

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE NEVER CHANGES

If you ever wonder what you can really count on all the time, that's it. The steadfast love of God is always there. Everything else is subject to change.

I have to tell you how glad I am to be your Pastor at this time in your history. I am the Interim Pastor which means I will stay with you only long enough to get you ready for your next Pastor. Kind of like Mary Poppins.

Maybe that's why it's so much fun. Or maybe it's because you are wonderful folks who are a joy to meet. Or maybe because God is pleased with this arrangement. Or all of the above. At any rate, I am having a lot of fun doing this with you.

Take, for example, the great candle lighting incident of October 1. It was my first day and the acolytes had trouble lighting the candles. The hymn ended and candles remained unlit despite the best efforts of two fine acolytes and direct intervention by me.

I have to be honest with you. My attitude about such things is "so what?" Still, it is better when things go according to plan. So I paid attention to the effort to address the issue. The problem was obvious: tall candles. The favorite remedy: taller acolytes. (I did suggest we consider shorter candles, but receiving no encouragement I dropped it.)

Here's the fun part. Folks came up with lots of suggestions and agreed we should just try them out and see which ones work best. I love it when that happens. It means we may see variations in the way things are done. It also means we can learn new ways to achieve our goals.

All we have to do is remain calm and keep our eyes on the big picture. Lots of little things will change, and some of them will change many times as we try new things to see what works for us. But one thing will never change.

The steadfast love of God which has provided us all the blessings that brought us safe this far, will continue to provide all that is needed day to day. We can always count on that.

And here's hoping you are having as much fun as I am.

Henry Morris, Pastor

**ALL ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER VOICE OF FAITH NEED TO BE IN THE
OFFICE BY NOVEMBER 19TH**



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ed Larson Karen Lamontagne-O'Brien June Johnson Michael Kay
Norma Sandberg Carrie Heuser-Spruill Linda Hartl



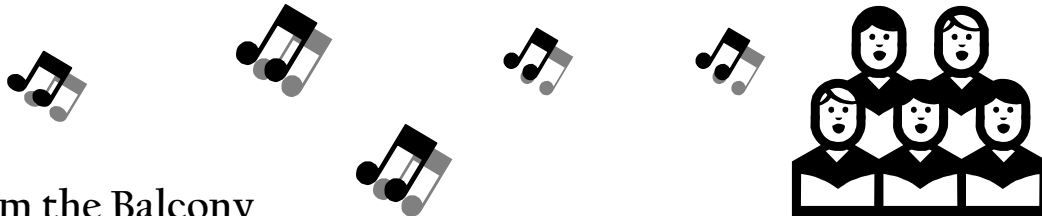
NOVEMBER

01 Keith Ryan Johnkoski
07 Melissa Golden
08 Shirley Chu
09 Rev. Harold Haas
11 Sharon McVicker
12 Frank Kyrz
13 Todd Carlson
16 Josef Carlson
17 Peter Godwin
Matt Kellie
21 Scott Carr

23 Lee Carlson
Marie Carlson
24 Audrey Johnkoski
26 Caryn Furbush
27 Len Mariner
29 Sandra Long
Mary Susca
Caitlyn Sailer

Faith Lutheran Church Upcoming Events

11/1 – Worship & Music Mtg. 6:30
11/4 – Youth Group Lock-in
11/13 – Website Mtg. 7:00
11/14 – Church Council Mtg. 7:00
11/27 – WELCA Decorate Church 7:00
12/3 – Merrimack Bell Choir concert @ Faith
@ 4:30
12/10 – St. Lucia Festival



Notes From the Balcony

Dave Brubeck, the famous jazz musician, produced an album more than forty years ago that is still popular on CDs: *Time Further Out*. That title gives credence to the belief of many that musicians live further out in space than others. In the case of church musicians, it goes with the job. Up in the balcony, we are thinking Christmas and it is only the end of October, as I write.

Have you begun thinking of how you can celebrate Christmas at Faith? One way is through music, and Faith has many opportunities for musical expression. Consider joining the Faith Choir for the Advent – Christmas season (or longer). Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Consider the Bell Choir. They meet on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Play an instrument? Why not share your gift with the congregation?

We have many opportunities for children to express the joy of Christmas through music. The Youth Singers and Ringers meet every Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. to learn vocal and bell music. This year, they will help teach the other children of the Sunday School some of the songs they are working on.

As parents, you can make Advent and Christmas more meaningful for your children— just by having them experience music-making. It is easy. Just start Sunday morning a bit earlier and drive your children to 1120 Silver Lane and arrive by 8:40 a.m. Pat Sack leads a group of pre-schoolers, while Susan Lionberger works with those a bit older.

