

Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church
Harcourt, Iowa

September 2006



Notes from the Edge of the Desk

The autumnal air of Canada put me in mind of going back to school. There are (or were) a couple of years when your first assignment upon returning to school was to write an essay on "What I Did on My Summer Vacation". My essays were always pretty blasé. Other kids wrote of going to Mt. Rushmore or seeing the Grand Canyon. The high light of my summer could well have been an afternoon visit to Ce-Mar Acres—a family-run amusement park on what was then the outskirts of Cedar Rapids... an exhilarating 38 miles from home.

Today I write from the back seat of a SUV, heading home from a fishing trip in Northern Ontario. In a short 13 hours, we'll be home; back to the familiar, the comfortable, the everyday...

This last week was an adventure. I caught a 29" walleye - all I remember was how big its mouth was. I had a Northern Pike jump out of the lake to get my lure - it scared me spitless. There were eagles & a bear & what might have been moose droppings; we opted not to stop & investigate that.

The weather was magnificent—four late summer days & four early autumn evenings, strung together like a strand of perfect pearls.

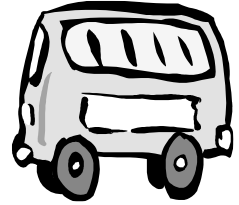
But what was particularly special for me this trip was, on the last evening out, the Northern Lights put on a display. What a wonderful finale; mysterious, magnificent, humbling: God's creation continues to unfold in patterns no other has ever seen.

There were a thousand million trees, each stamped individually with every day's heat & cold, wind & rain—until it stood a completely unique tribute to the eternal creativity of God. A billion patterns of sun on the water every afternoon; an entirely new sunrise each morning; an entirely matchless sunset every night, staining the lake pink & turquoise & reducing the islands to unimaginably detailed silhouette cutouts.

Every sparkle & tree & color & nuance - a gift.

You are more than just children of God—you are also His observers & witnesses, & recipients of the variety that springs from a divine imagination. You are an heir to the Kingdom of God:

(continued on page 3)



Serving Faith, September 2
Church Council
Treasurer's Report

Sunday School & Choir 3
Lawn Care

September Schedule 4
Bridal Shower
WELCA News



Worship 10:30
Coffee 9:30

Sunday School
Sept. 10th 9:30

SERVING COFFEE IN SEPTEMBER

3rd-
10th-
17th- Eddie & Jan
24th- Diane Peterson



Church Council

Faith Lutheran Church Council met on August 3, 2006 at 7:30PM. Members present were Mark Greenfield, Dorothy Nahnsen, Don Peterson, Jan Peterson, Jeff Peterson, John Samuelson, and Pastor Rod. Pastor Rod led the Council in devotions based on Matthew 25:24.

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report showed a loss of \$1937 for June and a loss of \$1952 for July leaving a balance of \$3039. An additional \$1235 was needed for the steeple repair. We have \$8807 in savings and \$5460 in the Mission Investment Fund. Upcoming bills include the last half payment of \$4128 to Modern Sound System. The Lisa Kennedy Benefit netted \$4200. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the treasurer's report.

A discussion was held regarding the flag pole and Harcourt sign. John will look into the possibility of obtain a grant covering the cost of the project. He will report back at the September meeting.

Pastor Rod reported that approximately 180 people attended the Higher Power Concert.

Pastor Rod will conduct church services for Appreciation Day. Faith will provide the meat and beverage. The Ice Cream Social will be August 27th.

A thank you note was received from Julian Swanson.

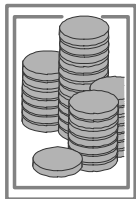
Pastor Rod will be on vacation August 15-20th.

On August 23rd and 30th, Pastor Rod will be showing a DVD on Narnia followed by discussion. Everyone is invited to attend.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to purchase a DVD, cassette and recorder player for the church. This will enable the church to provide a recording of church services. Pastor Rod reported that the new sound system works very well.

Sunday School starts September 10th. Next meeting is September 7th. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Nahnsen



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 7/1/06	\$ 4991.76
July Deposits	3513.50
July Expenses	<u>5465.62</u>
Balance 7/31/06	\$ 3039.64

Serving Faith

Ushers—
Alex Engquist & Austin Engstrom

Communion Assistants—
Kari Bahr & Don Peterson

Altar & Greeter—
Donna Brundage

Altar Flowers—
John Samuelson Family
In Memory of Loved Ones

(continued from page 1, NOTES FROM THE EDGE)

like the Prodigal Son's faithful brother, you are reminded, "All that I have is yours." But somehow he couldn't bring himself to believe it, so he missed out. No wonder the party is for the lost son, whose eyes are newly opened to a world that he had left behind, & then returned to!

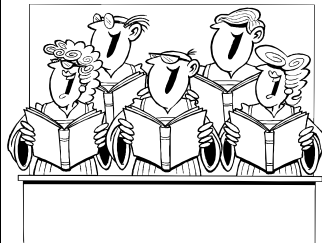
What is it that is in us that drives us to live our lives like we have to die to collect on God's gifts & promises? What is it that makes us think that the high-definition picture on that flat screen TV is so much superior to the view outside our kitchen windows? How many mega-pixels is it going to take before you concede that Sony will never duplicate God's detail?

