

Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church
Harcourt, Iowa

February 2007



Notes from the Edge of the Desk

Sally Field, famed television & movie actress, has an inane commercial message out currently, within which she reports that she has friends who must set aside time each week to take a pill. She, on the other hand, has a NEW pill that one needs take only once-a-month. Wow! Think of the time savings! One can only imagine how she has put this to work for her. In her spare time, she's probably learned how to weld or something...

Can't you imagine that conversation? FRIEND 1: "Sally, do you know that once-a-week, I have to take a pill?! No wonder I never get anything done around the house!" FRIEND 2: "Me too! Every Monday, that pill is like a ball & chain around my ankle. I don't seem to get anything else accomplished! Sally, how do you manage your stellar career, your beautiful home, & your totally photogenic family with such apparent ease?" SALLY: "You poor, ignorant dears! Don't you know that drug researchers have spent years of valuable laboratory time & tens of millions of dollars to relieve you of this terrible burden? Now, all you need do is set aside one morning a month to take this NEW WONDER PILL! Why, your closets will be reorganized in no time, and soon your husband & children will begin to recognize you again! Isn't modern medical science wonderful?"

Okay, sometimes it is wonderful, but increasingly it's just stupid. And that's true in nearly every category of contemporary life. A quick look on Amazon tells me that I can buy an MP3 player with a capacity to hold 4000 songs—256 hours of music. There are undoubtedly some that hold more than that—but why?! If you listened to the thing 8 hours a day, 7 days a week, it would take you more than a month to hear every song you could store on it! (On the other hand, maybe that's why Sally Field's friends don't have time to take three additional pills a month!) And think about the real life & real experiences you would MISS out on, plugged into that thing for 10 days each month. There is a real cost to our decisions that can't be measured by dollars & cents.

Just because someone is selling something doesn't mean we must buy it! Just because there are goods & services available to us does not mean that we need or would ever use them! 'Because we can' is not a good enough reason to do most things in life. The time is coming when we will all be driven to do a reality check, & we will come to realize that the concepts of excess & convenience barely register with us any longer: we have come to expect them as personal & societal entitlements.

The confirmation class is working through the Lord's Prayer at the moment. Our studies reminded us that when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask for 'daily bread' - just enough to sustain us just for today. And God is happy to provide that for us! I'm willing to bet that He has done a better than average job of doing that for you, hasn't He? But we have become uncomfortably like the wandering Israelites, sustained by manna, but wishing for the fleshpots of Egypt; and all the while conveniently forgetting that Egypt meant enslavement.

Most enslavement today has little to do with chains & cages: it has far more to do with convenience, peer pressure, status, ambition, laziness, comfort—lots of things we bow to without much of a thought. But they are pitifully cheap replacements for the freedom Jesus died to provide for us. rod



Serving Faith, February 2
Church Council
Treasurer's Report

Benefit Lunch 3
Countryside Worship
Chicken Dinner
Council Announcement

February Schedule 4
Schedule for Lent
WELCA News



Presidents'
Day

Worship 10:30
Coffee 9:30

Sunday School
9:30

SERVING COFFEE IN FEBRUARY

February 4-
February 11- Arlene
February 25- Eddie & Jan



Church Council

Faith Lutheran Church Council met on January 4, 2007 at 7:30PM. Members present were Mark Greenfield, Dorothy Nahnsen, Don Peterson, Jan Peterson, Jeff Peterson, Milt Smith, John Samuelson, and Pastor Rod. Pastor Rod led the Council in devotions based on Matthew 3:13, the Baptism of Jesus.

The secretary's report was read and approved as presented. Jan reported that the Church has received \$500 from the Carol Castenson memorial. This money has been placed in the Memorial fund.

Rod reported that Kenneth and Barbara Selander will be joining Faith in January. John will be checking with Greg Campbell about replacing the light over the organ. Greg will be completing the outside electrical work shortly.

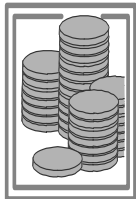
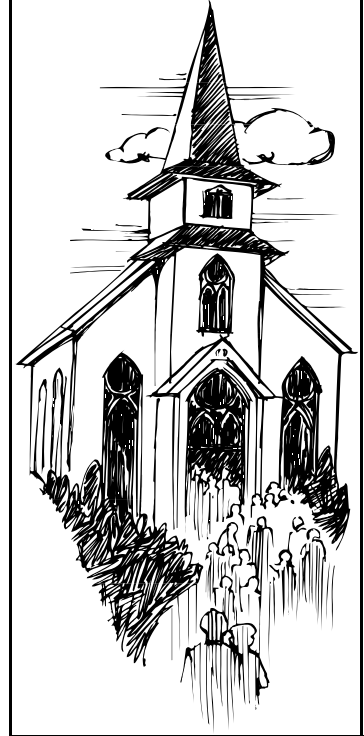
Rod reminded the Council that Installation will be January 21st. with a potluck after services. He also announced that on January 25th at 7:00PM everyone is invited to the Church for the movie, "Dinner with a Perfect Stranger. "

Rod will check with Modern Sound regarding the purchase of a CD recorder. A discussion was held regarding options for a church organist. John will check on Workman's Compensation necessary.

