

Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church
Harcourt, Iowa

November 2005

Notes from the Edge of the Desk

Sunday School kids have such a refreshing outlook on things we take for old hat.

There is a story of a Sunday School class which was discussing the voyage of Noah & his family on the ark. The conversation moved to the topic of what Noah & his family might have done to keep busy during the forty days & nights of rain, & the long wait for the waters to recede afterwards.

"Well, they'd have to take care of all the animals. That would take a lot of time," said one who had experience with this firsthand; he had a gerbil. The rest quickly concurred. Taking care of all those animals would be very time consuming.

"I bet they played cards," said another. "That's what my family does." Indeed, many of the children had seen their parents & families playing cards for hours on end, & it seemed logical to them that Noah's family would spend some of their forced captivity playing Euchre or Pinochle or something. A consensus was reached: they probably played cards, too.

Then one little girl offered up a suggestion. "Well, they had a boat & they had all that water. I'll bet they went fishing a lot."

But another child adamantly protested that they most certainly would **not** have gone fishing – not once, not ever.

That peaked the Sunday School teacher's interest, so she asked the child, "What makes you so sure that Noah & his family never went fishing?"

The response: "Well, geez, you just told us that they only had two worms..."

I was reminded of that story by a display that the Trinity Sunday School kids did in the window of the entry to the sanctuary. Each sheet of paper has the child's picture on it, plus their name, & their favorite color, sport, Bible story & Disciple. The favorite Bible story was Noah & the Ark by a wide margin, with an honorable mention for Daniel in the Lions' Den, & Joseph & his Colored Coat.

But for me, what really set this display apart was the girl who chose Judas as her favorite disciple. It would be a radical choice for an adult, to pick Judas above all the rest, but, really, isn't Judas a great

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Worship 9:00

Coffee 10:00

Sunday School
10:15

SERVING COFFEE IN NOVEMBER

6th– Diane Peterson
13th– Youth Group
20th– Rod & Cheryl
27th– Milt & Deb Smith



Faith Church Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council met October 6, 2005. Members present were Kari Bahr, Joe Buda, Dorothy Nahnsen, Jan Peterson, Jeff Peterson, Don Peterson, John Samuelson and Pastor Rod. Pastor Rod led the Council in devotions based on Matthew 22:34.

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2796.49 which included the \$1433 that was not returned to savings. The balances of the other accounts remain the same, \$2613.40 in the Memorial Fund and \$928 in the church savings account. The treasurer's report was approved.

John reported on the cross. He has not received a check yet but was told that one is in the mail. He will contact the contractor as soon as it arrives. John reported that the Harcourt Betterment Club will pay the cost to run the lights and do the landscaping around the flag pole.

Arlene Hintch met with the council asking the church to sponsor the gospel group, Higher Power, some time in June. There will be no charge and a free will offering will be taken. Arlene will be in charge of the arrangements. A motion was made and carried that the church will sponsor this group.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that the money from the Doris Nordstrom memorial be used to purchase an Advent wreath with oil candles and a Nativity set.

Pastor Rod reported that he had talked with Modern Sound regarding a new sound system for the church to include speakers in the new entry room. The cost will be approximately \$10,000-12,000. No action was taken at this time. Pastor Rod reported that there had been a problem with sewer gas in the parsonage. It has now been fixed.

October 23rd, members from the Countryside Ministry will be visiting Faith during and after services. While here they will be visiting with the members and presenting a survey for members to fill out concerning the Cooperative.

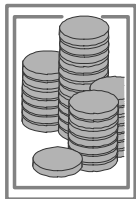
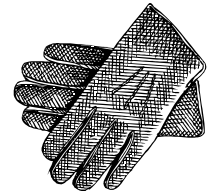
Pastor Rod spoke about Confirmation classes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Nahnsen



**CONTRIBUTE TO THE
MITTEN TREE IN THE
ENTRY WAY!!
EVERY CHILD'S HANDS
SHOULD BE WARM THIS
WINTER..**



Treasurer's Report

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Beginning Balance 9/1/05 | \$ 6609.13 |
| September Deposits | 3286.50 |
| September Expenses | <u>7099.14</u> |
| Balance 9/30/05 | \$ 2796.49 |

Serving Faith

Ushers-

Scott Engquist & Roy Tallman

Communion Assistants-

Dorothy Nahnsen & Jan Peterson

Altar & Greeter-

Joan Peterson & Charlene Peterson

Altar Flowers-

Arlene Hintch

(continued from page 1, "Notes from the Edge...")

Christian choice?! It must take a child or Jesus to see that no one is evil clear through. Didn't Jesus pick Judas, & call him to be a disciple with all the rest? And didn't Jesus teach him, & train him, & travel with him? On the very last night they were all together before the crucifixion, didn't Jesus get down & wash Judas' feet, just like all the rest, even though Jesus knew what Judas was planning? And which one of us hasn't done something that we will regret the rest of our lives?

And, well, geez, don't we always say that God will forgive us for whatever we do wrong?

Think about it: would you REALLY be surprised if Jesus forgave Judas, too?

