

Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church
Harcourt, Iowa

January 2006

Notes from the Edge of the Desk

I was going share some New Year's predictions for the church at large, but it got to be just too depressing. So, instead, I gleaned my favorites off the "You might be a Lutheran if..." portion of the Thrivent for Lutherans website. Let's go out of 2005 smiling.

You might be a Lutheran if...

- ...you are still wondering, even all these years after confirmation, if your pastor was wrong for not including potlucks as a means of grace
- ...you consider Cream of Mushroom soup an aggressive spice
- ...you think man shall not live by bread alone but must add butter
- ...you hear something really funny and smile as loud as you can
- ...your choir believes volume is a fair substitute for tonality
- ...you know the difference between a spicy casserole and a regular one: the spicy one has extra peas
- ...coupons are a form of currency
- ...it takes 10 minutes to say good-bye
- ...you think a meeting isn't legitimate unless it's at least three hours long
- ...you freeze the leftover coffee from fellowship hour for next week
- ...the church is on fire, and you rush in to save the coffee pot
- ...your five-year-old recites the Old Testament books as Genesis, Exodus, Lutefisk...
- ...you've convinced yourself that your house is a mess because you're "saved by Grace", not good works
- ...you sign a petition to have Campbell Soup Co. rename its "Cream of Mushroom Soup" "Lutheran Binder!"
- ...you heard that "tithing" meant giving 2% of your leftovers
- ...you think anyone who says "casserole" instead of "hot dish" is trying to be uppity (or maybe even Episcopalian!)
- ...the only mealtime prayer you know is "Come Lord Jesus.
- ...you think the communion wafers are too spicy
- ...you arrive in church and start having a panic attack because someone else is sitting in "your pew"
- ...you can't have a meeting without having a meal
- ...you think the term "Jell-O salad" is redundant
- ...you are referred to as the frozen chosen
- ...your congregation's first two operating rules are "Don't change" and "Don't spend."
- ...when someone mentions red and green (in terms of Christmas), you immediately think of a battle over hymnals
- ...there are 4 people in a room and at least 6 opinions
- ...rather than introducing yourself to a visitor at church, you check their name out in the guest book
- ...sharing the peace during the service takes more time than the sermon
- ...you have a relative named Einar
- ...you think the best way to deal with change is to put it in a bowl on top of the dresser
- ...you have an uncontrollable urge to sit in the back of any room
- ...all of your casserole dishes have your name on the bottom

(continued on page 3)

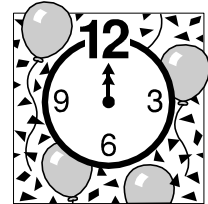
*HAPPY NEW
YEAR!*

Inside this issue:

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Worship 9:00
Coffee 10:00

Sunday School
10:15

SERVING COFFEE IN JANUARY

1st- John & Marsha
8th-Chuck & Diane
15th- Installation Coffee
22nd-Kari
29th-Rod & Cheryl



Faith Church Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council met December 1, 2005. Members present were Kari Bahr, Dorothy Nahnsen, Don Peterson, Jan Peterson, Jeff Peterson, John Samuelson, Milt Smith and Pastor Rod. Pastor Rod led the Council in devotions based on Matthew 3:3.

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3953. We had a net increase of \$1407 for the month. So far this year we have had expenses of \$45,468 and income of \$8,250. Still to be paid in December are \$1000 for benevolence, \$150 to Lutheran Lakeside and \$150 to Prison Ministries as allotted for in the budget. The treasurer's report was approved.

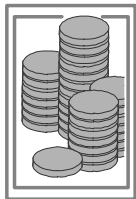
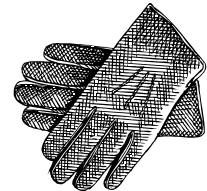
John reported that Dallas Carlson has given the church 500 shares of Microsoft stock that were sold for \$28/share. He requested that the money be spent on something the church would normally purchase but not on maintenance. A discussion was held regarding projects to be considered for 2006. These include upgrading the electrical system, replacing 4 windows in the parsonage and installing a sound system in the church. John also reported that Dallas had been hospitalized recently.

John presented that budget for 2006. A motion was made, seconded and carried that the budget be accepted as presented.

