

# Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church  
Harcourt, Iowa

February 2008



## Notes from the Edge of the Desk

*"On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear." Isaiah 25:6*

One never knows where biblical prophecy is going to be fulfilled. While it was snowing outside last Monday, Cheryl & I tackled the chore of cleaning out the pantry - it turned out to be a veritable mountain of food, from which a feast for all peoples could have been produced. We were missing a ready supply of marrow filling, but we had everything else - in spades! We discovered that we currently possess a lifetime supply of jams, jellies, & preserves, a feast-size supply of salsa, & enough mustard of different varieties to have marinated any number of fatted calves: brown, dill, champagne, horseradish, Cajun-style, wasabi, stone-ground, Dijon, yellow, & Dijonnaise - & multiples of some of those!).

We had about a dozen cans of sweetened condensed milk & several cans of evaporated milk [why isn't that a powder?]. We had a big can of mango pulp. We had three containers of marshmallow cream, two cans of coconut milk & one can of cream of coconut: what do you do with ANY of that stuff?

And pie filling! Evidently at some point or another, Cheryl & I tried to corner the market on pumpkin pie filling, planning to sell our hoard when pumpkin hit \$100 a barrel - and we must have come pretty close!

And pineapple!!! Pineapple juice; pineapple chunks; pineapple rings. Diced pineapple. Crushed pineapple. And yet, in my married life, I can't ever recall sitting down to a meal & being served pineapple. I'm thinking we must use it as filler for meatloaf, or a way to stretch soup when we have unexpected guests. "Alice & Henry just pulled up, & they have two grandchildren with them! Quick! Go get some pineapple to put in the chili!"

Some of the food was out-of-date: some of it by quite a bit. Some of it predated us being together: I don't remember what Cheryl had for a dowry, but it might have involved a case of water chestnuts. (We will never know how old some of the food was, because Cheryl didn't want to spring for the cost of carbon-dating it. I think that might have been a mistake. For all we know, we could have been the possessors of The Food of Turin! We had one jar where the Gerber baby on the label was a sonogram!)

We put the vast majority of the cans, bottles & jars of food on a new shelving unit in the basement - 6'H, 4'W, 1.5'D; and we filled those shelves completely! If the bomb ever drops, while everyone else is dying slow, ugly deaths from starvation & radiation poisoning, Cheryl & I will be following shortly - overdosed on barbecue sauce, french-cut green beans, & apricot preserves. That's GOT to be a lethal combination.

As Americans, we are perhaps primarily known around the world as CONSUMERS. When I studied in Germany, I had a sign on the bulletin board outside of my door that read, "I'm an American! Too much is never enough!" It was a joke, but it took me a long time to perceive just how bad a joke it was.

I also used to have a poster, which showed a picture of the Milky Way Galaxy. There were two "X's" on the poster. One was in one corner, & it was labeled, "You are here." In the opposite corner was the other X, labeled, "All the good stuff is over here." That was a joke too. But for some people, that is their reality - they are impossibly far away from those things that we just take for granted. Things like groceries. Things like heat. Things like a basic education, or

*(continued on page 3)*

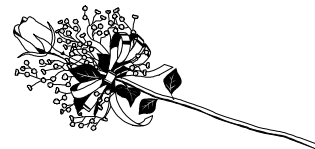


## VALENTINE'S DAY

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**Worship 9:00**  
**Coffee 10:00**

**Sunday School**  
**10:00**

## SERVING COFFEE IN FEBRUARY

February 10- Soup Lunch  
February 17-  
Chicken Dinner  
February 24- Jan & Eddie



## Church Council

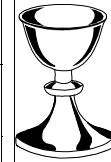
Faith Lutheran Church Council met Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Those present were Don Peterson, Jeff Peterson, Marc Greenfield, Doug Bahr, John Samuelson and Treasurer Jan Peterson.

The minutes of the December meeting were read. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes without correction. Motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was presented to include the Annual Meeting reports. The balance the end of December was \$7,104.40. Total expenses for 2007 were \$60,531. Motion to approve carried. The first \$100,000 CD purchased with the proceeds from the Carlson Estate was renewed at 4.81% APY for one year with Security Savings.

