

Walking in Faith

Faith Lutheran Church
Harcourt, Iowa

APRIL 2008



Notes from the Edge of the Desk

Haileigh Jo is into "Cinderella" now. It's a welcome change from "Peter Pan". I was frankly starting to root for Captain Hook, but at least I didn't have to have sword fights with her. Playing Cinderella is much more aerobic. You have to dance with her at the ball, & when you are tired of doing that, or just before she's so dizzy, she's going to throw-up, you can move things along by asking, "Cinderella, what's that I hear?"

The answer is inevitably, "THE CLOCK IS DINGING!!!" Off she runs, stopping somewhere along her path to conveniently drop her shoe. Your job is to run after her & find the shoe, but not catch her. I'm pretty good at that part.

Then there is the job of finding the foot that the shoe fits. If there are any women around, they are given a role to play. "Try it on her," Haileigh will say. "She's an ugly step-sister." The shoe never fits them; the women in her stepfamily, besides being mean & ugly, are evidently genetically pre-disposed to have enormously fat feet.

Finally, the climax of the story approaches. It's time to try the shoe on her. She sticks out her foot, & what do you know? It fits! Great joy! She's officially a princess! Time to ride off in the coach (an important element: even in Fantasy Land, girls prefer a guy with a nice set of wheels.)

There are places where the story gets edited. She's the one who gets to drive the coach (one of the leather chairs in the living room). Sometimes the prince (that's me!) gets to ride along to the palace, but just as often, she orders me out & takes off without me. [At which point, I was reminded of the guy who wanted to buy his daughter a Barbie. The sales clerk told him, "The regular Barbie is \$13; the Malibu Barbie is \$19; the Story Book Barbie is \$35; and the Divorced Barbie is \$495." "Why is the Divorced Barbie so expensive?" the father asked. The answer: "Well, she comes with all of Ken's stuff..."]

During one trip to the palace, all the horses inexplicably fell over, & she had to get out and set them up again, which is not easy to do in high-heeled glass shoes & a ball gown...I assume. And the last day Haileigh was with us, the handle for the coach door kept breaking, & her dad (a bonded, union-registered "Coach Repairs R Us" handle specialist) kept having to fix it. (Proving once again that even when your problem is imaginary, & the repairman is your dad, good help is hard to find.)

Though the dialog & the details might change, there is one element that remains constant: the ending. "And they lived happily ever after." All of Haileigh's favorite stories finish that way.

For that matter, so do mine.

Here we are, post-Easter Sunday. The tomb is empty, Christ is appearing here & there, to these people & those. Sometimes they immediately recognize him, sometimes they don't. Sometimes they need a little proof or prompting before they realize that, yes, it IS Jesus. But the conclusion is always the same: He HAS risen! And that points to the truth that has supported the faithful for centuries, through whatever circumstances they might have had to endure; death has lost its sting.

Yours is more than a fairy tale ending: Christ died & rose, so that you too might live happily EVER AFTER!

rod



Serving Faith, April 2
Church Council
Treasurer's Report

New Chairs 3
Lutheran World Relief
JUST GIVE ME JESUS

April Schedule 4
Youth News
WELCA News



Worship 9:00
Coffee 10:00

Sunday School
10:00

SERVING COFFEE IN APRIL

April 6- Donnie & Jo
April 13- Shirley
April 20- Cheryl & Rod
April 27- Rosie



Church Council

Faith Lutheran Church Council met on March 5, 2008 at 7:45PM. Members present were Doug Bahr, Donna Brundage, Dorothy Nahnsen, Don Peterson, Eddie Peterson, Jeff Peterson, John Samuelson, Jan Peterson, treasurer and Pastor Rod.

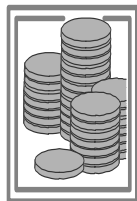
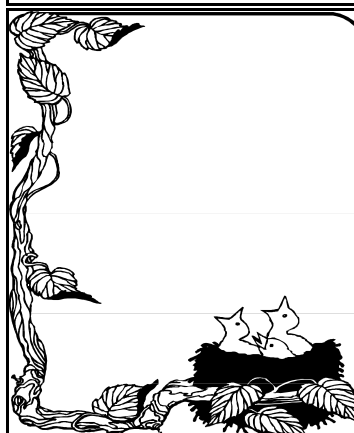
The secretary's report was approved as read. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2,169.67. For February we had an inflow of \$4,383.30 and an outflow of \$-\$4,008.15 for a balance of \$375.15. There are 3 CD's coming due in March. All will be renewed for one year. \$1000 will be taken out of savings for March expenses. In savings there is \$6,825.95, in memorial fund there is \$2,562.61 and as of January 31st the mission fund has \$5,636.13. A Thank You note from Lutheran Lakeside Camp was read thanking the church for their contribution. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the treasurer's report.

John reported that the new stool and handicap bars had been installed in the bathrooms. Chairs will be purchased for the upstairs with half of the money from the women's group and one half from the memorial account. Mike Gustafson will be making additions to the restoration project. A discussion was held regarding the need to replace the entry door to the church. A motion was made, seconded and carried that we install a new church door, white exterior and wood interior, for approximately \$4000. It was decided that funds from the Pork Loin Dinner with matching Thrivent funds will be used toward the purchase of this door. Pastor Rod reported that the remote on the sound system was not working. He will contact the sound system company for repairs.

