

Senior Spotlight:

LoAnn Hanson

To anyone who walks into the Faith Lutheran office on a Wednesday, you already know who LoAnn is. Hers is the first smiling face you would see since she has been volunteering as Office Assistant on Wednesday for the past three years. Or you might know her from the other positions she has held in Faith, some of them being Friday Bible study, Senior Task Force, Senior Potluck, Community meals, funerals, Church Council, Mentor, Sunday school teacher, or all around ambassador for Faith Lutheran.

This should come as no surprise, because LoAnn has been a member of Faith since she was 3 ½ years old. She was born in Nebraska and moved to Hutchinson with her parents in 1943. Her grandparents had been members of Faith since 1941, so it seems appropriate that LoAnn and her family join the same church. LoAnn shared a Vacation Bible School memory of sitting outside for story time. Her teacher reading those Bible stories under a tree was Pearl Betker. LoAnn made certain I know that her teacher wasn't much older than the class she was teaching. She remembers Sunday School being held in the church pews, class in one pew and the teacher in the pew ahead of them. There were classes in each corner of the church – short on Sunday school space even back then. Confirmation was memory work and lots of it. Before confirmation, a public examination was held in the church. She remembers family coming from Nebraska for that most important event.

When asked who influenced her faith in God the most, LoAnn listed her parents. Mom reading Bible stories and Dad making certain farm work did not get in the way of attending church and Sunday School. It was very important that LoAnn receive an attendance bar on her Sunday School pin every year. But she also remembers her Grandma Boll. It seems once LoAnn could drive, Grandma Boll always needed a ride to church and called LoAnn for that ride. Since she was at church delivering Grandma to services she may as well stay and attend. “I count on Him” was the answer LoAnn gave me when I asked her how her faith today helps in her daily life. “What do you have without faith” was her next statement.

LoAnn had a long list of things she likes about her church. I told her to give me the top three and they were the four pastors, the staff and the opportunities for all ages to grow in their church life. Her answer about changing anything in the church is one I hear from most older members. We miss the respect the church was given.