There was no old business. New business: Faith Lutheran received the last installment from the Carlson Trust in the amount of \$205,338.96. We have previously received \$400,000. From this final distribution, \$100,000 was invested in a 12 month CD with United Bank of Iowa at 4.6%. An additional \$100,000 investment was made with Heartland Bank for one year at 4.58 % APY. A \$5,000 three-month CD was purchased at Northwest Federal Savings Bank at 4.45% APY. The remaining \$338.96 was deposited in our checking account. Other new business: Assist bars for both restrooms were discussed. A bill for \$90 was presented for church directories. The charge was \$10 per member-submitted picture. It was decided to serve pancakes after the installation ceremony on January 20<sup>th</sup> rather than have a noon potluck. The agenda for the annual meeting on Jan 13<sup>th</sup> was discussed. Wishes for a speedy recovery were shared for Dorothy Nahnsen who recently underwent spine surgery in Omaha.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Doug Bahr – Secretary Pro Tem



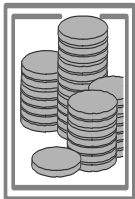
## First Communion Class

Saturday, Jan. 19th, these young people began their journey towards communing with their church family.

Casey Kennedy  
Tyler Kennedy  
Leah Gibbons  
Josh Gibbons  
Mike Balla  
MasonBahr

## Serving Faith

**Ushers**– Grant Gibbons  
& Jeff Peterson  
**Communion Assistants**–  
Doug Bahr  
& Dorothy Nahnsen  
**Greeter**–  
Charlene Peterson  
& Joan Peterson

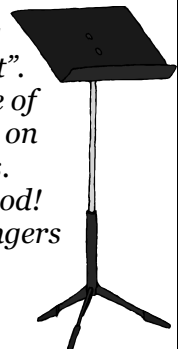


## Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Balance 12/1/07</b>	<b>\$ 2,690.24</b>
<b>December Deposits</b>	<b>215,724.96</b>
<b>December Expenses</b>	<b><u>211,310.80</u></b>
<b>Balance 12/31/07</b>	<b>\$ 7,104.40</b>

## HOW ABOUT A LITTLE MUSIC[AL]?!?

*I think it would be fun to get the singers from Faith & Trinity together & work up an easy choral collection from "Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat". It would mean a couple of rehearsals, probably on Sunday afternoons. Interested? Talk to Rod! (We need at least 12 singers to pull this off.)*



*(Continued from page 1, NOTES FROM THE EDGE)*

a painless tomorrow, or a job. Or a sleep-filled night. Or a friend.

Cheryl said that, just because we have our pantry in order, we shouldn't just go out & fill in the empty spots. But we will. Those corners will fill up, & then things will start to pile up, & someday soon, you may hear somebody on Channel 8 say, "Regional pastor dies in tragic food slide - details & your snowy forecast at ten."

While we wait for that to happen, let's think about a bit of gospel: <sup>22</sup> [Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing."

Note: He said, "Don't worry about it..." He didn't say, "Don't acknowledge it." We are moving towards Lent. Let's give thanks that, as we think about what we might give up for our Lenten discipline, we have so many things to choose FROM...

rod



***Soup Lunch & Bake Sale***

***Sunday, February 10***

***11 am—1 pm***

***Vegetable Beef, Chili & Chicken Noodle Soups***

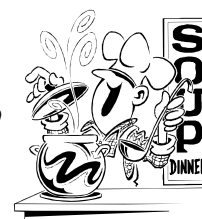
***Relish, Beverage & Dessert Free will Offering***

***\$200 By Thrivent***

***Proceeds will be used to help purchase new folding chairs.***

***Everyone Welcome!***

***Ladies, remember to bring items for the Bake Sale.***



**Faith Lutheran / Dallas Carlson Scholarship**

Each graduating High School senior from Faith who is continuing his/her education is encouraged to apply for a \$500 scholarship. The application process involves a short form; 2 letters of recommendation; & an essay, "How my Christian faith will affect my life in college and beyond." If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rod at 515/354-5224. Applications are due on or before March 1, 2008.

