

Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church
Harcourt, Iowa

February 2009



Notes from the Edge of the Desk

There are lessons that you learn only because there are no other options. A recent one came with Haileigh Jo's last visit. She only really wants to wear dresses, but it's winter, so that necessitates that she wear tights.

Now, admittedly, I was never schooled in the finer points of child-rearing. (I might add that dealing with a child's rear is a sub-category of child-rearing that opened up –well – *new vistas* for me. We are indeed fortunate that God has made little children as pliable as Play-Do, because otherwise I would be advocating wrapping a bread bag around kids just under their arms, cutting a hole for each leg, and dealing with the whole thing just once a day. Then they could be run through a car wash somewhere. The settings would still mostly apply: pre-soak, high-pressure wash, foam brush, rinse, & dry. After that, you could wrap them in a Sham Wow & another bread wrapper and they'd be good until the next day.)

But I digress. I was actually writing about the near impossibility of getting a 3-year old into a pair of tights. Perhaps like me, life hasn't taught you this lesson yet. I would liken it to trying to squeeze an angry, hyperactive, three pound squid into a lady's leather glove – size M. By the time I'd actually gotten one of Haileigh's feet to the bottom of the tights, they had twisted like a wild grapevine & the foot portion was pointing the wrong direction.

At this point, Haileigh was kind enough to point out, "Papa, that's not right."

"Thanks, Haileigh. Do you think I could just snip off the end of these tights & you could wear socks with them?"

"No, Papa."

"Do you think you could just spend the day walking backwards?"

"No, Papa."

The American Westward Movement actually took less time than it did for me to get those tights on Haileigh in a way that didn't make her look like she had been removed from the womb during a critical formative time with a corkscrew. If her grandmother wouldn't have been scheduled to be home before bath time, I would have cut them off of her with an Exacto Knife.

And while I know that it's not exactly theologically correct, I would still like to go on record that I believe that tights for little girls are EVIL, & that given the choice, Jesus might have still preferred 40 days of fasting in the wilderness & wrestling with temptation & the Devil to dealing with them.

That's one of the lessons I learned recently. (One day I will write about picking up a pair of pantyhose for my wife: the sizing system for pantyhose is just a little less complicated than figuring the trajectories for a soft landing on Mars...)

(continued on page 3)



Serving Faith, February 2
Church Council
Treasurer's Report

Soup Lunch & Bake Sale 3
Countryside Worship
Sunday School Resumes
Quilters Wanted
A Lenten Thought

February Schedule 4
Schedule for Lent
WELCA News



Worship 10:30

Coffee 9:30

**Sunday School
9:30**

**SERVING
COFFEE
IN FEBRUARY**

February 1 – Dorothy
February 8 – Soup Lunch
February 15 – Rosie



Church Council

Faith Lutheran Church Council met on January 8, 2009 at 7:30PM. Members present were Mark Greenfield, Dorothy Nahnsen, Don Peterson, Eddie Peterson, Jeff Peterson, John Samuelson, Jan Peterson, treasurer and Pastor Rod. Pastor Rod led devotions based on Matthew 3:17, "A voice from Heaven said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased".

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report showed an inflow of \$4,867.53 and an outflow of -\$42.96.16 for a net total of \$571.37. There is \$5,730.46 in the Mission Investment Fund, in savings \$15,508.24 and in the Memorial fund \$564.65. Our yearly income was \$56,364.53 and the yearly expenses were \$59,835.79 for an overall total of -\$3,471. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Eddie will contact Bill McAnally regarding the necessary repair of the church basement prior installing a new floor. A motion was made and seconded that Pastor Rod contact Rachael Shill regarding recording hymns when an organist is not available and to be paid \$50 for this service.

Pastor Rod voiced an interest in using the second setting of the liturgy for church services starting in Lent. A check for \$100 was given to Regin Johnson for music provided for the Christmas Eve Service.

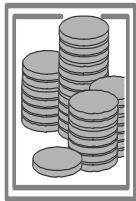
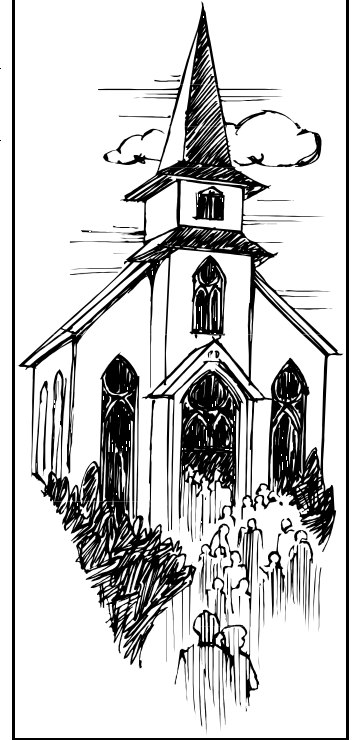
Diane Peterson, Doris Peterson, and Todd Clay's names will be placed on the ballot for new council members for 3 years starting in 2009. Mark Greenfield will procure a first aid kit and three fire extinguishers for the church.

The CD's at Heartland Bank and the United Bank of Iowa have been combined into one at Heartland Bank at 2.8%. Jan and John are looking into combining the other CD's as applicable.

