

From the **PASTOR**—

Dear Fellow Members:

Keep on reading if you are a member of Faith Lutheran Church....

This is my last summer as your Pastor! The next few months will quickly pass. Come October 1st I need to separate myself from your presence so that you can look ahead with clear eyes and visualize what you will look for in your new Pastor. I won't have the pleasure of greeting you at the door, worshiping at Faith, or participating in your special occasions. Maybe this isn't important to you, but it is to me. Each of you has a special place in my heart and life. I've been your Pastor for 29 plus years; many of you were here when I arrived in April 1977. Many of you have joined during my pastorate. And many of you claim to be a member of Faith but never attend Services or support Faith's programs. The next year is a time of transformation, not only for you but also for Carolyn and me.

At the Ordination Service (Synod 6/03) Bishop Margaret Payne talked about a family of beavers who set to work damming up a stream and creating a pond. Their work transformed that field into wetlands, creating a totally different environment than was there before. "Last week I sat by that pond and thought about rivers of living water and realized the ways in which the church is a beaver pond—a place where living water puddles in a big way and transforms the landscape at the same time that it continues to flow and cleanse." Beavers create a new environment. Trees die. But we know that it is not possible to grow new life unless there is loss and death. "But if we only care about the trees...we will not have the courage for God's transformation and new life, and there is no doubt that the work of beavers and the Holy Spirit is always transformation. When our church is a life-giving pond and not a stagnant pool, when the water of the Spirit pulses through it—that will mean some death, but the Spirit hearts always creates a new, life-giving environment and it will bring a diversity that has never existed before."

Yes, the landscape of Faith will be transformed. You'll have an interim Pastor, someone specially trained to help you through the process of finding a new Pastor. Your church has a tremendous need for all of you—the old timers, the new comers, and those not yet "hooked up." All of you need to attend church, read the Voice of Faith, support Faith's programs; it's the only way to stay in the loop. While you're at it give your full support to the Transition Committee as they look to you for your vision of what Faith needs in the person of a Pastor. During the interim phase work like beavers. Have courage for God's transformation and new life at Faith.

Faithfully yours,

Paul E. Henry, Pastor

ALL ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER VOICE OF FAITH NEED TO BE IN
THE OFFICE BY AUGUST 20TH



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ed Larson Karen Lamontagne Marilyn Haas Adell Kenyon
June Johnson Cathy Howell Michael Kay
Bob Chester Norma Sandberg Elaine Potterton
Marlene Nixon Carrie Heuser-Spruill Linda Hartl Shirley Palhaus



JULY

01 Elsie Benjamin
Cynthia Schroll
05 Merlin Christianson
12 Adam Cummings
Flo Le Page
13 Christopher Marineau
18 Marjorie Coons
19 Inge Melching
20 Patricia Ann Slocum
21 Carolyn Henry
23 Thomas Tedford, Jr.
24 Erik Pellett
29 Adell Kenyon
30 Matthew Kenyon
31 Helen Mariner

AUGUST

02 Kurt Melching
04 Adam Pearson
05 Bill Scheimer
06 Rick Hart
07 Tammy Harmon
09 Kathy Ricciardelli
10 Barbara Pellett
11 David Woodrow
13 Veronica Carpenter
16 Dwight Henry Slocum
17 Anne McMahan
Mark George VanOstrand
18 Erich Pfaff
19 Debbie Carr
Marilyn Haas
20 Michael DePold
21 Karen Lamontagne
22 Elizabeth Calabrese
Louis Moreau
Sarah Jaworski
23 Pamela Johnson
Mathew Nelsen
24 Stuart Slocum
25 Samantha Harmon
Robert Johnson
27 Charles Schiemer
28 Derek Cummings
28 Linda Woodrow
31 Ethel Wirtemberg

Your Mutual Ministry Committee invites you to come along for the ride as a new part of our journey begins. See any member if you have questions, concerns, or ideas. Janina, Hans, Chuck, Joyce, Marjorie, Donna, Keryl, Joe, Kent, Annette. We are here for you.



Pastor Henry's Retirement
Sunday, September 24, 2006
Adam's Mill Restaurant 4:30 – 8:30 pm



Meeting our Interim Pastor
September 2006



Cottage Meetings for input
September – November 2006

Faith Council Structure:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Kent Tedford

DIVISION I VICE PRESIDENT

Hans DePold

DIVISION II VICE PRESIDENT

Annette Bolt

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Barbara Lewis

DIVISION I COMMITTEES

Worship and Music:

Merlin Christianson

Christian Education:

Denise Turner
Ursula Delemos

Youth:

Cathy Kay

Evangelism:

Joyce Lamontagne

Social Ministry:

Lynn Tobin

Youth Deacons Eric Bolt - Alaina Tobin

DIVISION II COMMITTEES

Stewardship:

Joe Carlson

Finance:

Jim Bevins

Property:

Alex Mada

Publicity:

Caryn Furbush

Oh No! Pastor Henry is Retiring! What will that do to Faith Lutheran?!