Claim some portion of the beauty & riches that God offers you today.

rod

SUNDAY SCHOOL, 2006

**Sunday School
classes will resume
on Sunday,
September 10th
at 9:30 am**

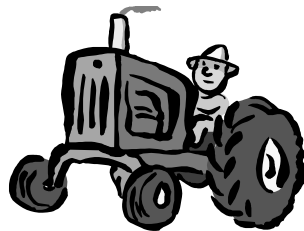


**Choir will begin
meeting again on
Thursday,
September 14th
at 6:30 pm.**

**All voices are needed, & a
good time is guaranteed!**

September Lawn Care

Sept. 1- Rod Meyer
Sept. 8- Grant Gibbons
Sept. 15- Todd Clay
Sept. 22-
Sept. 29-

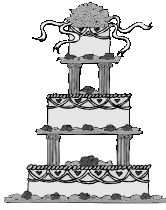


**Thank you to all the volunteers who
have kept the lawn at Faith looking
so beautiful this summer.**

Top 10 Motivational Tips of the Cynic.

- 1) Motivation – If a pretty poster and a cute saying are all it takes to motivate you, you probably have a very easy job, the kind robots will be doing soon.
- 2) (Snowflakes). Individuality –Always remember that you are unique, just like everybody else.
- 3) (Lounging leopard) Indifference – It takes 43 muscles to frown and 17 to smile, but it doesn't take any to just sit there with a dumb look on your face.
- 4) (The Great Pyramids) Achievement – You can do anything you set your mind to when you have vision, determination, and an endless supply of expendable labor.
- 5) (Here's Butch the soccer player with little Cody). Goals –It is best to avoid standing directly between a competitive jerk and his goals.
- 6) (A football receiver being laid out by a tackler). Success –Some people dream of success, while other people like to crush those dreams.
- 7) (Taj Mahal in India). Discovery –A company that will go to the end of the earth for its people will find it can hire them for about 10% of the cost of Americans.
- 8) – (A bear about to catch a salmon). Ambition The journey of a thousand miles sometimes ends very, very badly.
- 9) (Two runners - a male running behind a female). Persistence –It's over man. Let her go.
- 10) (Rowers) Get to work - You aren't being paid to believe in the power of your dreams.

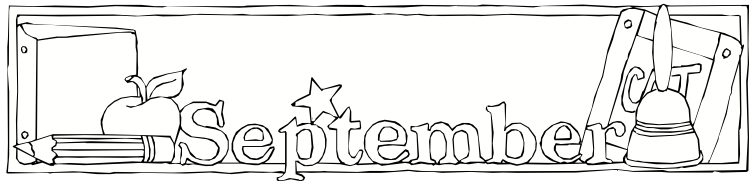
Faith Lutheran Church
Harcourt, Iowa



You are invited to a
Bridal Shower

For: _____
Date: _____
Time: _____
Place: _____
R.S.V.P. _____

**Come & Go
Bridal Shower for
Beth Paulsen
Bride Elect of
Nathan Peterson
Saturday,
September 16th
10 am - 12 pm
Faith Lutheran Church.
The couple is registered
at Target & Younkers.
Everyone Welcome!**



- September 3 Worship 10:30 Coffee 9:30
- September 6 Bingo at Dayton Care Center 2:15 pm
- September 7 Church Council 7:30 pm
- September 10 Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30
- September 13 Twin Lakes Retreat 9 am
- September 14 Choir 6:30 pm
- September 16 Bridal Shower for Beth & Nathan
- September 17 Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30
- September 21 Martha Group 2 pm at Shirley E. home
Sarah Group 6:30 pm Charlene & Joan Hosts
- September 24 Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30
- September 27 Dayton Oaks Retreat 9 am

WELCA NEWS— SEPTEMBER 2006

I must begin by thanking everyone for helping to make the events of the last month a success. We served lunch to approximately 175 for the Higher Power concert and then served Laurel Anderson's funeral. Our Ice Cream Social and Bake Sale was another fun day at Faith.

As we look to September, the Martha group will be playing bingo at the Dayton Care Center on September 6th, don't forget to bring cookies. Twin Lakes Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th. Registration is from 8—9 am with the day's activities to follow. On September 16th, a Bridal Shower will be held for Beth Paulsen and Nathan Peterson. Everyone is invited to attend. Our groups will meet on September 21st, Martha at Shirley Engstrom's home at 2 pm and Sarah at 6:30 pm hosted by Charlene & Joan Peterson, place to be announced.

On Wednesday, September 27th, the ladies of Faith are co-hosting the Dayton Oaks Retreat with the ladies from Immanuel at Burnside. Our guest speaker for the event will be Linda Engstrom Rambow who will present "Love the Lord with all your Heart." Pastor Julian Swanson will serve communion and Pastor Rod will lead the afternoon bible study. I encourage all ladies who are able to attend this special day in the beautiful setting of the Dayton Oaks camp.

September is the beginning of a series of Bible studies called "Hope in God in Times of Suffering." Rod does a wonderful job leading our group study and I encourage all to come and share the fellowship and friendship of the groups. Happy September!

Marsha