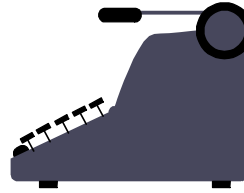


# Walking in Faith

MARCH 2004

## Bath-tism

### Notes from the Edge of the Desk



I don't believe in geniuses. I've known some really smart people, but most (read "each") of them had these quirks that made me think a lot less of a 'Renaissance Man' and a lot more of a 'Rain Man'. I had an economics professor in college who was brilliant in his field, but who never wore a pair of matching shoes. He would wear a three-piece suit (sometimes the same one, day after day after day), but his footwear would change - a bedroom slipper paired with a hiking boot; a penny loafer and a basketball shoe; a sandal and a saddle shoe. It made us wonder if any of his footwear was organized in any manner at all, or if there were perhaps two giant bins of shoes in his closet - one for left shoes and one for any other type of shoe that might exist. He was a character the likes of which you might read about in a book, and he exhibited flashes of genius, but one glance at his feet made you think that perhaps his beer wagon was short at least one Clydesdale.

But you don't have to be in the presence of great intelligence to see a flash of genius. I taught a confirmation class, in which a young woman thought perhaps King Herod could have used a lot more 'ruth'. I thought this was another bit of contemporary jargon that I was too old to identify, but one of her classmates stopped her and asked what 'ruth' was. She went on to explain that it was kind of like kindness and niceness and tolerance and stuff.

"But I never heard of the word 'ruth' before," her classmate said.

As it turned out, she hadn't either. But the confirmation book had read that Herod was *ruthless*, so she had just assumed that Herod lacked an appropriate reserve of 'ruth'.

Now she was lay down wrong, but darned if I didn't know exactly what she meant! I've run across any number of people who could use a good dose of 'ruth' - that particular blend of character traits that would keep them from being 'ruthless'. I don't doubt that human behaviorists have spent millions of grant dollars doing research to come up with a definition of that one missing element in so many lives - and I got it for free, from a thirteen year old girl. They just need more 'ruth'.

I got to thinking about this the other day, when my wife and I were again contemplating the possibility of 'dog hell', after one of them had knocked over the trash can & gone through the garbage. Again.

"You'd think she'd be a better dog, after I've bath-tized her so many times..." Cheryl said. Bath-tized? Bath-tism! A flash of genius! It's exactly the phrase we've needed for so long! Theologians & church historians have buried the concept of baptism under so many nuances and mysteries and arguments about just

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### SERVING COFFEE IN MARCH

7th- Diane Peterson  
 14th- Ed & Jan Peterson  
 21st- Amanda Lambert  
 28th- Shirley & Rosie



## Faith Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council met on February 10, 2004 at 7:30PM with 7 members and Pastor Rod present. Pastor Rod led devotions based on 1<sup>st</sup> Kings followed by prayer.

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report shows a balance of \$6633.52 which includes the \$5000 CD. We still owe a balance of \$1023.34 for the copy machine. Motion made and seconded to pay for the copy machine. Carried. Motion made and seconded that \$4000 be deposited into the Mission Investment Savings and Loan. Carried. The remainder of the treasurer's report was tabled until next meeting.

Jan reported on the Parsonage Kitchen project. It is on schedule for mid March. A stove, dishwasher and microwave will be purchased for the kitchen.

Pastor Rod presented paint boards of possible paint colors for

the Sanctuary. This project will be started after the kitchen is completed.

Scott reported that the clothes dryer at the parsonage has been repaired. Scott also reported that a new electric serve was needed at the pole. This will cost approximately \$1200.

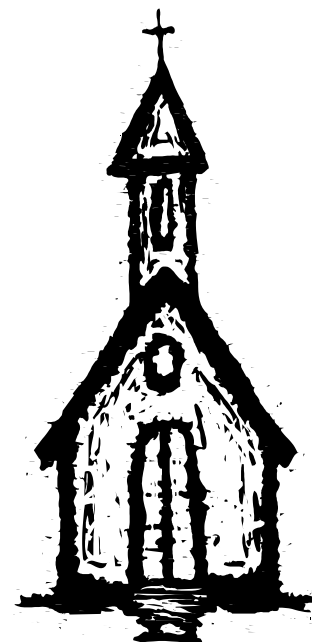
Pastor Rod had received a letter from Richard Lind requesting ideas for a memorial in memory of John A. and Anna Lind. They will be here on June 27<sup>th</sup> for the dedication. Several ideas were discussed.

Mark and Scott will represent Faith at Countryside Cooperative for this year.

Pastor Rod reported that Confirmation Sunday will be April 4<sup>th</sup> on Palm Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted  
Dorothy Nahnsen



### January Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$2,594.23
January Deposits	7,060.46
January Expenses	<u>3,021.17</u>
Balance 1/31/04	\$6,633.52

### Serving Faith

#### Ushers-

Jim Engstrom & John Samuelson

#### Communion Assistants-

Joe Buda & Jim Engstrom

#### Altar & Greeter-

Jackie & Marc Greenfield

## Confirmation 2004

Sunday, April 4th will be an exciting day at Faith. It is Palm Sunday and also the day that three of our members mark the completion of formal instruction. Emily Peterson, Alex Engquist and Austin Engstrom will be confirmed during the worship service that day. We thank God for these young people and look forward to the many ways they will enrich our church family at Faith.