The Countryside Ministry Board meeting will be February 9th and the Countryside Ministry Service at Zion will be February 22nd. Ash Wednesday services will be February 15th with the soup suppers starting March 4th-April 1. Maundy Thursday services will be held at Faith with Pastor Rod and Cheryl preparing the Sedar Meal. Easter is April 12th.

The next council meeting will be February 5th at which time representatives to the Countryside Ministry Board will be assigned. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Dorothy Nahnsen



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 12/1/08	\$ 3,061.77
December Deposits	4,867.53
December Expenses	<u>4,296.16</u>
Balance 12/31/08	\$ 3633.14

Serving Faith

Ushers—
Grant Gibbons & Jeff Peterson

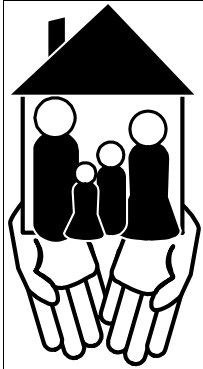
Communion Assistants—
Doug Bahr & Diane Peterson

Greeter— Joan Peterson



(continued from page 1, NOTES FROM THE EDGE)

Life teaches us lessons everyday, some simple, and some which are very, very difficult. Many of those lessons are protracted: learning to adjust to living alone; dealing with grief & loss; waiting for healing; adjusting to disappointment or unfulfilled dreams or regrets. How hard those lessons can be, and how easy it



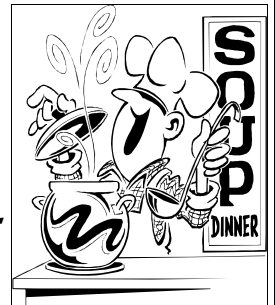
**We Are
IN HIS HANDS**

is for us to try to take them on by ourselves – and how unnecessary. Jesus tells us, "I will be with you until the end of the age." There is no reason for us to go through any portion of this life alone, when Jesus is as close as a prayer.

Take your direction from a song that has led so many of the faithful through so many of life's lessons: "Are you weak & heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our Refuge; Take it to the Lord in prayer."

rod

Soup Lunch & Bake Sale
Sunday, February 8
11:30 am—1 pm
Vegetable Beef, Chili
& Chicken Noodle Soups
Relish, Beverage & Dessert
Free will Offering
\$200 By Thrivent
Everyone
Welcome!
Ladies,
remember to
bring items for
the Bake Sale.



A LENTEN THOUGHT by George MacLeod

"I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the market place as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on a town garbage heap; at a crossroad of politics so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in Hebrew & in Latin & in Greek...

And at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse & soldiers gamble.

Because that is where He died, and that is what He died about. And that is where Christ's men ought to be and what church people ought to be about."

Countryside Ministry Worship

February 22nd will be the Countryside Ministry annual worship at Zion at 10:30 am. All six congregations join together for services that day. A ham ball dinner is served following worship.

No services or Sunday school at Faith on Sunday, February 22nd.



Quilters Wanted
 The quilting group will meet on the four Monday evenings of February at 6:30 pm. We have a great time and have been able to complete some beautiful blankets.



Sunday School
 Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, February 1st.

Candle Lighters
 February 1– Josh
 February 8– Mason
 February 15– Amanda

Schedule for Lent

Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Trinity on February 25th at 7:30 pm. Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday March 4th. Soup will be served at 6 pm. The Lenten service will follow from 6:45 - 7:30 pm.



Soup Servers

March 4— Cheryl, Marsha
March 11— Shirley, Donna, Rosie
March 18—
March 25—
April 1— Youth Group (TICWF)
Everyone is invited for supper, fellowship and services.



- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 1 | Worship 10:30 Sunday School & coffee 9:30 |
| February 2 | Quilt Night 6:30 pm
Countryside Ministry Council 7 pm Zion |
| February 4 | Confirmation 7 pm |
| February 5 | Church Council 7:30 pm |
| February 8 | Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30
Soup Lunch & Bake Sale 11:30 - 1 |
| February 9 | Quilt Night 6:30 pm |
| February 11 | Confirmation 7 pm |
| February 15 | Worship 10:30 Coffee & Sunday School 9:30 |
| February 16 | Quilt Night 6:30 pm |
| February 18 | Confirmation 7 pm |
| February 19 | Martha Group 2 pm at church Host-Arlene H.
Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church Host-Jan P. |
| February 22 | Countryside Worship 10:30 am at Zion |
| February 23 | Quilt Night 6:30 pm |

WELCA NEWS— February 2009

As the end of last year has passed and all the holiday decorations have been put away, it is easy to feel tired and relieved that it is over. January found most of us hibernating at home due to the extremely cold temperatures, snowy days and icy parking lots—just like last year. Hopefully we can leave that weather in January and February will bring more favorable conditions for the many activities that fill our church calendar. May we all have a new energy to do the good work of our church as we look forward to the activities of 2009.



Our Soup Lunch & Bake Sale will be February 8th. Again we ask for items from everyone for the Bake Sale. Bring your friends, family and neighbors for soup that day. We will continue to quilt on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. We always have a good time and a lot of laughs.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on February 25th. Soup suppers and Lenten services will begin in March. Think about what night will work for you to serve and thank you to everyone in advance who serves soup and bakes for those suppers. We look forward to the many events of February and know that by working together we will all be putting our FAITH in action in God's name.



Marsha