

## October 2016 Council Corner

A couple issues dominated our agenda at our October council meeting. First, we discussed Confirmation guidelines that would allow our church to define our requirements more clearly to our members. These guidelines covered our overall philosophy toward Confirmation, attendance requirements, behavioral expectations, worship attendance, sermon notes, acolyte responsibilities, service hours, and Faith Statements. The council felt that the stipulations were fair and still allowed a great amount of flexibility for our Confirmands in order to meet the requirements. In our eyes, Confirmation stands as one of the most important events in the faith history of our lives. We should not devalue it.

The council also took steps to modify Pastor Evelyn's compensation package. We did not change her overall level of compensation, which would have required congregational approval. Instead, we rearranged her portico benefits in order to help meet her family's needs. With her husband's interim ministry benefits coming to an end, members felt that this represented the right steps to take. We learned some unforeseen life lessons during this process. Even in the midst of extreme pastoral shortages within our synod, interim ministry does not always guarantee employment. Please pray for Pastor Evelyn and her family during these tough times.

Finally, the council reviewed our budget numbers through the first nine months of the year. We were heartened to see that our incomes has outpaced our expenses during this time. For a small church in northeastern Minnesota, this represents great news. Our monetary struggles have been no small secret over the past several years. The congregation deserves a pat on the back. However, this does not mean that we should rest on our laurels. Please continue to give at your current levels. It will take a great deal of effort to keep our bottomline solvent.

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

- To all those who made the trek over to Virginia for the dedication of the Dow family's new house.
- To our coffee n' servers. I retain my efforts to lose a few pounds. However, the food is so good on Sunday afternoons that six days of discipline always loses out to the tasty treats on tap downstairs.
- To all the ladies working hard to prepare for our annual bazaar. Your efforts will surely result in a successful event.

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  
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