

# Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church  
Harcourt, Iowa

JUNE/JULY 2007



## Notes from the Edge of the Desk

It's happening again. Somebody put a wire flag in the yard. That means someone is going to come soon with at least one big machine & dig a hole—in the yard. But that could be relatively good news: if there are two or more flags, that means that they are going to dig a trench.

I **hate** trenches in my yard. (In some adult study, I evidently once stated the opinion that Christians shouldn't be practicing hate in any form. Since that time, I have reconsidered my stand. My studies indicate that if Job would have been afflicted with trenches in his lawn, he would have folded like origami. If the third plague would have been one of utility flags, Pharaoh would have let the Israelites go six months earlier. If Jesus would have given the rich young man the choice, "Go & sell all you have & give it to the poor....or I could have utility companies come & set wire flags in your lawn...", that young man would have liquidated his assets faster than an executive at Enron. I still believe that God would have us react to any earthly circumstance with love & understanding & forgiveness. Nonetheless, here I stand; I can do no other. I **hate** trenches in my yard...)

When I first saw the parsonage, the lawn was lush & verdant. (Actually, it was late October: the lawn was brown & covered with wet leaves, but that wouldn't do much to illustrate the story, would it?) It was not long however, before the flags appeared, & a trench was dug diagonally across the lawn for the sewer pipe—connecting the house to the 20th century, but sinking the sidewalk in the process & creating a no-grow zone for grass which exists to this day.

Then, last year, another infestation of flags—and the installation of FIBER OPTIC cables. I knew THAT was going to be bad news: the best thing ever associated with the word "fiber" was Grape Nuts, and even when covered with icy cold milk & topped with cane sugar & fresh fruit, Grape Nuts still bear a striking resemblance to pea gravel. The fiber optic people dug a diagonal trench across the yard which crossed the first one, forming an X of black dirt in the lawn which I assume can be seen with the naked eye from the space station.

And now, there's a flag in the yard, again. I'm not sure what this one is for; possibly, they are going to dig a hole for a telephone pole, or more likely in my case, a nuclear missile silo. That would be a bad thing.

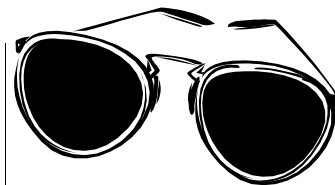
But probably better than another trench in my yard... I **hate** those.

Life provides more than enough challenges to drive us over the edge. One of the implied promises of a life in Christ is that, in the long run, it doesn't matter that the lawn is slowly being transformed into a giant rumble strip. This house or plot or planet—none of these is my home. I won't be home until I'm home in Christ.

Not long ago, a book advised us, "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff—And It's All Small Stuff". Jesus did a better job of communicating that same concept some twenty centuries ago, when He told us, "See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, [NOTE: *This is evidently how they used to kill grass before the advent of utility companies...rod*] will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? . But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

This day, it's the wire flag in the yard...

rod



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**July 1st -  
Time change**

**Worship 9 am  
Coffee 10 am**

### SERVING COFFEE JUNE

3rd- "Over 80" Coffee  
10th-  
17th- Donna Brundage  
24th- Cheryl & Joyce

### SERVING COFFEE JULY

1st-  
8th- Rosie & Shirley  
15th-  
22nd- Helen Engquist  
29th-



# Faith Church Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council met on April 29, 2007 at 11:30AM. Members present were Doug Bahr, Grant Gibbons, Mark Greenfield, Dorothy Nahnsen, Eddie Peterson, Don Peterson, Jeff Peterson, John Samuelson and Pastor Rod.

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$8,313.98. We are still awaiting a bill for the flagpole and lighting. For the month of April so far, we have had an inflow of \$6,295.58 which includes the transfer of funds from the Memorial Fund and interest from a C.D. and an outflow of \$3,754.08 for a net total as of April 29th of \$2541.50. The balance in the Memorial fund is \$3,588.29 in the Mission Investment fund \$5,551.63 and the savings account of \$2,257.47. The treasurer's report was accepted as printed.

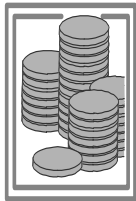
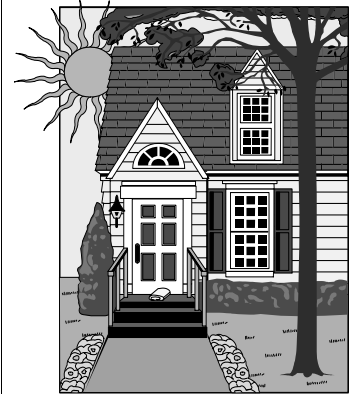
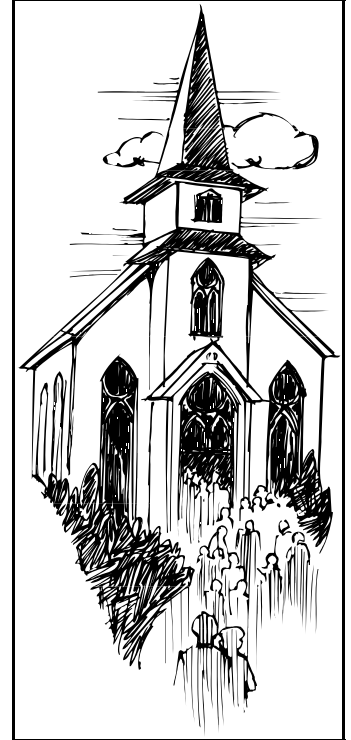
John reported that the light on the flagpole was fixed. A copy of the 2007 budget was handed out. For the year 2007 \$10,000 was budgeted for Church projects. After much discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and carried that we use the unused portion of the 2006 Church project funds plus the 2007 budgeted funds for the purchase of 12 replacement windows for the parsonage. Additional funds to come from private sponsorship of windows, funds from the Pork Loin Dinner on June 24th and if necessary the balance from the Dallas Carlson Estate money. A discussion was held regarding concerns of the Council to be presented at the Countryside Ministry meeting on May 14th.

