

# Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church  
Harcourt, Iowa

**AUGUST 2006**



## Notes from the Edge of the Desk

We received one of those calls this past month— Gertrude (the mother of one of our good friends from Coralville) had died at home in India. Our friend was forced to accomplish some Herculean Feats to get a visa together to attend her mother's funeral, but she got there.

We got to know Gertrude when she visited her daughter & her family. She was quite the lady, & quite the character. She was diminutive in size—4 foot, nothing inches, or so it seemed to me: a stiff Iowa wind might have taken her halfway home. She was the first flight attendant ever for Air India, & we were allowed to see a posed picture of her in her uniform, smiling for the camera. We were told of the adventures of her family when her husband was working in Uganda, during the regime of Idi Amin—and how they got out at the very last moment. We were told of her family's life in Goa—a city on the Arabian Sea, steeped in history—ruled by the Portuguese for over 450 years. It was an exciting, exotic place to imagine. And Gertrude shared it all with us.

But Gertrude was, first & foremost, a Christian; there was no getting around that. Her conversation was punctuated with references to Christ & her faith. A doctor from University Hospital, getting a bit of medical history from her, was told that it was Jesus Christ who had saved her from the evils of cigarettes! There was no doubt about it: Gertrude belonged to Christ, & Christ belonged to Gertrude.

I think Gertrude sometimes thought that I was too casual with my faith, (and my marriage, & my parenting, etc.) though she was certainly too polite to ever say so. But it wasn't difficult to read her. After an evening together, she would shake my hand, & then she would take Cheryl's hands in hers & say, "And you—you are a saint...)" [Well, Stephen had to be stoned to death to be a saint—all Cheryl had to do was tolerate me!]

We all enjoyed getting to know her, but it was Trevor & Tony who made the special connections with her. They would return from school while the rest of us were all still at work. Gertrude would be out in the yard, defying the inclement Iowa weather, & the boys would speak with her & keep her company. Trevor saved her one day from a smoke detector that was beeping because of a low battery—he became a knight in shining armor for her. Yeah... Trevor: who'd a thought?

When Gertrude's son-in-law phoned to tell us of her passing, I was struck how the death of a single person half way across the world should affect us. Someone described losing a friend as having 'a page ripped from your life'. That was what it was like for me—our friend was

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**Worship 10:30**  
**Coffee 9:30**

### **SERVING COFFEE IN AUGUST**

6th- Worship in Park  
13th- Shirley & Rosie  
20th- Alex Engquist  
27th- Ice Cream Social



## A Look at the Faith's Past

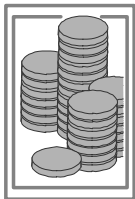
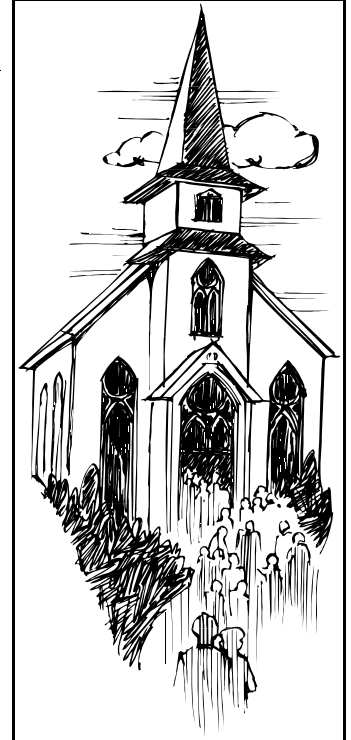
**Excerpts from past annual meetings, in lieu of no council minutes:**

1/03/1938..... Budget of \$2265, Rev. Lindstrom is pastor. 'Societies' are: Womens, Young womens, Junior Missionary, Ladies Aid, Luther League, Women's Missionary Soc. and Junior Mission Band. 55 children attend Sunday School except for two weeks during scarlet fever epidemic, four communion services are held. WMS sends \$1.50 for China relief, ballot vote taken on Christmas service; morning 36 - Eve midnight 19. Annual meeting adjourned for dinner... and re-convened afterwards

1/02/1940.....communicant members total 99 women, 79 men, and 62 children, Budget is \$2500 with pastors salary \$1500 with an additional \$150 for pastor to do all janitor work and mow lawns. \$818 spent on natural gas for heating. Ladies Aid report shows profit of ten cents from buying and reselling 3 loaves of bread and spending .75 for oyster pails

1/02/1942....."Cotton Blossom Singers' from Mississippi conduct musical service-are paid \$12.88, Holiday season has favorable weather for Cantata, Jullotta, and children's Christmas service, the Luther League sponsors the New Year Wake service. Resolutions state that "we are thankful the country was spared from war for the *greater* part of the year." 50th. Anniversary was celebrated during three days in September. Church bell will be rung at 6:00 pm Saturdays to signify end of working week.

1/02/1943 ..... Rev. Jepson is pastor. Sen. James Dolliver addressed the Luther League at spring banquet. 8 members inducted into armed forces. From pastor's report-"When the village streets were blacktopped last spring, the trustees were awake to the opportunity of similarly surfacing our parking lot...", Average worship attendance is 90, service at 11:00 am



## Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Balance 6/1/06</b>	<b>\$ 2801.67</b>
<b>June Deposits</b>	<b>17,438.00</b>
<b>June Expenses</b>	<b><u>19,375.41</u></b>
<b>Balance 6/30/06</b>	<b>\$ 864.26</b>

*This includes both the Steeple repair & cross replacement (covered by insurance) & a portion of the sound system.*

## Serving Faith

**Ushers-**

Grant Gibbons & Jeff Peterson

**Communion Assistants-**

Marc Greenfield & Don Peterson

**Altar & Greeter-**

Doris Peterson

**Altar Flowers-**

Pearl Peterson

In Memory of Loved Ones

(continued from page 1, NOTES FROM THE EDGE)

gone, & even though she had died in India, our part of the world was forever changed, too. We are so much more interconnected than we might care to believe....

