

Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church
Harcourt, Iowa

AUGUST 2009



Notes from the Edge of the Desk

The Weather Channel serves one purpose – weather on the eights. And that's a great service – or it was. Increasingly, programmers on the Weather Channel have decided that what they are REALLY about is other stuff.

So now they have entire shows that are dedicated to incidences when weather changed history – 60 minutes of old footage of when Hurricane Otis hit some stretch of coastline. There's lots of stuff flying around, cars caught in the storm surge, and the obligatory scene when the roof is blown off of a building. Then there is the scene of their own broadcaster trying to stand up in the midst of the storm, screaming into a microphone about how unimaginably windy it is. (Duh, Sherlock. You're a meteorologist. Didn't you expect it to be unimaginably windy in a hurricane?)

They produce other shows, where Al Gore clones try to make their case about global warming – no, wait. Make that global climate CHANGE – that way, they can blame you & your leaf blower for anything that happens anywhere meteorologically. (They have evidently never figured out the carbon footprint that's made when a weather network flies meteorologists all around the eastern seaboard to have them stand outside in a hurricane & report the earth-shattering news that, once again, it's unbelievably windy.) Whatever.

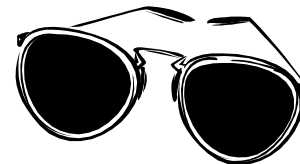
These shows are produced and aired with great regularity. Advertisers pay to affiliate themselves with them. Great. BUT THEY ARE SO BUSY DOING IT THAT THEY PREEMPT THE WEATHER FORECAST ON THE EIGHTS!! You have to wait 58 minutes for them to get around to serving their one purpose. The Weather Channel has forgotten what they are about.

It's the same all around the dial. NICK AT NIGHT's purpose is to re-broadcast classic television shows. That's what we want...Andy & Barney; Lucy & Ricky; Ralph & Alice; Samantha & Darren (or later, Samantha & Darren II: it's hard to imagine that Samantha could ever have become queen of the witches when she's not even observant enough to notice that someone switched her husband mid-series.) But now NICK is producing some awful High School Reunion Reality Show, which reunites the most narcissistic, embittered souls produced by the 1980s and has them play out their high school battles all over again. (I'm guessing they wouldn't have had to re-unite them with old classmates to have that happen anyway...) Come on – if we wanted that, we could find it with better production values on any of the network channels, MTV, VH1, or MNBC. NICK has forgotten what it is about.

The ELCA National Assembly is going to occur soon, and though it may be spun in various ways, the Sexuality Study that we've been struggling with for – well – ever is essentially the agenda. Various bishops & leaders have been calling for unity regardless of the outcome & maintaining that these issues do not define us as a church. That remains to be seen. Individuals & congregations have an irritating habit of deciding all on their own what is going to be a divisive issue & what it is that defines a church. Look to the Episcopal Church, which has already beaten us down this path. They are no less Christian than we are, but it has indeed been extremely divisive & defining for them.

This vote is going to happen, and that's a shame for sincere Lutherans who stand on both sides of these issues. The vote has been engineered from on high to be decided by a simple majority, as opposed to 60% or 66%. There will be no consensus created by this process, and whichever side "loses" will be empowered or

(continued on page 3)



Serving Faith, August 2
Council Minutes
Treasurer's Report

Countryside Worship. 3
Lawn Care Schedule
Worship in the Park

August Schedule 4
Ice Cream Social
WELCA News



Worship 9:00
Coffee 10:00

Church Council
Thurs. Aug. 6th

SERVING COFFEE IN AUGUST

2rd- Worship in Park
9th- Donnie & Jo
16th- Marsha & John
23rd-Countryside Wor.
30th- Ice Cream Social



Faith Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council met on Thursday, July 2nd at 7:30 p.m., with Don Peterson, Eddie Peterson, Donna Brundage, Todd Clay, Rod Meyer, Jan Peterson & John Samuelson attending. Devotions were from Genesis 45:4-8.

The minutes of the May meeting were read. Motion & second to approve the minutes as presented. Carried.

Treasurer reported deposits of \$10,225.59 & expenses of \$8165.11, with a balance at the end of May of \$3629.35. Motion & second to approve treasurer's report as presented. Carried.

Old Business: The designated trees have been removed. JD Tree Service will take out the tree line between Harcourt Implement and the church, for a bid of \$1550. We will be responsible for removing the stumps. Harcourt Implement will pay \$1000 towards the project, and their employees have already cleared the fence out.

Modern Sound fixed the remote on the sound system.

The Turkey Dinner was discussed. These assignments were made, based on previous years: 14 dozen buns from Tom Thumb (Rod); 7 gallons of potato salad from Sams (Rod); 6 gallons of beans (Jan); 7 bags of chips (Todd); Turkey (John); Condiments (Donna); Beverages & Ice (Don); 12 pans of bars.

New Business: Kitchen is largely complete; still waiting for venting for stoves & lighting installation. Eddie will check out dehumidifiers for the kitchen area.

New plantings were done around the Harcourt sign in the church yard.

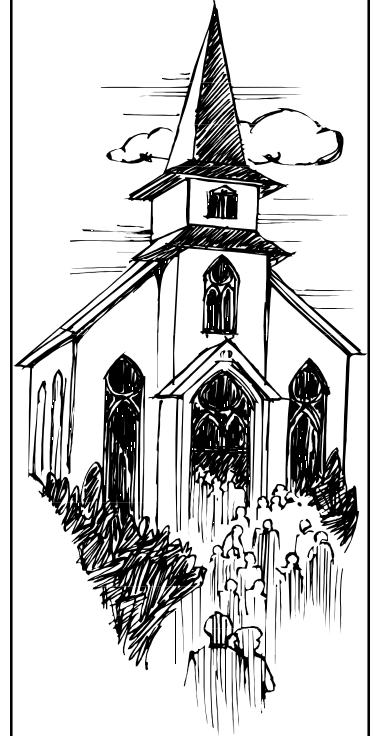
The new gutters will be done by Kenny Streit, who will also replace the bulb that lights the north face of the steeple.