We had received 2 applications for the church scholarship. Anyone who meets the requirements is encouraged to apply. The Council will be serving Easter breakfast. Maundy Thursday services will be at Trinity at 7:00PM and Good Friday services will be at Faith at 7:00PM. Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Following the meeting, council members met at Engquist Lumber to determine the style of entry door that would coordinate with the church entry.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Nahnsen



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 2/1/08	\$ 1794.52
February Deposits	4383.30
February Expenses	<u>4008.15</u>
Balance 2/29/08	\$ 2169.67

Serving Faith

Ushers—
Doug Bahr & Nick Samuelson

Communion Assistants—
Donna Brundage &
John Samuelson

Greeter—
Marsha Samuelson

HAVE FAITH

NEW CHAIRS

Our fellowship room has taken on a new look. Upholstered navy chairs have been purchased by the WELCA ladies and by memorial gifts. They are a great addition to the comfort and beauty of the room .



Lutheran World Relief

It is time to start cleaning your closets and collecting items for Lutheran World Relief. Items needed are: quilts, wrapped soap, light-weight clothing for men & children and sweaters for men, women & children. The soap basket is ready for soap collection and clothing can be brought to the church any time between April 6-25.

A pastor was calling on a parishioner one Saturday afternoon. Although it was obvious that someone was home, no one came to the door, even after he had knocked several times. Finally, he pulled out his card, wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back, & stuck it in the door.

The next day, he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was the notation "Genesis 3:10".

Revelation 3:20 reads: "Behold! I stand at the door & knock. If any man hear my voice, & open the door, I will come in to him & will dine with him, & he with me."

Genesis 3:10 reads: "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, & I was afraid, because I was naked."



JUST GIVE ME JESUS EVENT

Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of Billy & Ruth Graham, launched JUST GIVE ME JESUS in the year 2000, as part of her AnGel Ministries. Since that time, she has toured the country & the world presenting her message to women.

She will be bringing her message to the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines on April 18th (Friday, from 7-9 p.m.) & April 19th (from 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m.) She will be joined by prayer leader Jill Briscoe & musicians Stephanie Seefeldt & Fernando Ortega.

The event itself is free. The area coordinator is JoAnne Korpi (Pilot Mound Methodist Church), whom you can call for more information at 275-3284. There is also an informational pamphlet on the bulletin board at church.

FAITH

I think there is no SUFFERING greater than what is caused by the doubts of those who want to BELIEVE. What people don't realize is how much RELIGION costs. They think FAITH is a big electric blanket, when of course it is the CROSS. It is much harder to believe than not to BELIEVE.

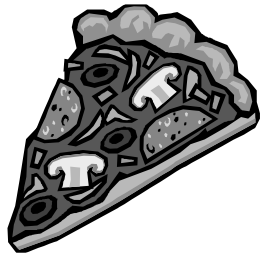
Flannery O'Connor

YOUTH NEWS

A big thank you to the youth who helped with the Sunrise Service & Breakfast on Easter Sunday! You did a great job!

We have 3 members graduating this spring from Faith: Austin Engstrom, Alex Engquist, & Emily Peterson. Michelle Blair will graduate from Trinity. Keep them in your prayers as they plan their futures.

The Youth will meet on Sunday, April 20th in the afternoon for a movie/bowling & pizza. Details will be announced.



- April 3 Church Council 7:30 p.m.
- April 6 Worship/Communion 9
Coffee & Sunday School 10
- April 8 Spring Cluster Meeting 1:30 pm
Christ Lutheran, Fort Dodge
- April 9 Bingo at Gowrie Care Center 2:30 pm
- April 13 Worship 9 am Coffee & Sunday School 10 am
- April 17 Martha Group 2 pm at church
Host-Sharon Bryant
Sarah Group 6:30 pm at church Host-Marsha S.
- April 20 Worship 9 am Coffee & Sunday School 10 am
Youth Group
- April 27 Worship 9 am Coffee & Sunday School 10 am

WELCA NEWS—April 2008

Spring has arrived and Rod saw his robins, so life is good. Easter was so early this year, it has made me stop and take notice of how fast this year is going. I hope all had a wonderful Easter. It was nice to have most of the snow gone and hopefully it will stay gone now. Spring is here and a time of fresh new things and ideas.

In May we will be sending out Health Kits, School Kits, and quilts for World Relief. May 1 is May Day and again the kids will be making May Baskets for the shut-ins and care facilities. We will be doing this on April 27th, so if anyone has any left over Easter Candy you would like to donate, please leave it at the church.

April our regular meeting will be held on the normal day and time of April 17. Remember April 8th is the Cluster Meeting in Fort Dodge at Grace Lutheran. Our ladies are in charge of the program. Tyler Sandstrom will be presenting his pottery presentation with the theme of Baptism.

Have a Wonderful and Happy Spring: think warm thoughts! God Bless!

cheryl

