

Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church
Harcourt, Iowa

January 2009



Notes from the Edge of the Desk

Christmas is not yet over for Cheryl & I and our family. The living room which has appeared so festive for the season looks more than a little worse for wear – it's littered with toys & accessories, books, boxes and general disarray. (If I spent some time on it, I could probably get it looking like Colonel Disarray, but that would be a temporary fix at best.) Cheryl has been producing meals at a furious pace, & one can't help but think that we'll still be feeding on leftovers until St. Patrick's Day. Haileigh Jo wants to open a new gift every time she thinks about it, which Grandma evidently anticipated, as she has bought enough so Haileigh & Cameron to open one every twenty minutes around the clock for four days. She IS clever...

But even as we wind up Christmas, we look forward to the New Year. And we DO look forward to 2009. If we allow the media gloom & doom-ers and the persistent nay-sayers mold our perceptions, we are lost before we start! They will report that unemployment is approaching 10%, without ever mentioning that more than 90% of the populace is still reporting to a job every workday. The experts predict that the economic downturn will last another 6 months, or another year or two or ten – even though these same "experts" missed forecasting its arrival as recently as last spring! The political pundits will scowl about a "do-nothing congress", even though (sadly) every indication would tell us that the worst thing that could happen to the country is for our government to decide to "do something"! And frankly, there seem to be a lot of professionals whining about being burned out who could demonstrate precious little evidence that they were ever on fire in the first place.

I am a big fan of Viktor Frankl, who survived a concentration camp, & based on his observations of the people who went through that same experience, maintained that we are at our worst when we let life's transitory circumstances define us. Frankl could have been speaking to our situation today when he wrote *"For too long we have been dreaming a dream from which we are now waking up: the dream that if we just improve the socioeconomic situation of people, everything will be okay, people will become happy. The truth is that as the struggle for survival has subsided, the question has emerged: survival for what? Ever more people today have the means to live, but no meaning to live for."*

He also wrote, *"Everything can be taken away from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedom -- to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."* That's fine as far as it goes, if

(continued on pg. 3)



Serving Faith, January 2
Church Council
Treasurer's Report

Annual Meeting, 3
Committees & Potluck
Thank You
Youth Summer Camps

January Schedule 4
Youth News
WELCA News



Worship 10:30
Coffee 9:30

**No January classes
for Sunday School**

SERVING COFFEE IN JANUARY

January 4-
January 11-
January 18-
January 25- Potluck



Church Council

Faith Lutheran Church Council met on December 4, 2008 at 7:30PM. Members present were Doug Bahr, Donna Brundage, Mark Greenfield, Dorothy Nahnsen, Eddie Peterson, Jeff Peterson, John Samuelson, Jan Peterson, treasurer and Pastor Rod. Pastor Rod led devotions based on Matthew 3:1 "Prepare the Way of the Lord--"

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report showed an inflow of \$2,977.45 and an outflow of - \$4,919.06 for a net total of -\$1,941.61. We received an interest check for \$245.45 from First American State Bank. There is \$5,721.08 in the Mission Investment Fund, \$563,61 in the Memorial Fund and \$15,487.44 in savings. A summary report through November was distributed and reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the treasurer's report.

The 2009 proposed budget for \$65,265 was discussed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the budget as presented. A quote from Carpet World for flooring in the parsonage and the church kitchen was presented. Repairs will need to be made to the kitchen floor by the church before the flooring can be installed. Eddie Peterson was appointed Project Coordinator the flooring repair.

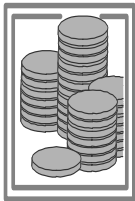
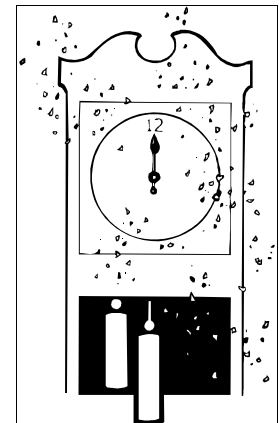
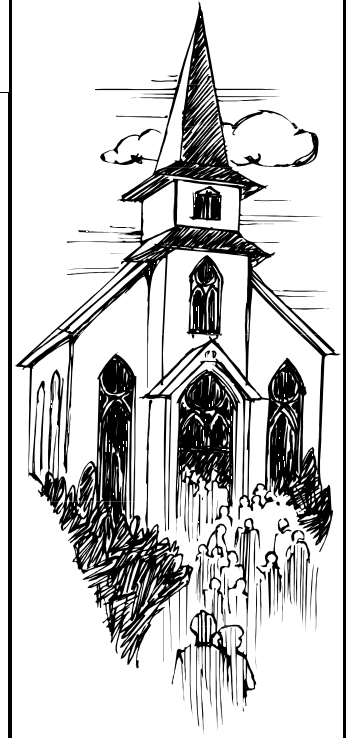
The Council Christmas Party will be December 11th at the Gowrie Country Club at 6:30 PM.

The TICWF Youth Lock-In will be on December 28th with activities led by Linda Rambow.