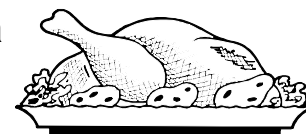


**Quilters Wanted**

The quilting group will continue to meet on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. We have a great time and have been able to complete some beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

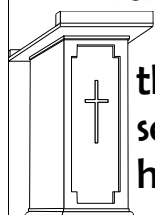
**Chicken Dinner**

A Valentine Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 17th at 11 am. The Harcourt Café is serving fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, roll, beverage & dessert. Tickets are \$7 adults, \$3.50 10 & under, must be purchased by Monday, Feb. 11th from Cheryl, so reservations can be made. Give your cook a break and treat her to a tasty Sunday chicken dinner!



**Countryside Ministry Worship**

February 3 will be the Countryside Ministry service at Zion beginning at 10:30a.m. All six churches will worship together. A



ham ball dinner will be served in the basement following worship. No service or Sunday school will be held at Faith on February 3rd.

## Schedule for Lent

Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Faith on February 6th at 7:30 pm. Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday February 13th. Soup will be served at 6 pm. Lenten Services will follow from 6:45 - 7:30 pm.

### Soup Servers:

February 13— Cheryl, Marsha  
February 20— Arlene, Rod  
February 27— Diane, Charlene, Joan  
March 5— Rosie, Donna, Shirley  
March 12— Youth Group

Everyone is invited for supper, fellowship and services.



The theme for this year will be  
“**Miracles of Jesus**”.  
Do you have a favorite?  
Let Rod know!



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|-------------|--|
| February 3  | Countryside Ministry Worship at Zion 10:30                               |
| February 4  | Quilt Night 6:30 pm  |
| February 6  | Ash Wednesday Service  |
| February 7  | Church Council 7:30 pm   |
| February 10 | Worship 9 am Coffee & Sunday School 10<br>Soup Lunch & Bake Sale 11 - 1  |
| February 11 | Quilt Night 6:30 pm<br>Countryside Ministry Council meeting              |
| February 13 | Soup Supper 6 pm Lenten service 6:45-7:30                                |
| February 17 | Worship 9 am Coffee & Sunday School 10<br>Valentine Chicken Dinner 11 am |
| February 18 | Quilt Night 6:30 pm  |
| February 20 | Soup Supper 6 pm Lenten Service 6:45 - 7:30                              |
| February 21 | Martha Group 2 pm at Arlene Hintch home<br>Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church |
| February 24 | Worship 9 am Coffee & Sunday School 10                                   |
| February 25 | Quilt Night 6:30 pm  |
| February 27 | Soup Supper 6 pm Lenten Service 6:45 pm                                  |

## WELCA NEWS— February 2008

January found most of us hibernating at home due to the extremely cold temperatures, snowy days and icy parking lots. Hopefully we can leave that weather in January and that February will bring more favorable conditions for the many activities that fill our church calendar.

We begin this month by baking for the Sue Wagoner benefit and your response to Cheryl's call for help was awesome. Thrivent is a wonderful organization and it is great that Faith could be a small part of that event. Easter will be early this year. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on February 6th. Soup suppers and Lenten services will begin on February 13th. Thank you to everyone who serves soup and bakes for those suppers. Our Soup Lunch & Bake Sale will follow on February 10th. Again we ask for items from everyone for the Bake Sale. Bring your friends, family and neighbors for soup that day. We are helping the church council to purchase some new folding chairs and the proceeds from the day will be used for that purchase. On Sunday, February 17th, we can all relax and enjoy Chris' fried chicken dinner. Contact Cheryl for tickets by February 11th for reservations. We will continue to quilt for Lutheran World Relief on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. We always have a good time and a lot of laughs.

We look forward to the many events of February and know that by working together we will all be putting our FAITH in action for the good of God's kingdom

Marsha