A discussion was held regarding possible Church projects for the coming year. These include windows for the parsonage, renovation of the bathroom at the parsonage, concert sidewalk work, outside lighting along the sidewalk and blacktop for the parking lot. John reported that paperwork regarding the \$1500 Community Foundation Grant was received will need to be completed within the next 6 months.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Nahnsen



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 12/1/06	\$ 3072.78
December Deposits	3897.95
December Expenses	<u>5291.50</u>
Balance 12/31/06	\$ 1679.23

Serving Faith

Ushers—
Grant Gibbons & Jeff Peterson

Communion Assistants—
Doug Bahr & Dorothy Nahnsen

Greeter—
Dorothy Nahnsen

HAVE FAITH

Countryside Ministry Worship

On Sunday February 18th, the six congregations of the Countryside Ministry will worship together at Zion in Gowrie at 10:30 am. A Ham Ball dinner will be served at Zion following worship. A free will offering is being accepted for the meal. Join our cooperative for this annual worship opportunity. No worship service at Faith on the 18th.

Attention Church Council

Council meetings will be held on Sunday mornings following worship during the 10:30 am service schedule. Sunday, February 4th will be the next meeting. Thereafter, the group will meet on the second Sunday each month at 11:30.



*Soup Lunch & Bake
Sale Benefit for
Chris Black
Dehart
Of Harcourt
Café*



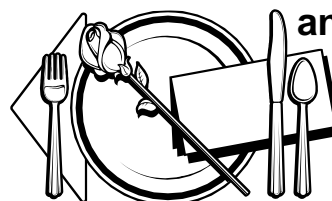
*Sunday, February 11th
11:30—1:30 at Faith
Chicken Noodle, Chili,
Vegetable Beef Soups,
Beverage & dessert served.
Free Will Offering with
participating funds by
Thrivent.
Proceeds will help to defray
Chris' medical expenses for
cancer treatment.*

Stars and Stripes

The Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association has contributed \$500 towards the \$750 cost of installing our flagpole north of the church. The Community Foundation of Fort Dodge and North Central Iowa has awarded Faith a \$1500 grant for the purpose of installing illumination on the flag and "Welcome to Harcourt" sign adjacent to the community entrance.

Valentine Chicken Dinner

A Valentine chicken dinner will be held on Sunday, February 4th following worship. The Harcourt Café is serving fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, roll, vegetable beverage & dessert. Tickets, \$7 adults, \$3.50 10 & Under, must be purchased from by Monday, January 29th from Cheryl, so reservations can be made. Give your cook a break



and treat her to a
tasty Sunday
chicken
dinner.

Schedule for Lent

Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Boxholm, at 7:30 pm

Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday February 28th .Soup will be served at 6 pm. The Lenten service will follow from 6:45 - 7:30 pm.

Soup Servers:

February 28— Rod, Cheryl & Marsha

March 7— Dorothy, Jan & Arlene

March 14— Shirley, Rosie & Donna

March 21— Charlene, Joan & Diane

March 28— Youth Group

Everyone is invited for supper, fellowship and services.



FEBRUARY

- February 4 Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30
Church Council
Chicken Dinner after worship
- February 11 Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30
Soup Lunch & Bake Sale Benefit 11:30—1:30
- February 15 Martha Group 2 pm at Arlene's Home
Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church Marsha Host
- February 18 Countryside Ministry Worship at Zion 10:30
- February 21 Ash Wednesday Service at Trinity 7:30 pm
- February 25 Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30
- February 28 Soup Supper 6 pm Lenten Service 6:45 pm

WELCA NEWS— February 2007

The month of February is about *LOVE*. We celebrate Valentine's Day and the beginning of Lent, both symbols of love, our love for one another and our love for God. We do not need a day to say I love you, because we know that our love is always in our hearts for God and family and friends.

Reality of winter has set in for us. The days of mild temperatures are gone and once again mother nature has shown us who is boss. The ladies of Faith won't let a little cold hold us down. This month of February has always been a busy one at Faith, and February 2007 is no exception. On Sunday, February 4th, we will all enjoy our chicken dinner served by Harcourt Café. This is a great day not to cook and enjoy the fellowship of the other members of Faith. February 11th will be our Soup Lunch & Bake Sale as a fundraiser for Chris Dehart. We need everyone to bake and bring items to the bake sale for a successful day. We at Faith have been so blessed and now it is our turn to help someone else. Having friends to help each other and share life's journey is a blessing everyday. Cheryl has made a beautiful cuddly, fleece quilt with matching pillows as a raffle item that day. Tell everyone you know to come for soup and baked goods on February 11th.

We continue this month with coffee hosts and greeters at church. Thank you all for being willing workers and doing whatever you can at Faith.

Dear Lord, thank you for always being here for us. No matter whether the day brings blessings or trials, we know that you are there to guide and direct us. May we grow closer to you knowing this. As the days of Lent approach, we thank you for being a constant in our lives.

Amen.

Marsha