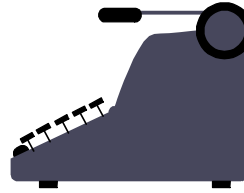


Walking in Faith

MAY 2004

Weak-Ends & Weak-Days

Notes from the Edge of the Desk



I know it's the 21st century, & I'm suppose to be aiming to live a life on the edge, but to tell you the truth, I can hardly survive the tiniest of adventures that present themselves as a matter of course on an average weekday.

The kitchen remodel is looming part of that adventure. We are into week five of the project: we still haven't found the can opener, and I can only drink my imported beer if Scott comes up & knocks the caps off for us on the edge of Tony's workbench. The contents of the old kitchen cabinets line the dining room in 164 apple boxes – I'm having nearly terminal cobbler cravings. The microwave is in middle of the living room – every time we make Mac & Cheese, the T.V. changes channels & the garage door goes up. We have discovered that there are more decisions involved in creating a new kitchen than with a NASA lunar landing. When we were picking out tile, we discovered that Bill Gates would have to buy the two-inch accent stripe piece we liked on an installment plan. (And, unbeknownst to anyone until I confessed it here, I think I broke the new faucet, which was installed less than three hours ago – I KNEW I should have taken a basic course in running water! Why don't these things come with locks to protect the innocent?)

Then there is graduation. Tony will graduate on May 16th. This alone, apart from the Resurrection, should be evidence enough of the existence of a benevolent God to bring most atheists to their collective knees. But aside from the event itself, there is the corresponding party. Cheryl bought 350 plates today: no kidding - 350 plates – and a thousand styrofoam cups. So please come early – evidently, if you are among the last 650 people to arrive, you will only be offered something to drink! (And THAT might only happen until Scott decides to go home...) The party has a Luau theme – Cheryl has already set the menu, ordered leis & decorations, and is in a bidding war on e-bay with a guy from Oklahoma for a small, active volcano. She has bought three dozen Hibiscus spreaders – begging the question, can't we just leave the hibiscus together?! I am pretty sure that there are more adventures coming with this event as well. We still haven't decided on the wording for the cake or what brand of BBQ sauce we're going to serve with the pork. I hope we don't wake the neighbors...

And Trevor gets married in July. Ever done a wedding from a distance? It's like tying your shoes while you are running in them. Flowers- showers - rehearsal dinners – tuxes. I know that Cheryl has already been working her way through this process as well. But the push will come. Trevor will wake up some day and decide that he doesn't own a pair of black socks, & he will call mom, and Cheryl will jump into action. Of course, she'll have to talk him out of the ones with pictures of Sponge Bob Square Pants running up the side, but she's a miracle worker.

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Faith Council Minutes</i> | 2 |
| <i>Treasurer's Report</i> | |
| <i>Serving Faith in March</i> | |
| <i>Bridal Showers</i> | 3 |
| <i>Lawn Mowing</i> | |
| <i>Graduation Party</i> | |
| <i>May Schedule</i> | 4 |
| <i>WELCA News</i> | |

**Sunday, May 9 -
last day of Sunday
school for summer**

**Tuesday, May 4-
Zion Coffee & Bake
Sale, 9-11 a.m.**

SERVING COFFEE IN MAY

2nd– Rod & Cheryl
9th– Thomas Engquist
16th– Tony Johnson
23rd–
30th–



Faith Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council met at 7:30 pm on April 5, 2004. In attendance were Joe Buda, Marc Greenfield, Jan Peterson, Kari Bahr, Grant Gibbons, Scott Engquist, Dorothy Nahnsen and Pastor Rod.

Pastor Rod led the council in devotions based on Psalm 121.

The Secretary's report was read and approved. The Treasurer's report was presented. We have a balance of \$5798.65. Lenten offerings totaled \$4445.18. Expenses for the month were \$2748.29. The balance included \$2000 in the checking fund for the church roof repair. Jan reported that she had paid the drainage tax of \$62.72 and the normal expenses for the month.

The Pork Loin Dinner will be held on June 27th. A family reunion will be held at the church that day. Kari Bahr will visit with a family member regarding the number of attendees.

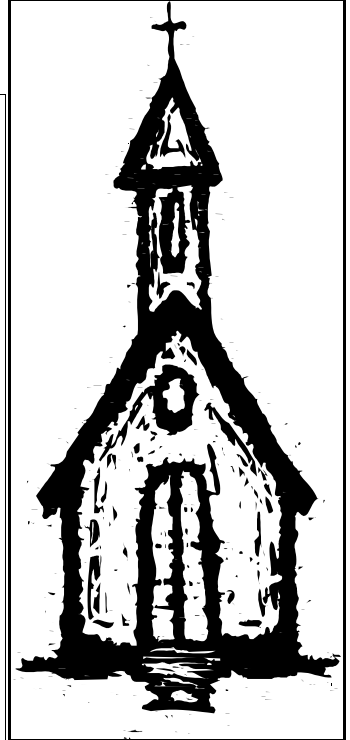
Easter breakfast will be served by the Council starting at 8:30 am. Jan Peterson will order the food and paper supplies.

Joe has started working on the parsonage kitchen. It was reported that the thermostat valve is still not fixed. Scott will contact someone regarding the repair.

Church yard clean-up day will be April 16th at 6:00 pm. A sign up sheet for mowing will be available.

Marsha advised the council that the WELCA is contributing \$1400 to the kitchen renovation. The check will be sent to Jan Peterson. She also thanked the council for the new copy machine.

