

# Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church  
Harcourt, Iowa

September 2008



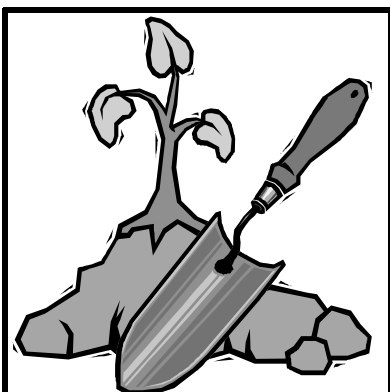
## Notes from the Edge of the Desk

I've seen a message carved into any number of stepping stones that reads, "Life began in a garden." That's a nice thought, but no: life didn't begin in a garden. Life began shortly after God corralled chaos. Then life was arranged in a garden; soon after that, sin, work, sweat, weeds, back aches & leg cramps all came into being.

Cheryl decided that we should move our garden this year. Several years ago, we asked Tony to put some sheep manure on the old garden. He did so – about 20 bags. This turned out to be roughly the equivalent of having every sheep in the British Empire poop in our garden for a week. This seemed to upset the plants we subsequently transplanted there (and I guess, considering we were placing them in what had now become a kind of sheep "Perma-Potty", that was understandable).

Cheryl picked out a new location close to the house, & purchased a wrought iron fence to put around it. I was afraid that such a fence would make our side yard look like a cemetery – not to mention the fact she intended ME to install it!! As you know, I have all the mechanical skills of a manatee, but I'm pretty proud of the results, even if the back side does run about as straight as a line on a heart monitor on a long distance runner. She planted the garden with veggies & flowers, added some statuary, and it turned out to be a very charming garden indeed. It frustrates me when she is so consistently right about stuff like that...

It is now the end of August. A season of watering, weeding & fertilizing (we do it in the dark of night when we know Tony won't be around to help) has yielded a bountiful supply of tomatoes\*, eggplants,

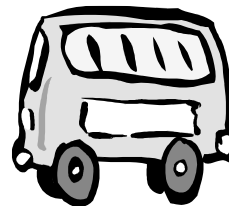


***"In life or gardening,  
don't be too anxious  
to throw in  
the trowel..."***

green peppers, & cucumbers – none of which Cheryl will eat. Instead, she distributes them to friends, acquaintances, unsuspecting strangers & church family members (if you haven't been offered anything yet, please be patient: we will be distributing them until the year 3638 AD: see footnote below).

The lower garden (which we were supposed to reclaim as lawn) is filled with vines: pole beans, gourds, pumpkins, watermelon & cantaloupe. The yield for these is less, except for the gourds, which outnumber the tomatoes about 6 to 1. (I suspect that someday science will prove that gourds, rabbits & mosquitoes are genetically linked.)

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*Serving Faith, September 2*  
Church Council  
Treasurer's Report

*Sunday School 3*  
Lawn Care Schedule  
Prayer Concerns  
Confirmation Classes  
Sunday School Begins  
Farewells & Greetings

*September Schedule 4*  
WELCA News



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

**Sunday School**  
**Sept. 7 - 9:30 am**

### **SERVING COFFEE IN SEPTEMBER**

7th-  
14th- Duane & Doris  
21st- Cheryl & Rod  
28th-



## Church Council

The Faith Lutheran Church Council met at 7:30 p.m., with Doug Bahr, John Samuelson, Eddie Peterson, Jeff Peterson, Marc Greenfield, Donna Brundage, & Rod Meyer in attendance. Devotions were from Matthew 15:28— “Great is your faith...”

Minutes were presented by John Samuelson. Motion & second to approve the minutes as read. Carried.

The Treasurer’s Report was presented. Receipts of \$7900.96; outgo of \$3458.40; balance on hand \$7105.35. A bill for the new front doors has been received for \$3556.69, which will be paid. Motion & second to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Carried.

A bid for \$2021.28 for a Wireless Hearing Aid System to be added to our sound system was presented from Modern Sound Engineering. It includes 4 receivers & a transmitter.

The spot light for the flag had not yet been repaired.

Discussion followed about the Faith Lutheran sign in the church lawn, which is peeling badly. It was decided to pull the sign out, pending repair or replacement.

It was announced that Rachel Schill was leaving her position as church musician. A motion was made to purchase a \$200 gift certificate from the Fort Dodge mall as a thank you for her services. Seconded & carried. Kate Allevantis has agreed to serve as keyboardist/organist.

The Ice Cream Social will be held Aug. 24th. The annual Table Affair will take place on November 1st.

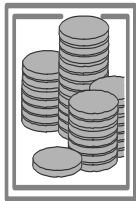
A thank you was expressed to Marc Greenfield for organizing the Cubs outing this summer. It was another success.

Confirmation will begin on Wed., Sept 10th. Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 7th.

