

# Walking in Faith

January 2005

## Notes from the Edge of the Desk

### My New Perspective - 2005

Something or someone\* has destroyed enough comforters that the dogs are now spending their days in the basement in the back room. Thus I was not prepared for a new wave of damage. But there it was – a swamp between the backroom door & the rest of the basement. How did THAT happen? I couldn't begin to guess, my theories tending toward microscopic culprits – but Cheryl had a theory. One of the dogs – okay, probably the Dalmatian - pulled the hoses out of the drain that carries away the discharge when the water softener recharges. Thus it emptied out onto the floor & under the door, to the carpet.

Great theory. The problem with it is that this morning, we had another flood, even though the hoses were all in place. Evidently, the drain is plugged & thus it just backed up when the softener discharged – again. No dog involvement whatsoever. I feel somehow vindicated...

It was a good time for this to happen. Another time, we would have had a period of bemoaning the fact that we spent two days cleaning up a mess, only to have to do it all over again. But I have spent the last days watching the devastation that occurred as a result of the tsunami, and it has put a lot of things into a new perspective for me.

### Inconvenience is not suffering.

We would be a LOT better off as individuals, families, congregations & as a society if we'd quit trying to convince ourselves that it is. What have I heard people complaining about this week?

**We're too busy – we can't do it all.** Yeah, that's sad! How would you like to try to sell that thought to a parent who lost all her children in a matter of seconds. It's been difficult for me to be particularly sympathetic these days when families don't have enough time to exercise all their social, entertainment & educational opportunities. That's not a problem, folks! That's a blessing! Quit whining about it; get down on your knees and thank God for it RIGHT NOW!

**We don't have the money to do or buy what we want.** No, we probably don't, but have we counted what we DO have? Have we wrapped our heads around the idea that almost all of us could lose 80% of everything we have, & still be several hundred times better off than most of these poor people, before the waves came to carry off what little they had? That is what went through my head the other day, while I watched the fans from Iowa at Shreveport and Orlando. We go out of our way to INVENT ways to waste our resources – how else can you explain the proliferation of meaningless Bowl games, or concert tours, or the new wave of electronic games, or the new 'in' color for the spring line of fashions?! Buy a vowel – get some perspective! You've got money in the bank & food for your table. You've got it made!

**I'm depressed (after Christmas... because I miss someone... whatever...).** Let me take care of that for you. Write a check to the Red Cross – you'll feel better.

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*HAPPY NEW  
YEAR!*

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**Worship 10:30**  
**Coffee 9:30**

**Sunday School**  
**9:15**

### **SERVING COFFEE IN JANUARY**

2nd– Chuck & Diane Will  
9th – Don & Joan  
16th– Diane Engquist  
23rd–  
30th– Rod & Cheryl



## Faith Council

Faith Lutheran Church Council met at 5:30PM on December 8, 2004. Members present were Kari Bahr, Scott Engquist, Marc Greenfield, Dorothy Nahnsen, Jeff Peterson and Pastor Rod.

Pastor Rod led the council in devotions based on Matthew 3:3, Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

The Secretary's report was read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. It showed a balance of \$4472.87. \$500 will be sent to Benevolence this month. The cash flow report was presented. The Mission Investment Fund balance is \$2606.82. A motion was made, seconded and carried that we send \$500 to Lutheran Lakeside and Prison Ministry.

A discussion was held regarding the church property lot lines. A motion was made, seconded and carried that we hire McClure Engineering to survey the property. Scott will contact Mike Trotter regarding the survey. Pastor Rod reported that the light on the church has been fixed. The Harcourt sign is up and the church sign has been moved and is up. Signed agreements with the City of Harcourt were presented. Scott reported that the church has received Microsoft shares from Dallas Carlson again this year. The motion was made, seconded and carried that we sell these shares. John Samuelson will be in charge of the stock sale. A discussion was held regarding the use of the funds for church renovations.

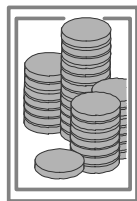
The budget for 2005 was presented. Jan, Scott and John Samuelson are on the budget committee. \$21,329 will be our portion for the Cooperative Ministries. Dorothy presented the WELCA plan for the church kitchen improvements. She will contact Joe Buda regarding the work that needs to be done.

The Annual Meeting will be held January 9 and installation will be on January 16<sup>th</sup> with a potluck following.

The nominating committee is John Samuelson and Don Peterson.

