

Walking in Faith

April 2005

Notes from the Edge of the Desk



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Worship 10:30
Coffee 9:30

Sunday School
9:15

SERVING COFFEE IN APRIL

3- Duane & Doris Peterson
10 - Rosie & Shirley
17- Kari Bahr
24- Rod & Cheryl



Spring has snuck (sneaked?) up on us again. One would think that with all the attention we give to it after a tedious winter, we would know just when it started, like a gunshot at the beginning of a race, or the alarm on the clock in the morning. But spring begins, as life or love begin, in a manner so small that only God can take note of it. We see the geese only after they have flown hundreds of miles - headed north - less to a place than to a promise of a spring to come. They share that promise with us, honking it noisily overhead, & we lift our heads, eager to hear it. Robins arrive, looking for worms that still slumber in a cold, hard ground - a promise yet unfulfilled, but still a promise as true as any that comes from God. The flowers start to emerge from blankets of dead leaves & old foliage - a promise of color & life in what is still largely a black & white world. Spring has sprung (sprang?).

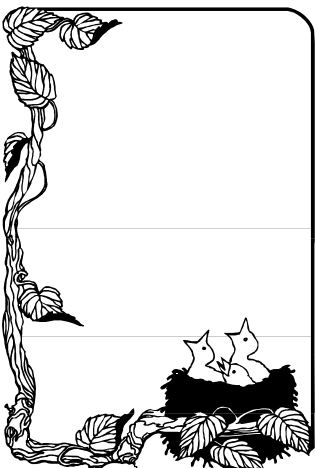
The first sentence spoken after our Lord's resurrection in Luke's Easter account is a question - "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" But isn't that just what spring is about? We look to what might well now be sticks, & can already see in our minds the lilacs they will become. We look at the vestiges of last year's garden, and imagine the produce of the summer to come. All around us, there are signs among the dead that winter's hold on nature is tenuous at best. The tighter death tries to clutch life, the easier it is for life to escape its grasp.

Martin Luther wrote, "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf of springtime."

Why do WE look for the living among the dead? Maybe it is because, at times when death visits, we can finally & clearly focus on what life is really about - faith, & family, & friends. Our workaday priorities rearrange themselves so quickly when death comes to call - that which seemed so important on our calendar is finally put into its proper perspective.

How often have you said or heard some version of "Isn't it sad that we don't get together anymore, except for funerals"? That's because we increasingly pass over our relationships because they don't fit comfortably into our schedules. Those relationships demand time & attention & work - time & attention & labor that is eaten up by the details of everyday: "There's a game today..." "There's a meeting tomorrow I can't

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Faith Council—March, 2005

Faith Lutheran Church Council met at 6:30PM March 3, 2005 . Members present were Kari Bahr, Joe Buda, Dorothy Nahnsen, Don Peterson, Jan Peterson, Jeff Peterson, John Samuelson, Milt Smith and Pastor Rod. Pastor Rod led the council in devotions based on Genesis 15:3.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

The Treasure's report was read and approved. The balance as of 2/28/05 is \$1816.53. It was necessary to withdraw \$1000 from the Mission Investment fund on 2/10/05 for expenses for the month and we will need to withdrawn another \$1000 on 3/7/05 for the coming month's expenses. A total of \$3000 is needed each month to cover the church expenses. The Mission Fund balance is \$10,075.44. The church received \$50 to the memorial fund from the David and Robert Kling families.

John reported that the survey of the church property was completed at a cost of \$866.76.

Clean-up day with tree removal will be March 12th starting at 10AM with a rain date of March 19th.

Joe reported that the roofing project will cost approximately \$3200 for supplies and \$2500 for labor.

The project will be done in June or July. The shingles will be ordered now. Joe will be in charge of the roofing project. A motion was made/seconded and carried that money to come from the Mission fund for the supplies.

Joe reported that the kitchen sinks are in. He is working on installing a water softener. The old sinks are available to whoever wants them.

John reported that he had visited with Fergusons Painting regarding the painting and plastering of the sanctuary. Mike and Sandy Gustofson will be contacted regarding the contrast painting. John also received a bid on redoing the hard wood floors of \$800 from Enos. These projects will be done in June or July.

Pastor Rod contacted the Blanden Art Gallery regarding the mural in the narthex. There is no resident restorer there but will make an appointment when one comes from Iowa City .

The Church Council will serve Easter Breakfast from 9-10AM .

The Seder Meal will be March 24. Reservations are needed.

Pastor Rod reported that a Radon test on the parsonage show an elevated count. A repeat of the test will be conducted.

Pastor Rod will be on vacation from March 28-31.

Church times will change to 9AM July 3rd.