If you have any questions, please visit the balcony or call me at 647-9701. Join us, as we step further out into the future.

Susan Lionberger

**BRING A
FRIEND!**

That was one of the points the kids brought up at their Youth planning meeting in October. The evening was spent discussing the year ahead and making plans to include both new and old friends in the upcoming activities.

A very special thank you to Kent Tedford for helping give this fabulous group of kids some guidance and direction.

Mark your calendars, the Annual Valentines Dinner will be held on February 10, 2007.

Worship, Lessons and Music for November

Nov. 5th – All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

Hymns: #174 “For All the Saints”

#695 “O Blessed Spring”

#175 “Ye Watchers and ye Holy Ones”

Nov. 12th – Twenty-Third Sunday after

Pentecost

1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

Hymns: #412 “Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

#408 “God Whose Giving”

#558 “Earth and All Stars”

Nov. 19th – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

Hymns: #320 “O God Our Help”

#321 “The Day Is Surely drawing Near”

#33 “The King Shall Come

Nov. 26th – Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

Hymns: #549 “Praise My Soul the King of
Heaven”

#27 “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

#171 “Rejoice the Lord Is King”

You may be asking why? Why are we putting this information in the Voice of Faith if it's what you will hear when you come to church on Sunday, and here's the answer... Suppose you miss a Sunday, or want to do a bit of practicing for the hymns, or want to include it in your daily devotions? Seeing what we have to look forward to, is often times a way to look ahead!!

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

DIVISION II COMMITTEES

Worship and Music:
Merlin Christianson

Stewardship:
Joe Carlson

Christian Education:
Denise Turner
Ursula Delemos

Finance:
Jim Bevins

Youth:

Property:
Alex Mada

Evangelism:
Joyce Lamontagne

Publicity:
Caryn Furbush

Social Ministry:
Lynn Tobin

Youth Deacons Eric Bolt - Alaina Tobin

At Your Service Schedule – November 2006 – 10:30 AM

<u>DATE</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	<u>TELLERS</u>
Nov. 5 th 10:30	Jim Bevins & Barbara Lewis	Caryn Furbush & Lynn Tobin	Linda Woodrow	Donna Hubbs & Brian Godwin	Matt, Taylor, Kaitlyn	Cathy Kay	Craig Bolt & Chuck Sack
Nov. 12 th 10:30	Dennis & Donna Hubbs	Barbara Lewis & Frida Nordgren	Beth Godwin	Melissa Golden & Kendra Dubiel	Matt, Taylor, Kaitlyn	Cathy Kay	Jim Bevins & Lynn Tobin
Nov. 19 th 10:30	Kent Tedford & Tom Benoit	Eleanor Warren & Beth Warren	Bruce Weston	Terry Zocco & Manuel Meneses	Matt, Taylor, Kaitlyn	Keryl Robinson	Jay Stolzenhaller & Brian Godwin
Nov. 26 th 10:30	Jennifer & Manuel Morales	Susan DePold & Joyce Lamontagne	Donna Hubbs	Jay & Carla Stolzenhaller	Matt, Taylor, Kaitlyn	Keryl Robinson	Bruce Weston & Keryl Robinson
Dec. 3 rd 10:30	Jennie Kane & Mary Susca	Adell Kenyon & Helen DePold	Ken Parkany	Peter Carlson & Keryl Robinson	Eric, John, Megan, David	Frida Nordgren	Kent Tedford & Barbara Lewis

www.faithlutheranct.org

The new look to Faith Lutheran Church's website has arrived! It is just a click away, but we need YOU to come along and have some FUN!!! Visit www.faithlutheranct.org

Don't miss out on viewing Pastor Henry's retirement pages, just click on "Pastor Paul E. Henry's Retirement" in the right hand corner of the Home Page. It will be an active link until the end of this year.

The "Events" link will bring you to "Upcoming Events" to help you stay current with what is happening here at Faith. If you like, you can go down memory lane by clicking on the 2006 and 2005 links. There are plenty of pictures to view that will warm your heart, bring tears to your eyes and make you laugh out loud (LOL)!

Please click on "Newsletter" and click on the "October VOF" button to view more pictures of YOU and your friends with Pastor Morris after his first sermon.

We have lots of surprises coming your way that will make your visit to Faith's website worthwhile. Tell your friends to drop in too!

One new feature we want to promote, to help with evangelism, is a "Family of Faith" (FOF) link. The link will open up to a page that will bring a warm and welcoming atmosphere displaying pictures and stories of members of Faith. But, we cannot do it without you. We need your help!