Sonatina told us how she helped her brothers go through Gertrude's things, & how the things Gertrude had saved were letters & cards & photos.

"Who's that?" her brothers would ask. And Sonatina would answer: "Oh, that's a picture of Trevor (or Tony, or Ashes & Cinder...)" Across the driveway or halfway across the world; the ties still bind our hearts in Christian love.

The evening news is full of reports from this corner of the world or that—there is no hiding from it. But we would be foolish to decide how we might stand on any particular issue before we consider that we are tied to ALL those people by the love that our brother & savior Jesus Christ has for them.

Our friend Gertrude from Goa taught me that.  
rod

## NOTE

**The Martha & Sarah Groups will meet on Thursday, August 10th for the regular monthly meeting. Mark your calendars!**

Faith President John Samuelson presents the proceeds from our June Pork Loin Fundraiser to Lisa & Paul Kennedy.

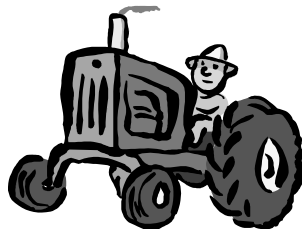
### Worship In the Park



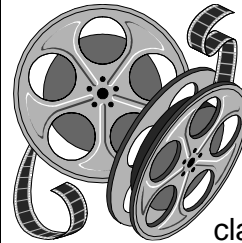
**On Sunday, August 6th, Faith will host the worship in the park at 10:30. As the host church, Faith will provide the grilled burgers and beverages. Methodists & Covenanters will bring salads and desserts. Bring your lawn chair & table service and enjoy worship as a finale to Harcourt Appreciation Day activities.**

### August Lawn Care

August 4- Grant Gibbons  
August 11- Jeff Peterson  
August 18- Todd Clay  
August 25- Grant Gibbons



### NARNIA & THE BIBLE- The Witch, the Lion & the Wardrobe



Last summer, one of the biggest movies of the season was "The Witch, the Lion & the Wardrobe" - adapted from the classic book by C.S. Lewis. Many claim that Lewis wrote this book as an allegory to the Gospels; and whether it is or not, the book & the movie contains a myriad of Christian symbols & themes, as relevant today as they were in his day.

That movie is now out on DVD, & this would be a perfect time to explore it together as a class. I'm planning two sessions—August 23'd & 30th, beginning at 7 p.m. This would be interesting to anyone—even & maybe most particularly young people.

So how about it? Two Wednesdays in August, in the cool confines of an air-conditioned church, munching on popcorn & talking about a classic book & a classy movie?

Hope to see you there!

rod

**Ice Cream Social  
& Bake Sale  
Sunday  
August 27th  
11:30 am —1 pm  
Home Made Ice Cream  
Pie, Beefburgers  
Beans & Beverage  
Free will Offering  
Thrivent Matching  
Funds  
Hosted by WELCA  
Faith Lutheran  
Everyone Welcome!**



- August 1 \* Laurel Anderson's Funeral 11 am
- August 3 \* Church Council 7:30 pm
- August 6 \* Community Worship in the Park 10:30 am
- August 10 \* Martha Group 2 pm at Rosie Gaworski home  
\* Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church-Marsha S
- August 12 \* Wedding of Kristen Sporleder & Randy Greene
- August 13 \* Worship 10:30 am  
\* Coffee & fellowship 9:30 am
- August 20 \* Worship 10:30 am  
\* Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 am
- August 23 \* Narnia Movie & Discussion 7 p.m.
- August 27 \* Worship 10:30 am Coffee & fellowship 9:30 am  
\* Ice Cream Social & Bake Sale 11:30 am - 1 pm
- August 30 \* Narnia Movie & Discussion 7 p.m.

## **WELCA NEWS—AUGUST 2006**

The heat and humidity of the past weeks has been almost unbearable for us all, causing us to escape to the cool comfort of our homes. As August begins, we hope the days will be less sticky and find us ready to move on to our upcoming events. On August 1 we will serve the lunch for Laurel Anderson's funeral. Martha and Sarah groups will hold their regular group meeting on Thursday, August 10th. August 27th will be our annual Ice Cream Social & Bake Sale after worship. Everyone is asked to bring items for the bake sale and a good appetite for lunch.

### **A STRONG WOMAN V's. A WOMAN OF STRENGTH**

A strong woman works out everyday to keep her body in shape,  
A woman of strength kneels in prayer everyday to keep her soul in shape.  
A strong woman isn't afraid of anything,  
A woman of strength shows courage in the midst of her fear.

A strong woman won't let anyone get the best of her,  
A woman of strength gives the best of herself to everyone.  
A strong woman walks sure footedly,  
A woman of strength knows God will catch her if she falls.

A strong woman wears the look of confidence on her face,  
A woman of strength wears grace.  
A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey,  
A woman of strength has faith that it is in the journey that she will become STRONG.

As members of the family of Faith. may we all find the strength we need each day from God and one another. Marsha