Dates: Good Friday Services March 25th 7PM Trinity

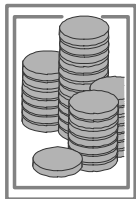
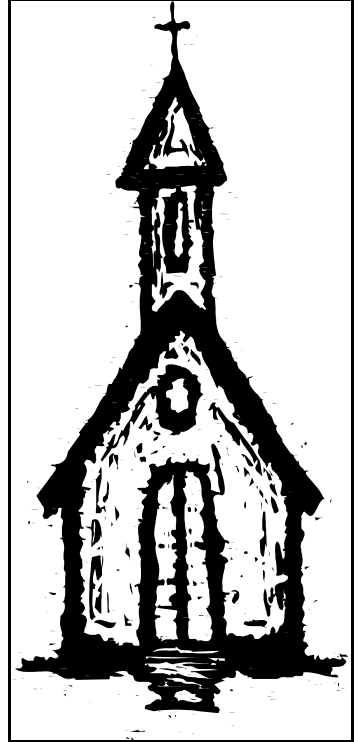
Sunrise Services at Don Williams March 27th 6:30AM with the youth

Easter Breakfast 9-10AM

Easter Service 10:30 AM

Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Nahnsen



Treasurer's Report

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance 2/01/05 | \$ 2027.06 |
| February Deposits | \$ 2951.00 |
| February Expenses | \$ 3161.53 |
| Balance 2/28/05 | \$ 1816.53 |

Serving Faith

Ushers—

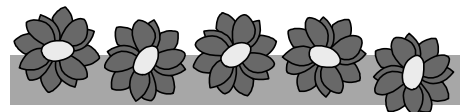
Nick Samuelson & Chuck Will

Communion Assistants-

John Samuelson & Milt Smith

Altar & Greeter—

Marsha Samuelson



S P R I N G

Members of Faith,

The council has been concerned the past few months that the offerings at Faith have been lower than usual. We have a very manageable budget and ask that each member consider their level of giving for the future. We have been blessed by a monetary gift to do special projects at Faith, but will not use that money for operating expenses. This year we are planning to paint the sanctuary and roof the middle section of the church. As a church family, it

Guest Day at Faith

Invite your Friends!!
April 21st, at 7 p.m.

**ANGEL WINGS &
PRECIOUS THINGS**
by Ruth Fridolfson



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miss..." But then death comes, & the game doesn't matter, & the meeting goes on without you, because your REAL priority is to be with those you love & those who love you. You need to hear Jesus' words of comfort & promise & release: so we look among the dead for the living.

That first question is followed by a declaration: "HE IS RISEN." Jesus came & rose again to give us eternal life in the next world, but also an abundant life in this one. An abundant life is not necessarily a busy one. I've lost more than enough friends to death, but it is still sadder to think of the friends I have lost to the blind busy-ness of life – mine or theirs. Someone told me once that, at the end of life, no one regrets that they didn't spend more time at work. Sadly, I don't know if that is still true; our priorities are sadly askew. That is why we only get together at funerals....

Claim the life – the resurrected life – that Jesus lived, died, & rose to win for you. Examine your priorities in the light of the resurrection. Don't settle for an entry in a datebook, when you have been offered the Kingdom of God.

rod

Lutheran World Relief

It is time to start collecting items for Lutheran World Relief. Ruby Koppen and Pearl Peterson have been co-ordinating the collection at Faith for many years. Items needed are: quilts, wrapped soap, light-weight clothing for men & children and sweaters for women, men and children. Thank you to Pearl & Ruby for your dedication to this important project. Soap is being collected in the basket and clothing can be brought to church April 17 & 24.

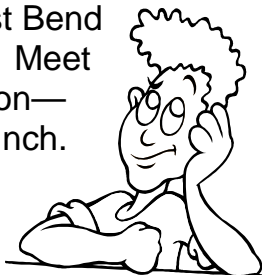
**Yard Cleanup
Saturday, April 2
10:00 am**

The weather has not been good the past 2 work days. If the day is questionable call John at 354-5358. Workers needed!

YOUTH STUFF

A thanks to our Youth who put together & conducted the Easter Sunrise Service at Don Williams Park. A thank you, too, to Heidi Blair, who hosted our group & fed us all in March! We had 12 kids volunteer for the skit & all the parts of the service.

Our next outing will be to The Grotto in West Bend on April 24th. Meet at Faith at noon—bring \$5 for lunch.



- April 2 No Confirmation
- April 3 Worship with Communion 10:30 am
Sunday School & Coffee
Daylight Saving Time Begins-Turn clocks ahead
- April 7 Church Council 6:30 pm
Choir 7:30 pm
- April 9 Confirmation 8:30 & 9:00 am
- April 10 Worship 10:30 am Sunday School & Coffee
Special Choir Presentation during worship
- April 14 Choir 7:30 pm
- April 16 Confirmation 8:30 & 9:00 am
- April 17 Worship 10:30 am Sunday School & Coffee
- April 21 Guest Day at Faith 7 pm
- April 23 Confirmation 8:30 & 9:00 am
- April 24 Worship 10:30 am Sunday School & Coffee
Youth Group to Grotto noon
- April 28 Choir 7:30 pm
- April 30 Confirmation 8:30 & 9:00 am

WELCA NEWS

April WELCA News 2005

Spring is just around the corner, finally, even with the snow last night for the Seder Meal. We have had a mild winter. A heartfelt thank-you to all who helped with the Seder meal; I could not have done it without you. It was a great success; Rod & I could not have done it without you.

Guest Day is fast approaching. It will be Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. Angel Wings & Precious Things is our program for this year. Ruth Fridolfson will be our speaker. Please plan on attending, & if you know of anyone who would like to come, please invite them. We are using angels as a theme.



The kitchen is coming along; the sinks are in & the water heater will be installed next week. Thanks to Joe for all his hard work.

March 29th was the Cluster & Spring meeting in Webster City. Health Kits & School Kits are finished & will be shipped along with the quilts & clothing. If you have any questions, please contact Pearl Peterson. A big thank you to all who quilted this year: the quilts are beautiful. Also, thank you for all who donate to this worthwhile cause. I know they appreciate it.



Happy Spring!!

Cheryl