

Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church

December 2004



Notes from the Edge of the Desk

We used to be a game-playing family. We have stacks of board & card games on a set of shelves downstairs: Pictionary; Boggle; chess; Sequence; Trivial Pursuit – most of the classics, & a few obscure ones. We used to play them pretty regularly, when times were simpler & we were all closer. Now the family plans get-togethers with the precision of a covert air strike over enemy territory. Synchronize our watches. Get in – do our thing – get out. Don't look back. No time for a game of cards or Monopoly.

One of the board games we used to play was LIFE. Everyone would be given a little plastic car as a game piece, and you were off. Within the first few spins, you'd get married, be assigned a career & salary, & have 1-4 kids. (You might have more, but they wouldn't fit in your car, so you had to leave the extras on the side of the board, like so-much road kill.)¹ After 40 minutes or so of spins, moving your car ahead & back, you'd reach the end of the game. Then you'd cash out your spouse, kids, house, etc.; add up your cash on hand, & whoever had the most, won.

Now it is Advent. We arrive breathless at another season of the church – fresh off of the Thanksgiving weekend – food, football, family. Tums. Someone said at coffee that the holidays have really snuck up on them, but that's not true. All of us are running headlong through our year, dashing around corners & turning calendar pages to be smacked upside the head with the realization that there is ever more to do. Christmas shopping & cards; gatherings; Swedish Supper; more Tums – it all lies ahead of us like a continent-sized REAL-LIFE game. Are we even cognizant that we are playing for real now? There is just this one shot for us to get it right – for ourselves, for our families, for the world, for eternity.

In the first Gospel lesson of this Advent, Jesus notes that "in those days before the flood, they were eating & drinking, marrying & giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, & THEY KNEW NOTHING until the flood came & swept them all away. So too will be the coming of the Son of Man..." Wow. That describes us pretty much to a T. We know nothing, except what's written within that box on the calendar, or that line on our DayTimers, or on the screen on our Palm Pilots. We set up our activities, all pointing to this or that deadline.

Deadline: shouldn't even the very word be telling us something?!

Romantically, we think of Advent as our time to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ-child, and that is just fine. But more realistically, Advent points not to the last time Jesus came to earth, but rather TO THE LAST TIME HE WILL COME TO EARTH!

December is the month when our service providers start handing out calendars, & we start getting them as gifts. Here's your assignment: take the ones you are going to use, & each month on a random date, write in this question – IS JESUS COMING TODAY? Will it slow us down? No way! But maybe in the midst of our dash through 2005, we will have twelve or more opportunities for it to come to the front of our heads & linger there for a moment. It's a start.

rod

¹(Why did the chicken cross the road? To prove to the raccoon that it could be done...)

Let Us Renew Our Yuletide Prayers For Peace On Earth.

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Worship 10:30
Coffee 9:30

Sunday School
9:15

SERVING COFFEE IN DECEMBER

5th-Angie & Brad Lambert
12th-J Charlene Peterson
19th- Rod & Cheryl
26th-



Faith Council

Faith Lutheran Church Council met at 7:30 pm on November 1, 2004. Members present were Joe Buda, Scott Engquist, Grant Gibbons, Marc Greenfield, Jan Peterson, Dorothy Nahnsen, Jeff Peterson and Pastor Rod. Pastor Rod Led the council in devotions based on Jonah 2:10.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted. We have a balance of \$3486.92. No money had been transferred from the Money Market account.

The Harcourt sign will be put up and the church sign relocated shortly.

The light on the steeple still needs to be replaced.

Pastor Rod reported that the water softener has been fixed.

Dorothy gave an update on the Thrivent activities.

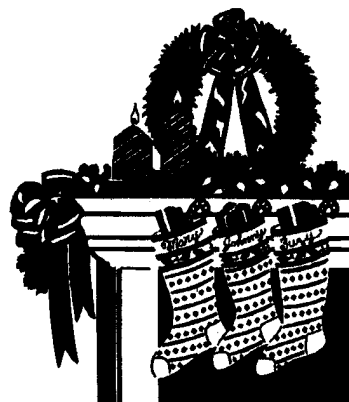
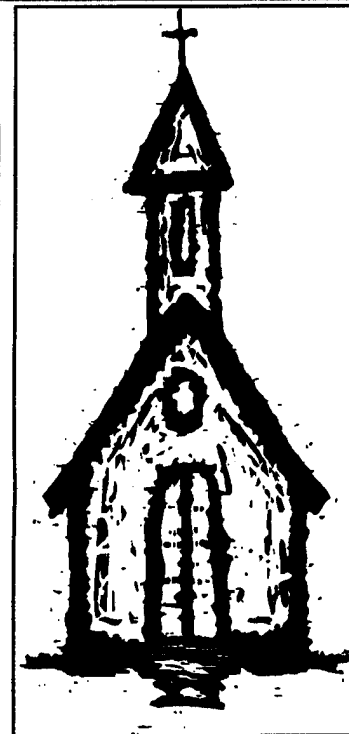
Pastor Rod reported that attendance at Sunday church services is up.