## Adult Study

On Thursdays through Lent, a group will be meeting to study "The Purpose Driven Life" at Trinity in Boxholm. It will meet at 7:30 p.m.—we'll be leaving Faith about 7:15 p.m., if you'd like a ride.

The book explores 'why we are here', with one short chapter being read per day during the lenten season.

It should be very interesting—let Rod know if you'd like to join us!

## Cookbooks

A second printing of our Cooperative Cookbooks are now available. Due to the overwhelming success of our books, it was decided to reorder. If you need more books or know someone who does, call Cheryl Meyer, 354-5224 or Marsha 354-5358. The first books were sold in 3 weeks, so get your extra copies now.

Continued from Page 1

what happens there that it is no small wonder it doesn't mean much of anything to so many today. It's become something we have to get checked off in the process of getting a child, like painting the nursery and that first series of shots - "we've got to get the baby DONE".

But BATH-TISM - that's a concept that anybody can wrap their heads around, without much confusion of any sort. In BATH-TISM, God arranges to wash off that initial layer of crud we're all born with. After that, the parents & sponsors promise to intentionally keep the baby and themselves spiritually clean until the day comes when the child is ready to take on the job; the Affirmation of their own Bath-tism, as it were.

Luther admonished us to return to our baptism every morning - a great idea, and theologically sound, but not high on my list of priorities at 6:15 on a weekday morning. Bath-tism, though - all we need is a shower head with a massage setting to celebrate that! Clean again - fresh again - ready to start the day - again. Praise God!

Maybe today, fresh from my shower of grace, I can even demonstrate a greater amount of 'ruth' in my life. We'll see...

rod

## Lenten Schedule

On Wednesday, March 3rd, the soup suppers will begin. The soup will be served beginning at 6:00 pm until 6:30 pm. The Lenten service will begin at 6:45 pm and conclude by 7:30 pm. A few more persons are needed to sign up to bring soup. Pastor Rod is asking members to share their favorite Bible verse with him to use for the study of the services during Lent. You can leave your verse in Pastor Rod's mailbox and it does not need your name. The choir will practice from 7:30-8:00 pm to end the evening. Come for the evening and enjoy a bowl of soup, a great message from Pastor Rod and the fellowship of the Family of Faith. Everyone is encouraged to attend to make this season of Lent more meaningful and worthwhile. See you on Wednesdays!

## Prayers & Concerns

Please keep Donna Rowen-Weinzetl in your prayers as she continues to recover from injuries she received in an auto accident. To date she is a patient at Younkers Rehabilitation in Des Moines.

## Faith Lutheran Church

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Harcourt, Iowa

Church Phone: 515-354-5225  
Pastor's Phone: 515-354-5224

Walking in Faith



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## MARCH

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|----------|---|
| March 1  | Church Council 7:30 pm<br>Refreshments, Grant Gibbons                     |
| March 3  | Soup Supper, Lenten Service, Choir  |
| March 4  | Bible Study at Trinity 7:30 pm  |
| March 5  | World Day of Prayer 9:00 am   |
| March 7  | Worship 9:00 am-Sunday School-Coffee                                      |
| March 10 | Bingo at Gowrie Care Center 2:00 pm<br>Soup Supper, Lenten Service, Choir |
| March 11 | Bible Study at Trinity 7:30 pm  |
| March 14 | Worship 9:00 am-Sunday School-Coffee                                      |
| March 16 | WELCA General Meeting 6:30 pm   |
| March 17 | Soup Supper, Lenten Service, Choir  |
| March 18 | Bible Study at Trinity 7:30 pm  |
| March 21 | Worship 9:00 am-Sunday School-Coffee                                      |
| March 24 | Soup Supper, Lenten Service, Choir  |
| March 25 | Quilt Day 1:00 pm<br>Bible Study at Trinity 7:30 pm                       |
| March 28 | Worship 9:00 am-Sunday School-Coffee                                      |
| March 31 | Soup Supper, Lenten Service, Choir  |

# WELCA NEWS

## March WELCA News 2004

March will be an exciting and busy time for the Ladies of Faith. World Day of Prayer will be held at Zion on Friday, March 5th. Soup suppers will be held each week along with the Lenten service on Wednesday evening. Please consider a week that you could help to host the soup for a night. On Tuesday, March 16th the Martha & Sarah groups will join for the WELCA general meeting at 6:30 pm at the church. A light supper will begin the evening and Pastor Rod will give the lesson. Please note the change of day due to the Lenten Bible study held at Trinity each Thursday. The kitchen remodeling will also begin this month at the parsonage. I can not end with out thanking everyone again for the great day we enjoyed at the Soup Lunch and Bake Sale in February. WELCA made \$980, thanks to all of you for everything.

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|----------|--|
| March 5  | World Day of Prayer 9:00 am at United Methodist Church, Gowrie |
| March 10 | Bingo at Gowrie Care Center 2:00 pm Bring cookies              |
| March 16 | WELCA General Meeting 6:30 pm at church                        |
| March 25 | Quilt Day 1:00 pm  |

Communion & Greeters Hackie & Marc Greenfield

Marsha Samuelson