Pastor Henry retires on September 24, 2006. After 29 years at Faith Lutheran Church, and many more years of pastoral experience before that, Pastor Henry is and has been a wonderful, caring, loving Pastor to many of you for over 20 years and to some of us for a few years or even weeks!

We've all come to be at Faith for many different reasons. When Dennis and I joined Faith in February 2003, we were coming off a negative experience and were apprehensive that this Pastor might retire shortly. In fact, my first question to Joe Carlson and Irene Van Ostrand when they visited our home on a "Cookie Run" was "how long do you think Pastor Henry will stay at Faith?". They said they thought about 4-5 years more. We discussed it and decided to go for it.

So here we are 3 years later, greatly immersed in the workings of Faith, and Pastor Henry is retiring. Are we worried about the situation Faith finds itself in? No, in fact we are excited about the opportunities this change presents us. Yes, we'll miss Pastor Henry dearly, but he's prepared us well. We have personally observed that the people of Faith stand on the word of God and their personal faith to see that God's work is done. Pastor Henry is a great worship leader, a minister visiting the sick, potential new members, and other various "Pastor type" duties, but he basically stays behind the scenes and only guides or offers advice, not ultimatums, when it comes to running our day to day church. He believes in US! The church council and the various committees really keep Faith Lutheran functioning and that is an important distinction because we, the people of Faith, are still going to be here after Pastor retires. It is not that way in all Lutheran churches.

With the advent of the Mutual Ministry committee, which is made up of a cross section of Faith's members, and the active work of the Church Council to get the transition work started already, we are way ahead of where most congregations would be in this process. Pastor Asta and others at the New England Synod are being very supportive and helpful. They are amazed and gratified at our progress, our determination, and the strength of our faith. We will definitely need time to grieve, to absorb the changes Pastor's leaving will bring, and work out details of "what we want to be when we grow up" with the guidance of an interim minister, but then we will move ahead with a new Pastor, one with a strong understanding of what the people of Faith need in their Pastor and a detailed map of what the people of Faith want this church to be and how they want it to grow.

Dennis and I have faith that this journey, while a bit bumpy, will be successful; but it will take *all of us* to make it happen successfully. In the next few months you will be hearing and seeing much more about our journey. Where you can contribute, please come forward. When you have questions about something, ask. Where you have concerns, voice them. We are all in this together ... our family of Faith. Praise the Lord!

Donna Hubbs
Mutual Ministry Committee

What Wondrous Love This Is

Just before Pastor Henry came, when we were sinking low, Christ set aside his crown for us to walk with us. We are so fortunate that he called Pastor Henry and Carolyn here for all these years, because Pastor has had the uncanny gift of imagining the future... before our congregation built the pipe organ, rebuilt the heating system, built all our stained glass windows, and began upgrading the Sanctuary. And Carolyn has been such a big part of everything we do.

We are so fortunate that Pastor Henry recognized that each of us have different talents that Christ can build upon. We have had carpenters, electricians, plumbers, teachers, engineers, nurses, administrators, doctors, musicians, and benefactors who have always come forward when needed. Just look at the recent outreach events of the Men and Women in Blue organized by Donna, Lynn and Caryn (with Hilda the chef) and the Merrimack Bell Choir event organized by Fred. People of Faith have always given back some of what God has given them. And everyone, no matter what his or her time or talent, has had a role in making Faith what it is today.

In a sense we have become a magnet church with people attending from as far north as Enfield, as far south as Middletown, as far west as Farmington, and as far east as Tolland. We are urban, suburban, multi ethnic, multi racial and amazingly, the majority of us have joined Faith Lutheran from other denominations. Roughly twenty five percent of us left the fastest growing denominations to join Faith Lutheran Church. This breadth of backgrounds gives Faith the Christ-centered inner strength needed to grow in the future.

We are fortunate that Pastor Henry also envisioned his own retirement well in advance and has given us the opportunity to rethink our future with him, with the Synod, with our future interim pastor, and with our future full time pastor.

So what are we doing about our future? First we have realized that we must learn how to oversee all our ministries so that we can fill in until we have a new pastor. Presently our goals all align with evangelism and growth in God's word. We also learned that evangelism is our responsibility as members, and we are learning how to fulfill that ministry. These responsibilities will allow our new pastor to come on board with no disruptions. We are now beginning our communication phase. By September we will have a plan in place with dates, mileposts, and we should know who our interim pastor will be.