Budget items were reviewed. The motion was made, seconded and carried that we pay \$500 to Benevolence this month and \$500 in December. Contributions to Lutheran Lakeside and Prison Ministry were tabled until next meeting.

The Christmas party will be at Marvin Gardens on December 8, 2004 at 7:30 pm.

The church membership list was reviewed. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Nahnsen



Treasurer's Report

Balance 10/1/04	\$1842.60
October Deposits	\$4418.56
October Expenses	<u>\$2774.24</u>
Balance 10/31/04	\$3486.92

Serving Faith

Ushers-
Brad Lambert & Rollie Gustafson

Communion Assistants-
Kari Bahr & Marc Greenfield

Altar & Greeter-
Angie Lambert & Kari Bahr

Altar Flowers-
Shirley Engstrom
In Memory of Loved Ones



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

On Saturday, December 25th at 9 a.m., there will be a Christmas Day service with Communion at Zion Lutheran Church in Gowrie.

You are invited to join us on this Holy Day in worship & praise.



Christmas Program & Potluck

On Sunday, December 19th the Sunday school children will present their annual Christmas program to our congregation during the worship service at 10:30am. The members will enjoy a potluck dinner following the program. Everyone is asked to bring food to share. Table service and beverages will be provided.

YOUTH STUFF

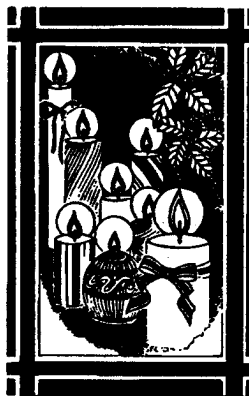
The Faith & Trinity youth had raised money in October to help the less fortunate for Thanksgiving & Christmas. They received matching funds from Thrivent. On November 21st, the Youth went bowling in Fort Dodge. Afterwards, we went shopping at Wal-Mart. The eight kids chose names off the Giving Tree & each purchased the items from that list, plus a little something extra that wasn't asked for. We then started shopping for the food pantry in Boone County. The kids had a great time pricing food & finding the best deals. They also figured out that they needed to put things together, like spaghetti & sauce. We had three grocery carts full of products when we were done. The kids were amazed at how much they got for their money. They also purchased additional clothing items for Operation Christmas, and hats & gloves for the Mitten Trees at their churches. We then went for pizza: they were all hungry after all that shopping.

The next meeting will be December 19th. We will be seeing "Polar Express" & having dinner. See you then!

Rod & Cheryl

Christmas Eve Service

The four Sundays of Advent prepare us for this special day. May we join together on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 9:00 pm for a candlelight service to celebrate the birth of our Savior.



Attention Sunday School

On December 26th and January 2nd, Sunday school classes will not meet. January 9th classes will resume again at 9:15 am. Happy Holidays!

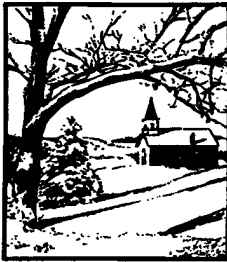


Faith Lutheran Church

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Parsonage ph. #515/354-5224
Pastor's Cell #351-0312
Co-op Office #515-352-3645

*If you would like a pastoral
visit, or we can serve you in any
way, please call us & let us
know.*



- December 1 Advent Christmas Party at Fulton 1:30 pm
December 2 Choir 7:30 pm
December 5 Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am
Coffee Hour 9:30 & Sunday School 9:15
December 8 Church Council 5:30 pm Dinner 7:30 pm
December 9 WELCA Christmas Bingo Party 2 pm
Choir 7:30 pm
December 12 Worship & Sunday School Program 10:30
Coffee Hour 9:30 & Sunday School 9:15
Youth Group 3 pm - "Polar Express"
December 16 Choir 7:30 pm
December 19 Worship 10:30 & Christmas Program
Potluck Dinner
December 24 Christmas Eve Service 9:00 pm
December 25 Christmas Day Co-op Service at Zion
December 26 Worship 10:30 am
Coffee Hour 9:30 pm
No Sunday School Dec. 26th or Jan 2nd
Dayton Care Center Service

WELCA NEWS

December WELCA News 2004

Well again November has come & gone, & December is knocking at the door. I seem to get slower & slower every year – or possibly I have found the true meaning of Christmas & the joy of Christ's birth. The glitz, glamour, & gifts are just stuff – the true meaning is having family & friends near, all year long. I'm sure Rod doesn't think I have slowed, since I keep buying for a grandchild that won't be born until May – but again, it is God's blessing, and like His own son's birth, it is something to celebrate & cherish.

Table affair was a great success & the money (approx. \$1100, including Thrivent funds) will be used for a new water heater & items for the kitchen. A reminder that we will be having our WELCA Christmas meeting on Dec. 9th at 2 p.m.; please bring a \$5 gift.

I would like to thank each & every one of you for all your hard work, support & understanding this year. We had a great 2004, & I am looking forward to 2005 as another fun & busy year.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
Cheryl

