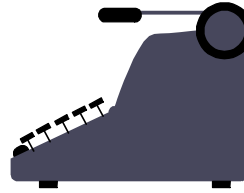


# Walking in Faith

JUNE 2004

## Surrender, Christian Soldiers:

Giving Up on the Battles We CAN'T Win



### NOTES FROM THE EDGE OF THE DESK

I got a copy of the Lutheran today. I devoted about six minutes to it, & I was done. There was a time when it took me two days to read the Lutheran; I would start reading it & get so upset that I had to put it down until the next day to finish it.

The difference between then & now is two-fold. There was a time when the Lutheran was a forum for the exchange of ideas, & even if I didn't agree with some of them, at least it was interesting and it indicated that the church had a pulse. What powers that be have evidently decided that the magazine will be the voice of a united Lutheran Church. Well, that would be nice, if we had one. In the meanwhile, The Lutheran reads like a hybrid combination of Chicken Soup for the Anesthetized Lutheran Soul & Luther for Dummies. The owner's manual for my still-hospitalized TV is more thought provoking, & it comes in five languages!

There are those who would disagree with me. They are wrong. (And this paragraph would never have shown up in the new, improved Lutheran...)

The other difference between then & now is that I'm learning to take my own advice - again. I used to be known for saying, "You've got to choose your battles." I haven't been doing that lately. (Somebody once said that experience is the ability to recognize a mistake when you are making it again...) The residual energy that I used to use up reading the Lutheran or trying to resuscitate one of the 55 clematis that I have planted & tried to grow in the last three years, I have started to pour into *other* losing battles. Logic & experience would tell me that people are going to do what they are going to do, and think what they are going to think, regardless of how stupid or destructive I might perceive it to be, and there's very little I can do about it. These make dumb battles.

I think about how many times I have tried to begin & maintain a regimen of a daily vitamin. It goes fine for a few days - then sporadically for the next two weeks - and then it is finished. Cheryl had a similar experience with a health regimen she tried to start recently. We have jointly decided that if either or both of us ever had a life threatening condition that required us to take medication on a regular basis, we wouldn't

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### Lutheran World Relief Donations

31# Soap	
6 School Kits	
4 Health Kits	
34 Children's Items- Tops & Bottoms	
15 Quilts & Blankets	
3 Children's quilts	
6 Children's Matched Outfits	

### SERVING COFFEE IN JUNE

6th- WELCA EX. Board  
13th-  
20th-  
27th-Chuck & Diane Will  
Coffee hosts are needed for  
the 13th & 20th.



# Faith Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council met at 7:30 pm on May 3, 2004. In attendance were Joe Budda, Marc Greenfield, Jim Engstrom, Jan Peterson, Grant Gibbons, Scott Engquist, Dorothy Nahnsen and Pastor Rod.

Pastor Rod led in devotions based on 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:13.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented. We have an ending balance of \$6,618.20. Of this balance, \$5000 is set aside for shingling the roof. Jan noted that we had received \$1200 refund from the Countryside Cooperative. Insurance on the church is due. A motion was made and seconded that we pay this in 4 installments of \$395.75 starting May 20, 2004. The remainder of payments will be due July 20, Oct 20, and Jan. 20, 2005. Carried. We have also received \$250 from the Jeannette Larson Estate which will be deposited in the Memorial fund. Motion made, seconded, carried. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Scott reported that the thermostat in the parsonage is fixed. Clean-up of the church yard went well. It was reported that the kitchen remodeling is completed. The total cost was \$13,562.62. Of this \$9892.91 was for materials, \$1088.01 for plumbing fixtures and supplies, labor \$3366 and of this, Joe donated \$1200 to the Church. \$226.70 was for the thermostat and labor form plumbing for the washer and dryer. Appliances were \$1589 of which WELCA gave a check for \$1400 leaving a balance of \$189. We have a balance of #10,495.96 in the Mission Fund. The motion was made seconded and carried that we pay Gordon and Joe in full. We will pay Engquist Lumber after the Pork Loin Dinner.

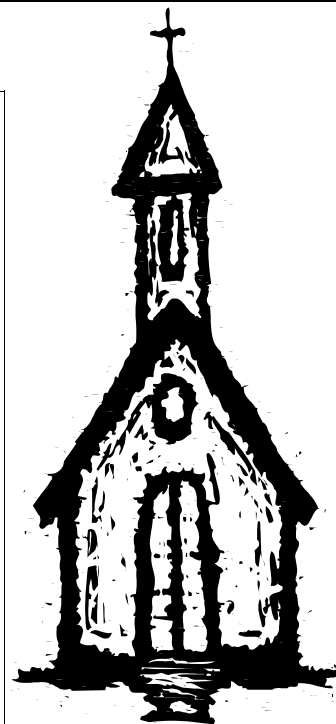
Discussion was held regarding the Pork Loin Dinner. Tickets will be \$7.00 per person with children 5 and under free. A raffle will be held also. Grant will be in charge of obtaining items. Council members will bring 3 dozen bars each.