The next Council meeting will be Jan 8th at 7:30PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Nahnsen



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 11/1/08	\$ 5,003.38
November Deposits	2,977.45
November Expenses	<u>4,919.06</u>
Balance 11/30/08	\$ 3,061.77

Serving Faith

Ushers—

Don Peterson & Duane Peterson

Communion Assistants—

Marc Greenfield & Jeff Peterson

Altar & Greeter—

Diane Peterson



(continued from page 1, Notes from the Edge)

you're defining yourself, which most of the world is trying to do. But that's not an option if you belong to Christ: at that point, you have chosen Christ's identity. You can only choose to go His way. That way is labeled "Serve the Lord with **GLADNESS!**"

That being said, the world outside the faith has every right to look to us within it and expect to see something different – and these days, different is hopeful & joyful & celebratory. Regardless of our circumstances, fears or challenges, it is our jubilant confidence in the love & benevolence of God that others should detect in us.

In case that sounds overwhelming, I want to assure you that it is not. It's as simple as a child's song: "THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE! LET IT SHINE! LET IT SHINE! LET IT SHINE!"

rod

Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting for Faith will be held on Sunday, January 18th after worship. Please submit all reports to Marsha by January 11th. 3 persons will be elected to the council as well as other important items discussed. All members are encouraged to attend.

Church Potluck

Installation of Church Council will be on Sunday, January 25th. A potluck noon meal will follow worship that day. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share and enjoy lunch.

Committees

- Nominating– Dorothy Nahnsen & Jeff Peterson**
- Auditing- Joe Buda & Scott Engquist**
- Resolutions- Connie Gustafson & Angie Lambert**

These committees need to meet and have reports ready for the January 18, 2009 congregational meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT PREP

Attention Youth- Think Warm

Information for camps at Lutheran Lakeside in Spirit Lake next summer is now available at church. Children from 2nd grade through high school can find some great getaways. Check out the schedule and see what week might work for you. Early bird discounts are available and church helps with the camp fees.

FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN

The Five People You Meet in Heaven is a movie based on the novel by Mitch Albom. It recounts the life and death of a simple yet dignified old man, Eddie. After dying in a freak accident, Eddie finds himself in heaven where he encounters five people who have significantly affected his life, whether he realized it at the time or not. Each imparts a divine piece of wisdom unto him, instilling a deeper comprehension regarding the most intimate facets of life.

This is not an explicitly religious movie, nor necessarily theologically sound, but it does beautifully approach any number of spiritual issues that affect each one of us.

We'll meet at the church at 7 p.m. on Jan. 29th for a viewing & discussion.

Cheryl & I would like to thank everyone at Faith for your many Christmas greetings & remembrances, & for joining us for our Open House. We are so blessed to have you in our lives & to share a ministry with you in this lovely setting.

May 2009 bring us all new challenges, new ways to grow & serve, & a new infusion of the abundant life Christ came & died to give us.
rod & cheryl



YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group [TICWF] was busy in December! We bowled, had pizza, shopped for twelve Angel Tree recipients one evening. The group also provided a donation to the Ogden Food Pantry.

Then, on Sunday, December 28th, we had our annual Lock-In Overnight, where we played games & variations of Hide & Seek in a relatively dark church—why, we even prayed & mentioned Jesus once or twice! The kids wore down about 4:30 a.m., & were up (sort of) by 7:30 for breakfast.

Our thanks again to Linda (Engstrom) Rambo, who provided our leadership & much of the energy for the evening.

January

- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 4 | Worship 10:30 am Coffee 9:30 |
| January 7 | Confirmation 7 pm |
| January 8 | Church Council at 7:30 p.m. |
| January 11 | Worship 10:30 am Coffee 9:30 am |
| January 14 | Confirmation 7 pm |
| January 15 | Martha Group 2 pm-Church Diane W. Host
Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church Barb J. Host |
| January 18 | Worship 10:30 am Coffee 9:30 am
Congregational Annual Meeting after worship |
| January 21 | Confirmation 7 pm |
| January 25 | Worship 10:30 am Coffee 9:30 am
Potluck noon meal following worship |
| January 28 | Confirmation 7 pm |
| January 29 | Adult Study: "Five People You Meet
Heaven" - movie & discussion |

WELCA NEWS JANUARY 2009

As 2008 comes to an end, it is an opportune time to reflect on the many good things that our ladies made happen at Faith this year. WELCA has continued to remember our shut ins on their birthdays as well as Christmas goodies. The Martha group played bingo at the care centers and hosted a shower for DSOC. The Sarah group brought May baskets to both centers. As a new project, we began bringing cookies to Dayton two times a month. We supplied health kits and school kits to Lutheran World Relief as well as money for shipping expenses. With money raised this year we supported: Share What you Wear, Operation Christmas, Domestic Assault, Global Missions, Bethage, Bremwood, Lutheran Lakeside, Harcourt Fire Department, S.W. Webster Ambulance and Dayton Rescue. We were also able to purchase new flooring for the parsonage. We have been an ever present force within our church through serving coffee each week, potlucks and benefits. Whatever the event may be, the Ladies of Faith are always there willing to bake or work or just to extend friendship. We have done much this year, but look forward to 2009 and the many times we can reach out to others in Christian love and fellowship. We pray that we may continue to share our blessings, as we have been so blessed. Thank you for another wonderful year!

Cheryl & Marsha