Maybe a child has a better perspective for seeing beyond the mistakes Judas made, & seeing him as someone who Jesus loved anyway. Maybe when you're a little shorter & a little less judgmental, you can appreciate how great an area the circle of His grace encompasses.....

rod

THRIVENT MEETING

Sunday, November 6th is the Webster County Thrivent Financial Annual Meeting at St. Paul Lutheran School at 2 pm. Everyone is invited to attend to select volunteer leaders for the coming year. Information will also be given on activities of the past year.

Faith was awarded \$1300 in 2005 as matching funds from Thrivent for the following events. \$600- the Pork Loin Dinner, \$200- Soup Lunch & Bake Sale, \$200- Ice Cream Social, \$200- Table Affair and \$100 to the Youth Bake Sale & Coffee for holiday baskets.

Thanks to Thrivent for their support of area Lutheran Church activities and other fundraisers.

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How nice it was that so many of you remembered us during Clergy Appreciation Month.

Thank you all!

Please know that how much Cheryl & I appreciate you for your friendship, your support, & your dedication to the congregational ministry we share....

rod

TABLE AFFAIR RESULTS

Last Saturday, we had our fourth & most successful Table Affair event. Fourteen tables were decorated in various themes: "Hello, Dolly"; "Dogs by the Pound"; "A Special Star"; "Grandma's Kitchen"; "Bountiful Harvest Table"; "The Seasons of Thomas Kinkade"; "Under the Tuscan Sun"; "Singin' in the Rain"; "Angels Abound"; "Get to the Point-settia"; "Let It Snow"; "Thank Heaven for Little Ghouls"; "Christmas of Yesteryear"; & "Cock-A-Doodle-Do".

A full house of one hundred & ten guests were served, plus the people who were hosting & serving the event. A highlight of the event was the "Blue Willow Chicken Salad", though all the salads & desserts were wonderful. Our guests were impressed with the tables, the hospitality, the refurbished sanctuary; & the new Nativity set that was purchased for the altar for the upcoming Advent, Christmas & Epiphany seasons.

The event grossed \$921, plus \$200 matching funds from Thrivent. Some of the funds will be used for improvements to the handicap-accessible restroom on the main floor.

Congratulations & thank you to all who participated in what has become a signature event for Faith & our community.

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
7:30 P.M., NOV. 23, 2005
GIVE THANKS... ..

Your Chance to Support Your Youth

On Sunday, November 13th, our Youth Group (TICWF) will be hosting the morning coffees at both Faith & Trinity, and offering items at a Bake Sale Table.

As you know, our Youth Group is totally self-funded; monies & resources from Countryside Ministry for Youth are not available to us.

As such, our youth depend on their own fundraising efforts & your support for their activities.

Know that funds raised on this Sunday will be used by our Youth to support other youth in our area, through the Operation Christmas program, & to support local food banks in the upcoming holiday season.

Please participate in this event on 11/13, & support the Youth from your church family.

- November 3 *Choir 6:30 pm
*Church Council 7:30 pm
- November 6 * Worship/Communion 9 am , Coffee Hour
* Sunday School & Confirmation 10:15 am
- November 7 * Faith Quilting 6:00 p.m.
- November 10 * Choir 6:30 pm
- November 13 * Worship 9 am, Coffee Hour
* Sunday School & Confirmation 10:15 am
* Youth Group Coffee & Bake Sale
- November 17 * WELCA General Meeting 6:30 pm
- November 20 * Worship 9 am Coffee Hour
Sunday School & Confirmation 10:15 am
* Youth Event 3 p.m.
- November 23 * Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:30 pm
- November 27 * Worship 9 am Coffee Hour
* Sunday School & Confirmation 10:15 am
* Dayton Care Center 3 p.m.

WELCA NEWS—November 2005

Thanksgiving is the next big thing on our calendar. Before we get wrapped up in menus, family plans, & travel schedules, lets take a moment to be truly thankful for all with which we have been blessed.

We have been blessed with a wonderful community of believers, who share their faith, time & talents. Our recent Table Affair was another reminder of how we have been blessed with a commitment to do & give our best; a commitment that is far larger than our size would indicate. Far larger congregations than Faith have far larger problems finding those who count service to others as an opportunity, rather than a burden. Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to serve.

We have been blessed with relationships & friendships. Those who serve together find their service to be satisfying, even when it's tiring. It strengthens, rather than drains. It nurtures us, & tints our tomorrows with a brighter hue. Thank you Lord, for our friends in Christ who surround us.

We have been blessed with Today. No other time is promised us, except today, to love; to share; to comfort; to laugh; to say our prayers & sing our praises. Thank you Lord, for the gift of today.

In November, we will meet on Thursday, 11/17th, for our Fall WELCA General Meeting. There will be a light supper at 6:30 p.m.; make sure you come for the food & fellowship. Our Bible Study will follow, along with our business meeting. Put this on your calendar.

We will also be serving refreshments following the Thanksgiving Eve Service on 11/23. We will discuss the details at our meeting.

Remember, practice being thankful!

Cheryl