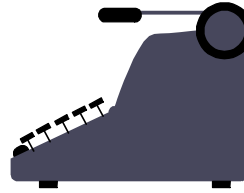


Walking in Faith

APRIL 2004

Faith Of A Robin

Notes from the Edge of the Desk



If only I had the faith of a robin. God calls it out of a warm, wonderful place where food is plentiful and says, "Go north. Go see if that tree is still there. Go see if they finally took the time to drag your nest off the arbor. Go north. Go now." And the robin goes. It responds to a voice it never hears, that speaks in a language that it doesn't understand. It's a voice that speaks to the robin's soul, and the robin answers with its wings. Going north. Going to see if that tree is still there.

And the robin arrives. The tree is still there, but, alas, it has none of its leaves to give the robin shelter from the wind that blows from still further north. No food. No nest. Cold. Snow. Rain. But the voice told the robin to come, and so it did. The voice made no promises. The robin waits, knowing that time and the voice will eventually renew the plenty of this place.

The timing of the voice and the command seems to have been premature, at best. The days get longer and finally warmer, but both so slowly that the difference is hardly perceptible. The robin doesn't question or wonder or ask, as I would. "What were you thinking?" "What was wrong with where I was?" "I couldn't have waited?!" But it is people like me who look back with longing to the flesh pots of Egypt. The robin has spent a lifetime listening to the voice & responding to it. No time for looking back. No reason for looking back. If only I had the faith of a robin.

The trees turn green. The voice urges the robin to reconstruct the nest in the arbor. "Stake out your turf one more time. Hunt out those particular bits of twig & grass that are going to eventually become nursery & home. Get ready again for the miracle of new life."

The promise of life: what greater promise could there be? And only the voice can make that promise. Maybe it's for this reason alone that the robin always listens when the voice speaks: it's enough sometimes just to hear the promise. It's enough sometimes to have the voice speak your name and say, "You. I've chosen you. You & I will partner, and we will bring this miracle to be." Of course, the robin doesn't worry about it as I would. "Am I worthy? Am I ready? Am I able?" These are the questions that

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**April 4th-
Daylight-Saving
Time Begins**

**Turn Clocks ahead
One hour**

SERVING COFFEE IN APRIL

4th- Dorothy Nahnsen
11th- Church Council
18th- Pearl & Arlene
285h- Rod & Cheryl



Faith Council Minutes

Faith Council met at 7:30 p.m. on March 1, 2004. In attendance were Jeff Peterson, Grant Gibbons, Scott Engquist, Jan Peterson, Kari Bahr, Pastor Rod, & Marc Greenfield. Rod led the council in a devotion based on Isaiah 23. The minutes of the April meeting were read & approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented. She reported that there was a delay in some of the deposits, and that funds were thus rather tight for a while. Based on this particular situation, a motion was made and seconded that \$2000 of the funds that were to be deposited in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund (monies for the roofing of the center portion of the church roof) would be held in the checking account. Carried. Motion to accept January & February's reports. Seconded & carried.

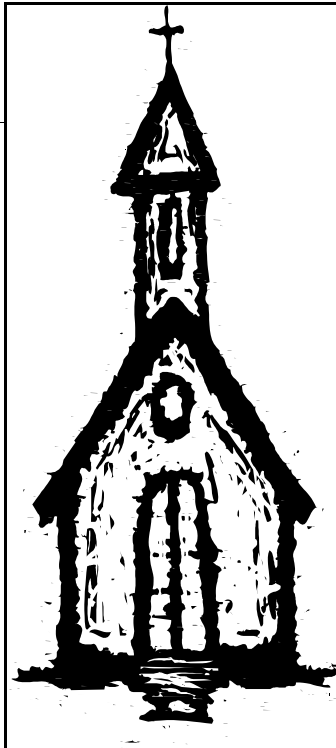
Pastor Rod recommended to the council that Austin Engstrom, Alex Engquist, & Emily Peterson be accepted for Affirmation of Baptism on April 4th. Motion made & seconded. Carried.

It was decided that the Annual Pork Loin Dinner would be on Sunday, June 27th. There will be a raffle, and Jeff Peterson will check with Ben Van Sickle to see if he will do the grilling for us. Work on the parsonage kitchen will begin on March 26th. The Greenfield family requested use of the entryway for a family gathering in the afternoon of April 4th.

Discussion was held about Easter Breakfast before service. A Sunrise Service was being planned for 6:30 a.m. at the Harcourt Park shelter by the Fusion Group in Gowrie. When those plans are finalized, we will plan our breakfast.

