

# Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church  
Harcourt, Iowa

September 2005

## Notes from the Edge of the Desk

I've been looking for a book of music all summer long. If I stop looking today, it will show up by next Tuesday. That's the way it works in my life.

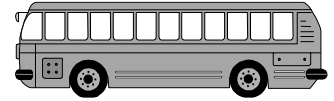
I needed a copy of my birth certificate to go to Canada fishing, but I didn't worry about finding it, because Cheryl knew that it was in the lock box – except it wasn't. Taking a lesson from my white socks in the dryer, it had executed an escape plan, and, in a strange twist of fate, ended up in my supplemental sock drawer in my night stand. Cheryl found it. I never would have, until I quit looking for it, or ceased to need it.

Part of our problem is that we have so much storage space in our house. Closets & more closets – shelves – drawers – filing cabinets – dressers – half a basement... There are lots of places for things to end up. Light bulbs & envelopes have landed in the cedar closet. Candles & decks of cards are in the entry closet. All the dog stuff & bug sprays are in the rear entry closet. My battery powered drill & bits are in the guest bedroom's dresser drawer. There must be a pattern, but I haven't deciphered it yet.

There is a pantry unit over the basement stairs that is a wonder to see. Opening that door will immediately make one ask two questions: "How do you know what you've got?" [I don't.], & "How do you get to it?" [I can't.] That's the reason, when I know I'm going to cook, that I go out & buy all the ingredients I'm going to need brand new; that way, I know I'll have everything I need to get my meal on the table. It also explains why we have eleven little cans of Tone's Celery Seed, & why the spice shelf has a secondary, expansion location in another cabinet in the kitchen.

The worst thing that I can possibly do is to put something away in a particular place, so I'll know where it is when I need it. Inevitably, I will NOT know where I put it, & if I should find it, it will be in a place so odd that I will spend the next two hours wondering why I thought I would ever automatically think, "Oh, I need that thing now! I know just where to go to find it again..." I put things away at Christmas, so I'd know just where to find them come January. We are still missing an 18 inch stone statue of a Dalmatian & an entire set of Wizard of Oz collectables. (It's entirely possible

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**Worship 9:00**  
**Coffee 10:00**

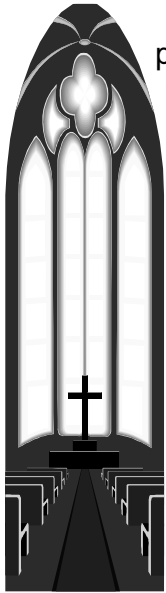
**SundaySchool-**  
**Sept. 11-10:15am**

## SERVING COFFEE IN SEPTEMBER

4-  
11- Church Council  
18- Donna Brundage  
25- Angie Lambert



## REDEDICATION SUNDAY-9/11/05



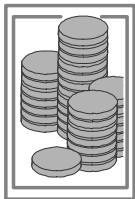
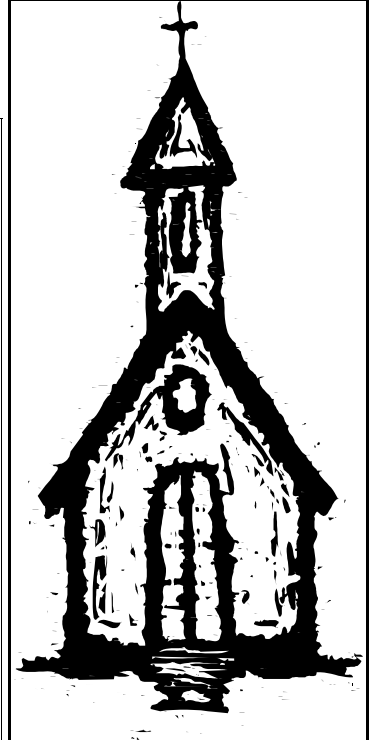
Much of the summer of 2005 at Faith was dedicated to improvements, both physical & cosmetic. Our roofing project on the central portion of the structure is complete; all it needs now is to age a little, so as to match the rest of the roof. It probably won't take long.

We lost our steeple cross to lightening this summer. It has been removed to be rebuilt, & will be back with us soon... we hope!

However, by far the biggest, most visible improvements made were to the sanctuary. Plaster has been repaired, & the whole of the interior painted, to coordinate with the color scheme of the entry & to highlight the architectural features of the sanctuary, the windows, & the altar area. The wooden floors were sanded & varnished. The pews were chemically stripped & refinished, & the harvest gold pew cushions were reupholstered to harmonize with the new color scheme. I believe the effect is beautiful & tasteful, & will enhance your worship experiences for years to come.

We thank all those whose efforts made all these improvements possible, while simultaneously remembering that all our efforts are accomplished to the glory of God. That said, during worship service on Sunday, September 11th, we will rededicate our sanctuary, our church, & ourselves to God & His purposes. That service will be preceded by a **Pancake Breakfast**, which will be served from 8-8:45 a.m. The Rededication **Service** will follow at 9 a.m., & **Sunday School for 2005-2006** will begin at 10:15 a.m. We hope you will join us in this celebration of our continued blessings at Faith.

In the meanwhile, spend some time thinking about how you could rededicate yourself & your efforts to the mission that Faith Lutheran represents, & to the church family which God has gifted to you.