Motion made and seconded that the meeting adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Nahnsen



Treasurer's Report

March, 2004

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 4,101.69 |
| March Deposits | 4,445.18 |
| March Expenses | <u>2,748.29</u> |
| Balance 3/31/04 | \$ 5,798.65 |

Serving Faith

Ushers—

Scott Engquist & Roy Tallam

Communion Assistants—

Scott Engquist & Grant Gibbons

Altar & Greeter—

Fern Anderson & Arlene Hintch

Altar Flowers-Ruby & Karen Koppen
In Honor of the Memory of
Kenny Koppen

Come & Go Bridal Shower

For
Kim Bahmann
 Bride to be of **Jim Engstrom**
Saturday, May 29th
9:30—11:30 am
Faith Lutheran Church
 The couple is registered
 at Target.
 They will be married June 19th
 at Faith Lutheran.

Everyone Welcome!

**Come & Go
Bridal Shower**

For **Megan Moore**
 Bride to be of **Trevor Johnson**
 Son of Pastor Rod & Cheryl
Sunday, June 6th
2—4 pm
Faith Lutheran Church
 They will be married July 17th
 in Iowa City. The couple is
 registered at Target, Penneys,
 Kohls, Younkers and Pier One.

Everyone Welcome!

"Weak-Ends..." Continued from page 1

And the adventures continue. The gardening bug has hit, and we have bought enough flowering plants to beautify Nebraska. (Of course, a good-sized grass fire could do the same thing...) Unfortunately, we have bought them four weeks too early, so we lug them out of the garage every morning & return them every night. We have the only snapdragons in the state with their own established migratory pattern. And then there are the other weddings we are going to. And the vacation plans. And there are a hundred other occasions to observe, meetings to attend, dates blocked out of our calendars...

That's where this started. Cheryl & I compared calendars this evening, and discovered that the spring & summer we have been looking forward to looks just as busy as the Lenten season & Holy Week we've scarcely left behind us; date after date filled up with activities of all sorts. It is like writing a diary in advance. And I know that, through it all, God has a plan for us, which will happen in the midst of all these events - or in spite of them. When we look back at this time in our life, we will see His hand in it and His will running through it.

I don't need a life on the edge to make it worth living. I believe those who need an extreme lifestyle are trying to create a facsimile of a real life with a real meaning. Well, good luck to them. People have been trying to do that independent of Christ since before he died.

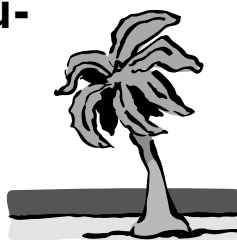
And I wouldn't trade places with any one of them. Not that I'd have time to... rod

Graduation Recognition



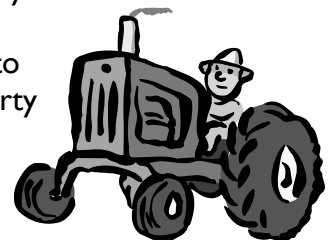
You are invited to
Tony's Graduation Party
Saturday, May 15th
beginning at 2 p.m.
at Faith Lu-
theran.

It's a Luau!
Dress Casual!

**Wanted: Lawn Mowers**

The Church Council is asking for members to sign up to mow the church yard again this year. If you can not mow, but are willing to sponsor a youth, Austin and Tony are available for hire to mow for you.

Thank you for helping to keep our church property so beautiful all summer long.



Faith Lutheran Church

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA
PO Box 68
113 North Ash St.
Harcourt, Iowa

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

Walking in Faith



Contact us by e-mail
rodmeyer@lvcta.com

MAY, 2004

- May 2 Worship 9 am, Sunday School, Coffee
- May 3 Church Council 7:30pm Refreshments, Dorothy
- May 4 Zion Coffee & Bake Sale, 9-11 a.m.
- May 6 Choir 7:30 pm
- May 9 Worship 9 am, Last Day Sunday School, Coffee
- May 13 Choir 7:30 pm
- May 15 Tony's Graduation Party
- May 16 Worship 9 am, Graduation Recognition, Coffee
- May 20 Ascension Coffee 9 am Callender
Martha Group 2 pm at Shirley Engstrom home
Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church,
Hostess: Dorothy Nahnsen
- May 23 Worship 9 am, Coffee
Coffee & Card Shower at Zion 11:30 am
for Pastor Jim's 15th Ordination Anniversary
- May 27 Quilt Day 1:00 pm
Choir 7:30 pm
- May 29 Bridal Shower for Kim 9:30-11:30 am
- May 30 Worship 9 am, Coffee

WELCA NEWS

May WELCA News 2004

Spring has really sprung. The beauty that God has created is all around us. Take time each day to enjoy something new in this world, only if it is to smell a new flower or just the fresh air. We have so much to be thankful for and also remember to thank our Lord for the many wonders he had given us.

April was certainly a busy month at Faith. Between Confirmation, Holy Week, Easter, Guest Day, the visit from the Youth from Minnesota and Lutheran World Relief collections, we hardly had time enjoy much at all. Thank you to all who helped in any way to make all these events so successful. We have had so many compliments about our Guest Day with "Suzy Q" and the chicken salad. The ladies of Faith have truly been a great example of working together during the month of April. Cheryl and I thank the Lord for each of you!

- May 20 Ascension Day Coffee 9 am Callender
Martha Group 2:00 pm at the home of Shirley Engstrom
Sarah Group 6:30 pm at the church, Hostess: Dorothy Nahnsen
- May 27 Quilt Day 1:00 pm
- June 6 "Over 80" Recognition Coffee following church
No Group Meetings during June & July

Happy Spring and remember to take time to enjoy each new day!

Marsha

