety concerns. We questioned whether or not the church would have time to warm up to a reasonable level by worship service time even if the power came back on during the middle night. Second, the council could not take the chance making an educated guess about whether or not the parking lot would be plowed by Sunday morning. I hope that the weather does not force us into similar decisions for the remainder of the winter season.

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

- To all the parents who help out with our Confirmation program.
- To the Negley family for their offer to use their vehicles to get our Confirmands to the Middle School Gathering at Cragun's Resort. Although the weather forced the cancellation of this trip, the thought was much appreciated.

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