Rod reported that Garden of Dreams will replace the 3 plants that didn't survive the winter. Rod will have a working vacation May 10-16. Pastor Jim's 15<sup>th</sup> Ordination will be recognized with a coffee and card shower at Zion on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Global Mission event will be Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> at Trinity in Webster City. Those interested need to contact Pastor Rod.

Marc discussed the request for the City of Harcourt to erect a sign on church property. It will entail the moving of the church sign a short distance. Motion made, seconded and carried.

Meeting adjourned 9:15PM.

Dorothy Nahnsen. Secretary



## Treasurer's Report

### April Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,798.65
April Deposits	3,141.64
April Expenses	<u>2,322.09</u>
Balance 4/30/04	\$ 6,618.20

### Serving Faith

**Ushers-**

Marc Greenfield & Tony Johnson

**Communion Assistants-**

Marc Greenfield & Dorothy Nahnsen

**Altar & Greeter-**

Doris Peterson & Sue Tallman

**Altar Flowers-Arlene Hintch in Honor of the Memory of Don Hintch**

**Come & Go  
Bridal Shower**

**For Shannon Robeson  
Bride to be of Nick Samuelson  
Sunday, June 13th  
2:00—4:00 pm  
Faith Lutheran Church  
The couple is registered  
at Target & Younkers.  
They will be married August 7  
at Augustana Lutheran,  
in Manson.  
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!**

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last as long as one of those clematis I planted. How about you? Have you ever tried to get rid of a bad habit, or tried to develop a new good one? Think about how hard that was to change that one little thing about yourself - and then consider the impossibility of being able to change someone else...

We are thankfully spared the task of trying. Luther's Small Catechism tells us that "I believe that by my own reason or strength, I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him..." That's a battle I couldn't even choose to take on myself - let alone for someone else. Even though we may wish we could, and will sometimes bang our heads against the wall trying to get our kids or grandkids (or parents, or spouses) to come to church (& even more importantly, to come to Jesus), it is not going to come from any effort of ours, but only by the working of the Spirit. We can plant a seed, or a bushel of them, but God alone gives the growth. It's true of grass in my front yard, and it is true of people.

Plant the seed, and let it grow...or not. Choose your battles, and turn the all the rest of them over to God. Take the energy you would have wasted on that which you can never control or accomplish, and use it somewhere else - somewhere God would have you use it.

And if you find you have energy left over, plant clematis.

rod



**Faith's Annual  
PORK LOIN DINNER  
will be Sunday, June 27th  
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

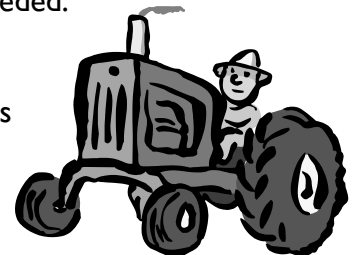
**Tickets are for sale from  
any of the Council Members  
or Pastor Rod  
\$7 each, kids under 5 free.**

**There will also be a raffle!!  
Meals to go available!!!**

**Wanted: Lawn Mowers**

The Church Council is asking for members to sign up to mow the church yard again this year. There are several weeks open, more volunteers are needed.

- June 6-
- June 13- Engquists
- June 20-
- June 27- Meyers



## Faith Lutheran Church

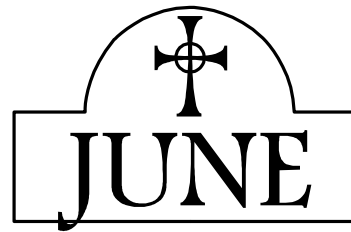
Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA  
PO Box 68  
113 North Ash St.  
Harcourt, Iowa

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

Walking in Faith



Contact us by e-mail  
[rodmeyer@lvcta.com](mailto:rodmeyer@lvcta.com)



- June 1 Swedish Club
- June 4&5 Women of Faith Conference
- June 6 Worship 9 am, 'Over 80' Coffee  
Bridal Shower for Megan Moore 2-4 pm
- June 7 Church Council 7:30pm  
Refreshments, Scott Engquist
- June 7-11 Vacation Bible School at Trinity 8:30-11:30
- June 13 Worship 9 am, Coffee  
Bridal Shower for Shannon Robeson 2-4 pm
- June 19 Kim Bahmann & Jim Engstrom Wedding
- June 20 Worship 9 am, Coffee  
Re-Visioning the Synod 2:30 pm  
Hosted by Bishop Michael Last at Faith
- June 27 Worship 9 am, Coffee  
Pork Loin Dinner 11 am-1 pm

# WELCA NEWS

## June WELCA News 2004

Spring has sprung & summer is just around the corner. There will be no Ladies' Circles in June or July, but don't forget the Pork Loin Dinner on June 27th!

We have three wedding showers coming up! Mark your calendars: May 29th, Kim Bahmann's; June 6th, Megan Moore's; & June 13th, Shannon Robeson's. Please join us o share in their special occasions.

FYI—The garden is doing great: beans, peas, tomatoes are all blooming! Please remember us a harvest time by helping yourself to the produce!

Cheryl