### *Treasurer's Report*

**No church council meeting in August, so there are no secretary or treasurer reports this month.**

## Serving Faith

**Ushers-**  
Alex Engquist & Austin Engstrom

**Communion Assistants-**  
Don Peterson & Kari Bahr

**Altar & Greeter-**  
Shirley Engstrom & Rosalie Gaworski

**Altar Flowers-**  
John & Marsha Samuelson  
In Memory of Loved Ones

**CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation classes will begin Sept. 11th, during the Sunday School time. This year we do an overview of the Bible, using the book, "CHOSEN—The Story God & His People". Marc Greenfield will teach this class—if a student must miss a Sunday class, it can be made up the following Wednesday night at 6:30 at Trinity in Boxholm.

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N****SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday, September 11th, Sunday school will resume at 10:15 am following worship. Come and see what exciting stories & activities your teacher has to share with your class. Get ready for another fun year!

*(continued from page 1, NOTES FROM THE EDGE)*

that, when I was 8, someone asked me to put Jimmy Hoffa's body somewhere, so I'd know where to find it when they came looking for it; within a week of my death, Jimmy will show up in a sock drawer or someplace...)

The thing is, whatever I'm searching for doesn't move from space to space & place to place, hiding from me. It is wherever I last placed it ... but I can't put my hands on it when I need to because I have lost track of it.

Increasingly, people are bemoaning the sense that the meaning has gone out of their lives. They are busier & busier doing more & more, all of which added together means less & less. They have become extensions of their vehicles & their date books & their cell phones, instead of those things being extensions of them.

Life is more than the list of the things we do. Meaning for your lives is just where you last saw it: it's in God's Word, & in the Sacraments, & in the lessons & the promises that Christ lived & died for us to have. You need to revisit those beliefs & values often, so you'll know how & where to access them, when you need them. And you need them daily.

*"I was glad when I heard them say, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'"*

rod

**FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE OFFICE**

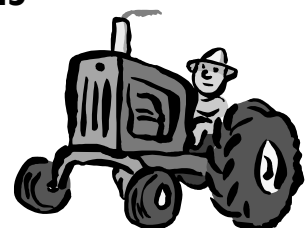
\*The Women of the ELCA, Cluster 8 fall meeting will be held at Zion in Gowrie on October 1st. All unit officers are to meet at 9:00 am for coffee with officers training to follow at 9:30am. The general business meeting and program will be at 10:30am. Lunch will follow. Babysitting will be provided. Everyone is encouraged to attend and win one of the many door prizes. See you there!

\*Our next prison visit is Sept. 21 and we have 5 spaces available.

\*On September 19 at 7:00 p.m. - at Zion Lutheran Church the area Stephen Ministers will host a PUBLIC FORUM featuring guest speakers from: **THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**, someone from **SHIP: Senior Health Information Provider**, and a representative from **MEDICARE** about the new Medicare Prescription Program Part D.

**Lawn Mowers  
For September**

**4- Jeff Peterson**  
**11-Todd Clay**  
**18- Engquist Family**  
**25-**



## FAITH CHOIR

It's time for us to think about Choir again! I would like to unofficially start on Thursday, 9/8 at 7:30 p.m.: it would be great if we could pull something out of our repertoire to sing for the Rededication Service on 9/11.

We will officially start on Thursday, Sept. 22nd at 7:30 p.m. At that time, we will discuss how we want to schedule the season.



This group always has a good time—if you have ever thought that you'd like to join us, this would be a great time to start!

- September 4 \*Worship/Communion 9 am , Coffee Hour  
\*Dayton Care Center Service 3 pm
- September 7 \*Bingo at Dayton Care Center 2:15 pm  
Bring Cookies
- September 8 \*Choir 7:30 pm ( Anthem for 9/11)
- September 11 REDEDICATION SUNDAY  
\*Breakfast at Faith 8 am  
\*Worship 9 am, Sunday School 10:15 am  
\*SW Ambulance Fundraiser, 11am-1pm
- September 14 \*Twin Lakes Retreat
- September 15 \*Martha Group 2 pm at church  
Pearl Peterson, Hostess  
\*Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church  
Jan Peterson, Hostess
- September 18 \*Worship 9 am,  
\*Coffee Hour & Sunday School 10:15 am
- September 22 \*Choir 7:30
- September 25 \*Worship 9 am  
\*Coffee Hour & Sunday School 10:15 am
- September 28 \*Dayton Oaks Retreat
- September 29 \*Choir 7:30

## WELCA NEWS—September, 2005

By now, we have all enjoyed the great food and fellowship of the Ice Cream Social and thank you to all who helped make the day a success. In August we resumed our group meetings after the summer break. I am sure the Martha group all had heavy hearts as they missed the presence of one member, Carol Castenson. She has always been an important part of our church family for the past 24 years that I have been a member here, and I miss her also every Sunday. In her own quiet manner, she found ways to help out at church. Quilt days were important to her as well as attending the group meetings when she was able. She often asked me to purchase coffee for her to contribute to the coffee hour we all enjoy every Sunday, as she was no longer able to bake, but found a way that she could help. I called her our "Coffee Angel." Often, I am told that people are not asked to help serve, especially at funerals. I guess I always plan to help and hope that any one else who is able will do the same. We have so many members who are unable to work due to their jobs, so everyone is always needed. I feel it is a way we can be of service to our church family as well as serving God. In September we have many dates to note as the month approaches.

- Sept. 7 Bingo at Dayton Care Center, 2:15 pm, bring cookies
- Sept. 14 Twin Lakes Retreat (pre-registration by 8/26)
- Sept. 15 Group meetings
- Sept. 28 Dayton Oaks Day of Renewal Retreat

We, the Women of Faith, are all important and seem to find ways of making a difference in so many ways, ways that we find to fulfill our service to Faith and to God.

Marsha