Pastor Rod reported that the WELCA has asked that the council approve 3 projects that they will pay for: a water softener for the parsonage, tile for the entryway in the church, and a handicapped stool for the main restroom. These projects were approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:10PM

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Nahnsen



Treasurer's Report

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Beginning Balance 11/1/05 | \$ 2545.34 |
| November Deposits | 4091.75 |
| November Expenses | <u>2684.20</u> |
| Balance 11/30/05 | \$ 1407.55 |

Serving Faith

Ushers-

Don Peterson & Duane Peterson

Communion Assistants-

Jim Engstrom & Jeff Peterson

Altar & Greeter-

Connie Gustafson & Angie Lambert

Altar Flowers-

Donna Brundage

(continued from page 1, NOTES FROM THE EDGE)

...you consider the term "contemporary church service" to be an oxymoron
 ...you try to recite the Apostle's Creed from memory, but keep accidentally inserting lines from the Nicene Creed
 ...change most often comes in the form of coins in the offering plate
 ...you realize people aren't in church because they aren't in their "spot"
 ...you bring two 20 oz travel mugs of coffee with you when visiting another church across town, but only one travel mug when visiting relatives on the other side of the state
 ...there are more church dishtowels in your laundry than your own
 ...they say you're not hard of hearing, you're just hard of listening
 ...the communion cabinet is open to all, but the check register from 1915 is locked up tight
 ...everyone at a congregational meeting is more than willing to discuss their opinions on an issue, but no one can make a decision when it comes time to vote

Oh, well – there are worse things than being Lutheran. You could be a Lutheran & not have a sense of humor about it! Have a very Happy New Year & All God's Continued Blessings in 2006.

rod

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The annual meeting of the Faith Lutheran Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 8th following worship. There will be an election of 3 members to the council. Everyone is encouraged to attend. An installation & coffee will be held on Sunday, January 15th.



**HAPPY
2006!**

This is the
YEAR
the Lord has
made....

Dear Ladies of Faith ELCW,

Thank you so much for the lovely gifts and for thinking of me. I loved the recipe for the holiday season and especially the book of "Angels Watching Over Us." I do believe I have angels helping me through these difficult days.

You have done so many nice things for me and I appreciate them all.

**Many, Many thanks,
Betty Hade**

Thank you all you good, kind folks of the Faith ELCW for helping out at my 100th birthday party.

Paul Olson

Operation Christmas 2005

- 37 quilts & blankets
 - 27 pair gloves
 - 15 stocking caps
 - 8 sets children's cap & gloves
 - 36 ladies blouses
 - 26 ladies slacks, vest & shorts
 - 5 ladies jackets & coats
 - 2 ladies dresses
 - 5 ladies scarves
 - 9 men's sweat shirts
 - 1 train set
 - 8 cans vegetables
 - 13 miscellaneous items
- Thanks to those who donated and to Pastor Rod for bringing them to Fort Dodge.

Thank You

Someone once wrote, "Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day."

It's true.

We are overwhelmed by your generosity during this passing Christmas Season—
by your expressions & tokens of friendship & love & good wishes—
and we are thankful
EVERYDAY

for the family of Christian brothers & sisters we have found here at Faith.

In an uncertain world,
know that we will *always* be grateful to you, & to God,
who blessed us with you.

Rod & Cheryl



- January 1 * Worship/Communion 9 am , Coffee Hour
Dayton Care Center Service 3 pm
- January 5 * Choir 6:30 pm
* Church Council 7:30 pm
- January 8 * Worship 9 am, Coffee, Sunday school &
Confirmation-Congregational Annual Meeting
- January 12 * Choir 6:30 pm
- January 15 * Worship 9 am Installation Coffee
* Sunday School & Confirmation 10:15 am
- January 19 * Martha Group 2 pm at church
Hostess, Diane Will
* Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church
Hostess, Barb Johnson
- January 22 * Worship 9 am Coffee Installation of Officers
* Sunday School & Confirmation 10:15 am
- January 26 * Choir 6:30 pm
- January 29 * Worship 9 am Coffee Hour
* Sunday School & Confirmation 10:15 am

WELCA NEWS—JANUARY 2006

Wow! 2005 was an exciting, busy year! In February, we held our Bake Sale & Soup Luncheon and our Valentine Dinner, besides the Lenten Soup Suppers. In April, we had a very successful Guest Day. In August, there was the annual Ice Cream Social & Bake Sale. Table Affair was held in October this year, & we hosted Trinity for our Thanksgiving Dessert, following service. All this, on top of our regular schedule of general meetings & Circles.

Each of these projects was very successful, & allowed us to provide assistance inside our own church family & in larger projects beyond our walls. Faith's Women of the ELCA donated \$100 each to the Harcourt Fire Dept.; SE Webster Ambulance; Bremwood; DSOC; Global Mission; Bethphage; & Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Beyond these, we purchased a new toilet for the handicap-accessible restroom; a water softener for the parsonage; tile to replace the carpet in the entry; painting the upstairs kitchen & curtains for the downstairs kitchen.

No wonder we're tired!

But we should celebrate that which this group is able to do & accomplish, to the glory of God & to his service. Indeed, God gives us our lives & each other to serve. Thank you to all who did that this year in the women's organization, with your support & efforts.

Happy New Year!

Cheryl