Move to adjourn. Seconded & carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rod Meyer, sec pro tem



February Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$6,633.52
February Deposits	1,804.00
February Expenses	<u>4,335.83</u>
Balance 2/29/04	\$4,101.69

Serving Faith

Ushers—

Nick Samuelson & Chuck Will

Communion Assistants—

Scott Engquist & Grant Gibbons

Altar & Greeter—

Marsha & John Samuelson

**Altar Flowers—Donna Brundage
In Honor of the Memory of
Bob Brundage**

Attention Ladies of Faith

Special Events to Remember for April

- April 15** Guest Day at Zion 9:30 am
RSVP to Marsha by April 5th
- April 15** Guest Day at Faith 6:30 pm
Sign up by April 12th
- April 22** Quilt Day 1:00 pm
- April 25** SarahGroup-Bring candy for
May Baskets-No Meeting
- April 27** Spring Cluster Mtg. 1:30 pm
- April 29** Martha Group 2pm at church
(Change of Date) Health Kits

Easter Lilies

If you would like to bring a lily in memory of a loved one for the Easter morning worship, please fill out a form and give it to Marsha or put it in the offering plate to be listed in the Easter Memorial Bulletin.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Sunday school at Faith will have an Easter Egg Hunt after worship on Easter morning. All children attending church that day are invited to participate. Please let Cheryl Meyer know if you have someone who will be there that day. No regular Sunday school classes that day. April 4 there will be a movie for the children during Sunday School hour.

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plague my existence and rob my life of the spontaneous joy that the Creator endeavors to bring me. He says, "I choose you" a dozen times a day - a hundred times a day. My faith answers, "Why me? Why now?" If only I had the faith of a robin.

Spring wanes. Summer passes. The new brood has come & gone. A dozen days pass, and the voice comes again. "Go south. Go see if that tree is still there. Go see if your nest has blown off the downspout. Go south. Go now." And the robin goes.

Maybe this is the reason we wait so anxiously each year to see what is in reality a pretty nondescript bird. It is comical-looking at best; a bit of color, but nothing that can compare to the blue jay or the cardinal. It doesn't have a song to remember. It's not particularly social. It has nothing to commend it at all, really - except that once a year, it heralds spring and hope and new life. It is a gift from God to all of us who can't or won't or don't hear the voice that would direct our lives as well.

If only we had the faith of a robin.

rod

Holy Week Schedule

- Palm Sunday** Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 am
Confirmation, Coffee in Honor of Emily, Alex & Austin
- Maundy Thursday** Worship Service at Trinity 7:30 pm
- Good Friday** Worship Service at Faith 7:30 pm
- Easter Worship** Sunrise Service at Don Williams
6:30 am by The Fusion Youth
Easter Worship at Faith 9:00 am
Coffee hosted by Church Council beginning at 8:00 am
Easter Egg Hunt for the Children

Lutheran World Relief

It is time to start gathering items for Lutheran World Relief. There will be a basket for collecting wrapped soap. Items needed this year are quilts and light and medium weight clothing for men, children and infants. Sweaters for women are also needed. Please bring your clothing anytime from April 18th - 29th. The Martha group will be making health kits and the Sarah group school kits.

Faith Lutheran Church

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Walking in Faith



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APRIL

- April 1 "Purpose Driven Life" Bible Study 7:30 pm
- April 3 Confirmation 8 am–12 pm at Trinity
- April 4 Worship & Confirmation 9 am, Sunday School
- April 5 Church Council 7:30pm Refreshments, Marc
- April 7 Pastor Rod at Ogden Manor 1:00 pm
- April 8 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm at Trinity
- April 9 Good Friday Service 7:30 pm at Faith
- April 11 Sunrise Service 6:30 am Don Williams Lake
Easter Worship 9 am-Coffee beginning at 8 am
Easter Egg Hunt after church
- April 15 Guest Day at Faith 6:30 pm
- April 18 Worship 9:00 am-Sunday School-Coffee
Youth from Minnesota for our worship
- April 22 Happy Birthday Pastor Rod!
Quilt Day 1:00 pm
- April 25 Worship 9:00 am-Sunday School-Coffee
- April 27 Spring Cluster 1:30 pm Grace Lutheran
- April 29 Martha Group 2 pm , Health Kits
Hostess: Pearl Peterson
Choir 7:30 pm

WELCA NEWS

April WELCA News 2004

Spring has finally arrived with the hope and promise of new life all around us. The new flowers are poking through the soil. The trees are budding– Spring is in the air and Easter is just around the corner.

April 15th will be our Guest Day. We have Mary Porter and her puppet "Susie Q" coming from Guthrie Center to usher us into Spring & a new Life in Christ. Dinner will be Connie & Angie's famous chicken salad and pigs in a blanket for the children. Spread the word, we want to share this talented lady with all.

This Easter season, The Passion of the Christ, has been released. It is the most moving movie I have seen and heard. I had to close my eyes for a portion of it. It is heartwarming to see Mary and know what she must have been thinking, and feeling., knowing what her son must go through to save us from our sins and show us new life in him. I had to keep reminding myself of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son so that everyone who believes in him may not die, but have eternal life. "

Jesus is our Saviour and we celebrate his life this Easter season and beyond!

Cheryl Meyer