The property committee consisting of Eddie Peterson, Don Peterson and Jeff Peterson plus Doug Bahr and Pastor Rod as chair will meet to plan the brick work around the flag pole.

The next meeting will be June 3, 2007 at 11:30. Meeting adjourned at 12:45PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy Nahnsen

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, June 6th at 7:30 pm due to the conflict of the John Hall Family Benefit on June 3rd. Please note the change of date.



## Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Balance 4/1/07</b>	<b>\$ 5772.48</b>
<b>April Deposits</b>	<b>6295.58</b>
<b>April Expenses</b>	<b><u>3754.08</u></b>
<b>Balance 4/30/07</b>	<b>\$ 8313.98</b>

## Serving Faith

### JUNE

**Ushers-**

Thomas Engquist & Marc Greenfield

**Communion Assistants-**

Dorothy Nahnsen & John Samuelson

**Greeter-**

Donna Brundage

### JULY

**Ushers-**

Don & Duane Peterson

**Communion Assistants-**

Grant Gibbons & Jeff Peterson

**Greeter-**

Barb Selander

**Summer activities for June & July have been combined into one newsletter.**

**John Hall Family Benefit**

**Sunday, June 3rd**

**11 am—1 pm at Harcourt Park**

**Coney dogs, beefburgers, beans, chips, coleslaw, beverage & bars will be served.**

**Free will offering**

**\$2000 available from Thrivent**



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**Pork Loin Dinner**

**Sunday, June 24th**

**11:30 am—1 pm**

**Tickets are**

**Adults \$7**

**Children \$3.50 & will be for sale in June.**

**Pork loin, beans, potato salad, drink and dessert served.**

**Everyone Welcome!**

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**June 7—20 will be vacation time for Rod & Cheryl. If you have a pastoral need during this time, please contact the Countryside Ministry office at 352-3645.**

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**I Cub; Ball Game Outing**

**On Saturday, July 21st a group is planning to attend an Iowa Cub; baseball game. We will leave mid afternoon and eat in Des Moines before the 7 pm game. A great time will be had for all attending!**



**"Over 80" Coffee**

**On Sunday., June 3rd, we will honor the members of Faith who are over 80. We thank them for their years of service and loyalty to our church.**

- Fern Anderson
- Lawrence Anderson
- Ann Bedford
- Helen Engquist
- Rosalie Gaworski
- Betty Hade
- Billie Johnson
- Ruby Koppen
- Paul Olson
- Pearl Peterson



**Countryside Ministry Worship**

**On Sunday, July 22, the six congregations of the Countryside Ministry are invited to worship together at Dolliver south lodge, at 11 am. A potluck dinner will follow the service. Bring table service, food for the potluck and lawn chairs. Worship that day will also be held at Faith at 9 am and Zion at 9:30 am.**

**Wednesday, July 11th**

**Bingo at Gowrie Care Center**

**2:30 pm. Ladies,**

**bring cookies.**

**No group meetings in June or July.**



Faith Lutheran Church  
Harcourt, Iowa

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

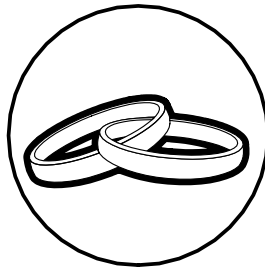
Monday, June 4th—7th.

We begin at 8:30 a.m.

& finish by 11:30.

This year's theme is  
"AVALANCH RANCH"

There will be Bible Stories,  
Songs, Snacks, Songs, Skits,  
Crafts & Games everyday!  
Call Rod if you are interested  
in attending (354-5224).



**Bridal Shower**  
For Heather Balla  
Bride-to-be of  
Tony Johnson

Saturday, July 21st

9:30 am — 11:30 am

Faith Lutheran Church

The couple is registered at  
Target & Younkers.

Everyone is invited to attend!

## Relay for Life

Webster County Relay for Life will be held Friday, June 1st, from 6 pm to midnight at Dodger Stadium in Fort Dodge. Webster County Health Dept. is sponsoring a team again this year. Please support us with a donation to the American Cancer Society.

Thank You, Joan Peterson

## JUNE

- June 3 Worship/Communion 10:30 am  
Baptism of Grant Smith  
Over 80 Coffee 9:30 am  
John Hall Family Benefit 11 am—1 pm
- June 4-7 Vacation Bible School at Trinity 9—11:30
- June 6 Church Council 7:30 pm
- June 10 Worship 10:30 am Coffee 9:30 am
- June 17 Worship 10:30 am Coffee 9:30 am
- June 23 Western Iowa Synodical Convention  
Humboldt 9:00 am—3:30 pm
- June 24 Worship 10:30 am Coffee 9:30 am  
Pork Loin Dinner Fundraiser 11:30-1

## JULY



Time Change

- July 1 **Worship/Communion 9 am**  
**Coffee 10 am**  
Baptism of Brookelyne Peterson
- July 8 Worship 9 am Coffee 10 am
- July 11 Bingo at Gowrie Care Center 2:30 pm
- July 15 Worship 9 am Coffee 10 am
- July 21 Bridal Shower Heather Balla 9:30-11:30  
Iowa Cubs Baseball game Outing
- July 22 Worship 9 am Coffee 10 am  
Countryside Ministry Worship at Dolliver 11 am  
Potluck picnic dinner following worship
- July 28 Jeanne Smith Wedding  
Ice Cream Social at Trinity Boxholm 5-7
- July 29 Worship 9 am Coffee 10 am