The fuse box downstairs is dangerously out of date and will be replaced with a breaker box.

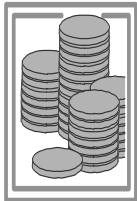
Memorial funds from Ruby Koppen will be used for lighting fixtures for the remodeled kitchen.

Motion to adjourn. Second & carried.

Rod Meyer
Sec., Pro Tem



**“A boat is safe
in a harbor....
but
that’s not
what boats
are for.”
LIVE YOUR
FAITH**



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$1,568.87
June Deposits	10,225.59
June Expenses	<u>8,165.11</u>
Balance 6/30/09	\$ 3,629.35

Serving Faith

Ushers—

Todd Clay & Jeff Peterson

Communion Assistants—

Doris Peterson &
Don Peterson

Altar & Greeter—

Doris Peterson

(continued from page 1, Notes from the Edge)

embittered enough by the results to move on & off in different directions. The hemorrhaging of our membership & finances will undoubtedly be amplified by whatever the results of the vote, and whatever unity we might have had once will be splintered once again.

And we shake our heads at churches that handle rattle snakes.....!

And to what end? Does it feel to you as if the Holy Spirit has led us to this place & time to make a decision? Or does it feel more like the Stimulus Package; voted on in a rush without it even being read or the consequences seriously considered, because we'd been on this road so long that nobody had the stomach to deal with it anymore?

Have we forgotten what WE as Lutherans are all about? It's not THIS stuff! What is OUR primary purpose? And is THAT being reflected in the process or the aftermath of this next step we are about to take? Are these the first decisions in a long, long chain of decisions that will inexorably follow, which all of us will have to engage in as WE define what it means to follow God faithfully?

There has been a call for Lutherans to prayer during the days leading up to the Assembly. I think we'd better do that, and for a long time after. rod

REMEMINDERS

WELCA Announcements

- August 20 Martha Group**
2 pm at Rosie's
- August 20 Sarah Group**
6:30 pm at Church
Hostess: Cheryl
- August 30 Ice Cream Social & Bake Sale**
11 am—1 pm
Items needed for Bake Sale

Worship In the Park



On Sunday, August 2nd, Harcourt Community Worship will be in the park at 10 a.m.

Those who attend are asked to bring a salad

for the noon picnic. Bring your lawn chairs, table service and enjoy worship as a finale to Harcourt Appreciation Day activities.

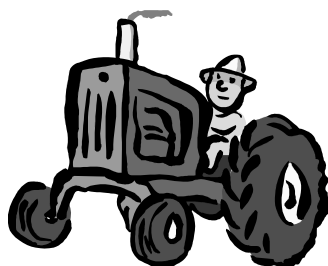
Countryside Worship

Sunday, August 23rd will be the Countryside Joint worship at Dolliver beginning at 11 am. Bring a dish to share for the potluck, lawn chairs and your table service.

A 9 am service will also be held at Faith & Zion that day. Refreshments and fellowship will follow at Faith.

Lawn Care for August

August 2— Brad
August 9— Rod
August 16— Jake
August 23— Grant
August 30— Jeff



A Sunday School teacher, wanting to impress the 5-year-olds in the class about the importance of living their Christianity as well as believing it, started by asking, "I suppose you children all want to go to heaven, don't you?"

"Well," said Jackie, in prompt response, "what do you think I put a nickel in the collection for?"

**Ice Cream Social
& Bake Sale
Sunday,
August 30 th
11:00 am-1:00 pm
Home Made Ice
Cream
Pie, Beefburgers
Beans & Beverage
Free will Offering
Thrivent Matching
Funds
Hosted by WELCA
Faith Lutheran
Everyone Welcome!**



- August 2 * Community Worship in the Park 10:00 am
- August 6 * Church Council 7:30 pm
- August 9 * Worship/Communion 9:00 am
* Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am
- August 16 * Worship 9:00 am
* Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am
* Dayton Care Center Service 3 pm
- August 20 * Martha Group 2 pm at Rosie's home
* Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church
Cheryl, Hostess
- August 23 * Worship 9:00 am
Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am
* Countryside Ministry Worship 11 am Dolliver
- August 30 * Worship 9:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10 am
Ice Cream Social & Bake Sale 11 am - 1 pm

WELCA—AUGUST, 2009

Summer is slipping away from us—school starts again in less than a month, & our attention is already turning to fall activities. Our circle meetings resume in August. Up-coming events include the Twin Lakes Retreat on September 9th; the Dayton Oaks Retreat on September 23rd, & the Cluster 8 meeting on October 3rd. Also, it's not too early to be thinking about our annual Table Affair event, which is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 31st. What is your theme going to be for THIS year?!

Faith has been asked to provide salads for the Harcourt Community Service on August 2nd, which is the culmination of the Harcourt Appreciation Days. Service is at 10 a.m. in the park. Additionally, our annual Ice Cream Social & Bake Sale will be August 30th.

We hit the road running—but aren't we blessed to be able to serve & participate? God remains the Giver of all good gifts; and we remain the receivers...

Cheryl & Marsha