On September 24 we will have a farewell party for Pastor and Carolyn Henry at a nearby restaurant. In September we will begin a congregational survey for input on how the ministries should function and what our goals should be.

In October our interim Pastor will be on board. Each committee will take full responsibility for ministry while the interim pastor is here so that we will have stronger lay leadership to help the new pastor when he/she is called. We will begin cottage meetings of small groups to complete the survey.

Then we will have periodic reviews of progress with our Synod staff. The synod will provide one pastoral candidate at a time until one is called. Feel free to ask questions of the Transition/Mutual Ministry committee members and participate where you can, especially in the cottage meetings this fall. Signposts will show us how close we are to our destination. We know that Christ will be walking with us again on this journey which is expected to take at least a year.

Hans DePold

Phase 2 Building Update

Getting approvals from East Hartford for our small Phase 2 addition has proven more time consuming than we could have imagined. Thanks to help from Russ Larson, approvals have now been received from the Inland-Wetlands-Environment Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission. We are proceeding with detailed design, preparation of bid packages, contractor selection and construction. The ideal time for construction is during the summer when our activity is lower but this will push us out into 2007. This project will shutdown our main entrance and interferes with the use of the building. The Church Council has asked that we investigate accelerating the schedule. We will keep you advised as the time line firms up.

Jay Stolzenhaller, Property Chair 528-0165

SOCIAL MINISTRY

On July 8, the Social Ministry committee will be picking up furniture at Russ & Tammy Larson's in Glastonbury as they are moving during that next week. There are also a couple other stops that day, but all are local and everything is going to the East Hartford shelter. We will need several people to help at the Larson's as the Golden's truck and trailer will not hold everything, so we will be looking for other forms of transportation as well. If you can help, please let either Donna Hubbs (243-9458) or Lynn Tobin (644-0760) know as soon as possible. We will plan to leave the church parking lot at 9:00am.

We are also looking for a Sunday after church when we can drive to Chicopee MA to pick up two donated refrigerators for the shelter. More on that to come.

As summer is usually slower with vacations and all, nothing except the above "missions" are being planned. Obviously, if a need arises, we will see what we can do.

Have a great summer! A September meeting will be planned to discuss the 2006-2007 Fall / Winter / Spring season.

Donna Hubbs and Lynn Tobin

New Hymnals???

Yup! New Hymnals. New Lutheran Hymnals will be available in October. The new hymnals, sort of wine-red color, will replace the green ones that have served our church so well through the years. The new hymnals contain ten worship settings and most, if not all, the hymns found in our blue (WOV) supplementary hymnal.

You can make a donation toward the new hymnal(s) right now. Donation envelopes will be available in the Narthex. The donation amount for a new hymnal is \$20.00. We hope that the cost of the new hymnals will be offset by your generous donations.

Merlin Christianson Worship & Music Chairman

Recorded Cassettes

I believe not many of our members know that our 10:30 Sunday worship services are recorded on audio cassettes. The cassettes are stored in the church office on a wall rack just left of Kathy's desk.

The cassettes are available for anyone who is a member of Faith. They can be brought to shut-ins, to someone who is ill and for anyone who missed a service or who simply wants to re-live a special service. Standard services are in gray and special services are in yellow. The cassettes cover a two year cycle.

I must comment on the "Down by the Creek Bank" program presented by our Church School children on June 11th. It was absolutely magnificent. When I listened to the June 11th recording I could hardly believe my ears! I was so impressed I dubbed a copy; so there are two cassettes available. If you missed the June 11th service, I urge you to listen to the recording of it. You will be thrilled.

To sign out a cassette, just sign your name, enter the title of the cassette and the date it was taken out. When returning the cassette, just place it back in the rack and enter the date it was returned. It's that easy.

Merlin Christianson

Faith Lutheran Church Upcoming Events

- 7/9 - Larson Family Service of God Speed & Farewell
- 7/14 - 16 - WELCA Retreat in Londonderry, VT
 - 7/17 - Church Council meeting @ 7
 - 7/23 - Church Picnic @ the Henry's cottage
 - 7/26 - Worship & Music meeting @ 7
- 7/27-30 - Global Mission Event @ UMASS (Info from Joyce)
 - 8/6 - Youth Pool Party @ Bolts
- 8/27 - Thrivent Faith & Family Day @ New Britain Rock Cats Game @ 1:35 (see Kent)
 - 9/8-9/10 - Youth Gathering @ Hammonaset
 - 9/24 - Pastor's Retirement & Reception
 - OCT - German Organ Concert @ Faith
 - DEC - Merrimack Bell Choir concert @ Faith