The next meeting will be January 10, 2005 at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Nahnsen



## Treasurer's Report

**Balance 11/1/04                      \$ 3486.92**

**Balance 11/30/04                     \$ 4450.01**

## Serving Faith

**Ushers-**  
Don Peterson & Duane Peterson

**Communion Assistants-**  
Jim Engstrom & Jeff Peterson

**Altar & Greeter-**  
Diane Peterson & Deb Smith

**Altar Flowers-**  
Rosalie Gaworski  
In Memory of Loved Ones

# THANK YOU SO MUCH.....

*Dear family at Faith,*

*Cheryl & I were again overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity & goodwill we experienced this Christmas season. Thank you for your cards, baked goods, remembrances & certainly for your generous gift on Christmas Eve. We are blessed by God through you each & every day. Thank you so much.*

*Rod & Cheryl*

*Ladies of the WELCA,*

*I want to thank you for the lovely plate of cookies & candy.*

*Your thoughtfulness was sincerely appreciated.*

*Betty Hade*

*Dear Member of the WELCA,*

*Many thanks for the plate of goodies I received this Christmas season. I enjoyed them with my coffee.*

*Happy Holidays!*

*With Love, Joy & Peace,*

*Ruby Koppen*

"My New Perspective - 2005", continued from page 1

Get involved in a cause that's bigger than you are. You'll feel useful. Avail yourself to the resources that are yours through your family & friends & church family – you'll feel lucky & loved. Knock yourself out of the center of the universe – it will be hard on your ego, but it will do wonders for your state of mind. You'll feel like you belong, and it will give you a reason for living, other than just being a container for your woes.

I wish this was going to be end to all **my** complaints, but I know it won't be. I'm too stupid & too human to learn the lesson I need to learn in one fell swoop. But maybe if I learn it over & over again, I'll finally remember it: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...

rod

\*This is an invention of my own. Both Cheryl & I know that it's the Dalmatian that is eating the comforters – there's not one doubt in my mind. But we've never actually SEEN her do it, so I keep reminding Cheryl that there is an outside possibility that it is: a) the other dog; b) one of the cats; c) microscopic organisms that have formed a gang who have tiny little body piercings & tattoos, & who force members who want to join to destroy a comforter as part of their initiation. I know it sounds crazy, but it keeps Cheryl from shaving the Dalmatian & writing BAD DOG all over her with a magic marker...

## Operation Christmas

<b>14 Blankets</b>	<b>1 pair men's coveralls</b>
<b>11 Quilts</b>	<b>8 boxes misc. clothes</b>
<b>18 Stocking caps</b>	<b>43 misc. articles</b>
<b>33 pair mittens</b>	<b>1 set of curtains</b>
<b>7 children's jackets</b>	<b>1 ladies outfit</b>
<b>17 pair men's pants</b>	<b>43 men's sweaters</b>

**Thanks to all who donated these articles and to Chuck & Diane Will for delivering them to Fort Dodge.**

**Pearl & Ruby**

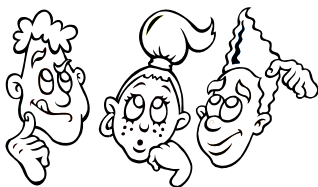
## Congregational Meeting

**The annual meeting of the Faith Lutheran Congregation will be held on January 9th following worship. There will be an election of 3 members to the council. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Installation of the 2005 council will be Sunday, January 16th, with a potluck meal following.**

## YOUTH STUFF

Last month, we had 11 youth & 4 adults attend "The Polar Express" & go out for pizza (the ultimate kid food). We had a great time, & had still another new face. We are by far the fastest growing youth group in the co-operative this year!

We'll meet in January between 4 & 7 on the 16th, for games, make-your-own tacos, & to plan out at least the first half of 2005. See you there!!!



- January 2 Worship 10:30 am Coffee 9:30 am
- January 6 Choir 7:30 pm
- January 8 Confirmation 8:30 & 9
- January 9 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee 9:30  
Congregational Annual Meeting
- January 10 Church Council 7:30 pm
- January 13 Choir 7:30 pm
- January 15 Confirmation 8:30 & 9
- January 16 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee 9:30  
Installation of Church Council with Potluck  
Youth Group at Rod & Cheryl's 4-7 p.m.
- January 20 Martha Group 2 pm at Church  
Diane Will, Hostess  
Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church  
Barb Johnson, Hostess
- January 22 Confirmation 8:30 & 9
- January 23 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee 9:30
- January 27 Choir 7:30 pm
- January 29 Confirmation 8:30 & 9
- January 30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee 9:30

## WELCA NEWS

### January WELCA News 2005

Here I am again, ready to share my thoughts with the Ladies of Faith as 2004 comes to a close. It is difficult to get past all the activities and fatigue of the holidays and move on to 2005. We have had a very busy year at Faith and now it is time to look ahead and make the next year even better. When thinking of a new year, it gives us all a renewed sense of being and hope for the future. We again look forward to Rod's inspiring Bible studies at our monthly meetings. The joint meetings have been a great way for our groups to work together. Our bake sales and dinners are enjoyed by many in the community. Bingo days at the care centers, May baskets, quilt days, our support to Lutheran World Relief and Operation Christmas, remembering our "Over 80's" and Table Affair have all been wonderful ways to show how much we care. We are looking forward to updating the kitchen this January. And now may the 'Spirit' that has worked with us and through us, keep us ever mindful of the needs of our friends, church family and the world. Thank you to all for your ideas, fellowship, and willingness to be a part of our WELCA group.

**Marsha**