Our next Council meeting will be on Thursday, February 11th at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rod Meyer, Sec. pro tem



## Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Balance 7/1/08</b>	<b>\$ 2662.79</b>
<b>July Deposits</b>	<b>7900.96</b>
<b>July Expenses</b>	<b><u>3458.40</u></b>
<b>Balance 7/31/08</b>	<b>\$ 7105.35</b>

## Serving Faith

### Ushers—

Todd Clay & Austin Engstrom

### Communion Assistants-

Donna Brundage & Don Peterson

### Altar & Greeter—

Donna Brundage



(continued from page 1, NOTES FROM THE EDGE)

What a wonder it is to be a gardener! What a gift to partner with God in His quest of unending creation, and to daily witness life, renewal and abundance! What a lesson it is to be able to **see the potential** in a fallow plot of land—or a life apart from God.

Isaiah saw it too: “The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden.” [58:11]

Now THAT’S what I call a Master Gardener...  
rod

\*Approximately 200,000 tomatoes, which are ripening at a rate of one every three days: if it doesn’t frost & we live that long, we’ll have them all harvested in just over 1630 years – come on, global warming!!!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL, 2008

**Sunday School  
classes will resume  
on Sunday,  
September 7th  
at 9:30 am**



### Prayers Needed



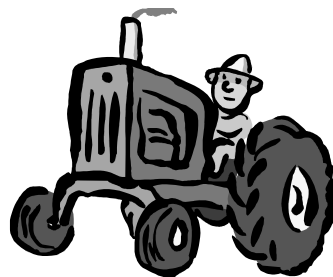
**Please remember Pearl Peterson and Chuck Will & family in your prayers as they are recovering from health concerns.**

### Farewell & Greetings

**A thank-you again to Rachel Schill, who has shared her talents with us at the keyboard; and a welcome to Kate Alevantis, who will be joining us regularly with her gift of music.**

### September Lawn Care

Sept. 7-  
Sept. 14- Rod  
Sept. 21-  
Sept. 28-



**Thank you to all the volunteers who have kept the lawn at Faith looking so beautiful. We still need mowers for September.**

### Confirmation

Confirmation classes will begin on Wed., 9/10, at 7 p.m. We’ll be meeting the first month at Trinity. (Students needing a ride to Boxholm should be at Rod’s by 6:45—we’ll return between 8:15 & 8:30.)

The first year will be an overview of the Bible, using the book “Chosen: The Story of God & His People”. There will be some (?) quizzes, some memorization, & 26 sermon notes will be required in the coming year.

Classes won’t be held during school vacations, or if weather should close the schools that day.

We also tend to participate in a number of church suppers in the course of the year, & manage to have a pretty good time!

Spades take up leaves  
No better than spoons,  
And bags full of leaves  
Are light as balloons.

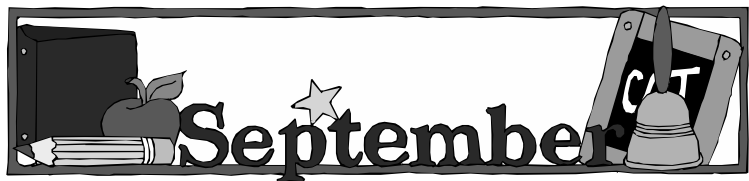
I may load and unload  
Again and again  
Till I fill the whole shed,  
And what have I then?

Next to nothing for weight,  
And since they grew duller  
From contact with earth,  
Next to nothing for color.

Next to nothing for use.  
But a crop is a crop,  
And who's to say where  
The harvest shall stop?



.... *"Gathering  
Leaves"*  
by Robert Frost



- September 7 Worship /Communion 10:30 am Coffee 9:30  
Sunday School; Resumes today 9:30 am
- September 8 Countryside Co-op Bd. Mtg. 7 p.m. at Gowrie
- September 10 Twin Lakes Retreat 9 am  
Confirmation at Trinity 7 p.m. (ride at 6:45)
- September 11 Church Council 7:30 pm
- September 14 Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30  
Pork Loin Dinner at UMC, Harcourt 11-1  
Dayton Care Ctr. Service 3:00
- September 17 Confirmation at Trinity 7 p.m.
- September 18 Martha Group 2 pm at Shirley E. home  
Sarah Group 6:30 pm Charlene & Joan Hosts
- September 21 Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30
- September 24 Dayton Oaks Retreat 9 am  
Confirmation at Trinity 7 p.m.
- September 28 Worship 10:30 Sunday School & Coffee 9:30

## WELCA NEWS— SEPTEMBER 2008

September is such a beautiful month! I think of it as the beginning of the rest of the year. The children are back to school and we can all settle into our routines again. As women of Faith we will be beginning a new Bible study during our monthly meetings called "The Hidden Hand of God: Wisdom Stories from Ruth, Daniel and Esther." Pastor Rod does a wonderful job presenting the program and all ladies are invited to join into the fellowship of WELCA.

Our Ice Cream Social & Bake Sale was another success. Thank you to everyone for all their help, especially to the men who stepped in and helped tremendously. We had great crowd and a beautiful fare of food and baked goods for them to enjoy. The fellowship and friendship at Faith is always a treasure in itself. We made \$314 on the Bake Sale, and \$1189 on the lunch for a total of \$1503. and another \$200 from Thrivent. All in all a great day!

During September there are many events to attend. September 10th is the Twin Lakes Retreat . The Martha group is having a Shower for the DSOC at their September meeting on the 18th. September 24th will be the Dayton Oaks Retreat. Thank you God for being with us every day in every way on this our journey of life.

Marsha