

PRESIDENT'S END-OF-THE-YEAR REMARKS-DECEMBER 20, 2020

We are about to close out another calendar year. March of this year took us all into new territory. This led to many changes in the way we live our daily lives. Hope Lutheran also had to change the way we conduct worship services, Bible Classes and meetings. The Elders and Church Council discussed how we were going to proceed in the following months. These changes continue to be our way of life in our ministries. We have continued to hold regular worship services, Bible Classes and all meetings during the past nine months. God has and will continue to be our strength.

As you read in the minutes from our September meeting, I thanked many individuals for their time and effort for many accomplished projects. Some work together as a group and others come to church on their own to fulfill both small and large projects. The main project that continues to see much improvement at this time is our live-streaming. Stan and Cheryl strive to have a well-polished broadcast each Sunday. Our consultant Andrew with Josh and several others are all working together to provide this ministry for our congregation. From a small camera in the front of church to now being in the rear of church with all new and up-to-date equipment and a designated area, we have come a long way.

Our finances, as we discussed earlier, are doing extremely well. I am so grateful to our members for their continued support of our church. We have members not in attendance, due to various circumstances, continuing to send in their contributions. The Council had a special meeting to discuss budgeting an amount for all the AV equipment. Prior to the conclusion of our meeting, Council members indicated they were contributing various amounts to cover the entire cost of the AV purchases. Therefore, it was not necessary for the congregation to approve this item. Again, Praise God for all our members.

We also need to remember that our financial cushion is a blessing from God. Even though our mortgage has an extremely low balance, we need to maintain adding to our savings for the future. As many of you know, Pastor is on the Navy medical plan of only \$50.00 a month. In contrast, if he was on the Concordia plan for Pastors and Teachers the monthly obligation would be approximately \$2,000.00 a month. This obviously is a substantial savings to our congregation.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Council for the time and effort they provide to our congregation. I personally appreciate working together in ministry with each individual. Thank you also to the Elders for their leadership in providing meaningful worship services and seeing that we always remain faithful to our mission statement, "Dedicated To Knowing Christ and Making Him Known To Others."

George Kelm, President of the Congregation