☺ ☺ ☺ TO GET STARTED ☺ ☺ ☺

- Write a short paragraph, 250 words or less, about HOW you became a member at Faith, WHY you became a member at Faith, WHAT you like about Faith (i.e. the pastor, the sermons, the people, programs, activities, etc), and WHAT Faith means to you. Email your write-up to Vilma Ortega, salsa1@cox.net, or give your write-up to Vilma at church.
- Contact Vilma Ortega at 659-2189, or by email to arrange to have a family picture taken (optional) before or after church service.

To keep the "Family of Faith" page up-to-date, we plan to rotate families periodically to give everyone an opportunity to participate. Have FUN with this page and get to know your Family here at Faith!

Please contact Vilma Ortega to become an active participant in the Family of Faith page.

We encourage any suggestions or questions about Faith's website. After all, Faith's website is the congregation (ALL OF US).

Proverbs 27:6 *How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity!*

Please join the Website Committee meetings every 2nd Monday of the month at Faith at 7 p.m. If you would like to be on the email list to receive information about the website meetings, contact Caryn Furbush, 568-2309, or click on webmaster via the "Contact Us" button on Faith's website.

Thank you, Faith's Website Committee

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Social Ministry Committee met on October 3 to plan out activities for the rest of 2006. Minutes of the meeting have been sent to those not able to attend. If you are a social ministry committee member and did not receive the minutes, please let me know. Major issues covered included food baskets for Thanksgiving, and white gifts for Christmas. October 29-November 12, the congregation will be asked to supply food for the Thanksgiving baskets which we will deliver to Tawanda, our social worker, on November 13. Anyone who would like to help put the baskets together after church on November 12 (could be done after Octoberfest) is welcome. This will give Tawanda a week to get the baskets out to people. On December 3, the Angel Tree will grace the Narthex once again and by December 17 we will be sorting and delivering the gifts to Tawanda for distribution. Anyone who can help on December 17 after church is very welcome to stay and do so.

This month we purchased a washer & dryer with the last of the 2006 Endowment Fund monies for a 5 person family – father, mother, and 3 children – leaving the East Hartford Homeless Shelter for a 5 room flat on Magnolia Street in Hartford. Obviously, they are very appreciative of this gift and will make good use of it as anyone with 3 children knows...

Our committee has two new members ... Cheryl Hanley and Lois Furbush. We are grateful for their participation and will utilize their skills for the better good...thanks to you both for your willingness to join in!

Lynn Tobin is recruiting additional members for the Friendship Center food teams that work the first Friday of each month at the East Hartford Soup Kitchen. Please let her know if you are interested in joining one of the teams. Each team serves 3 times per year.

In Christ's name,

Donna Hubbs
Chairperson, Social Ministry

Imagine !

Mark 10: 13-14 People were bringing little children to Him in order that He might bless them; and the disciples spoke *sternly* to them. But when Jesus saw this, He was *indignant* and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them. For it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs."

This Scripture was part of our Gospel lesson a few weeks ago, and I suspect it's a familiar passage and scene to you. It's depicted in our stained glass windows. For most, I think, the passage evokes the message or idea that we need to approach Christ with innocence. But as adults we have been in the world (too) long enough to have lost most of our innocence or naiveté. Yet Scripture is such a blessing that when re-reading familiar verses all too often it sparks a new way of looking at the nature of our lives. I was struck by this recently while attending the Sunday Adult Forum and listening to a series of tapes entitled "Financial Freedom & the Christian." On one of the tapes the speaker was presenting "Seven Reasons I Give to God" and the fourth or fifth reason this individual proclaimed was that "**Giving sets an example to my children.**" I want to give because I want my children to see me giving. I love my kids and I want my kids to love God. Then he described a situation that connected me to this verse. **Have you ever noticed how excited a child becomes when the offering plate is passed along the pew and he or she has an opportunity to put money in the plate?** Kids LOVE to do this. The parents put their offering envelope in and still have to grab some additional currency for their child(ren) to participate. Children are JOYFUL givers. That begs two questions. When/how/why do we lose this JOYFUL Innocence of Giving? How do we get it back? The answers are important because the Kingdom of God is at stake.

The theme of this year's Stewardship Program is **Imagine !** Imagine yourself in a closer relationship with God ... not only in your giving but in all aspects of your Walk with Christ. Imagine yourself praying more and worrying less. Imagine yourself taking home the Celebrate each week and reading the daily Scripture verses. Imagine less frenzy and more patience. Imagine participating in a new or different Faith ministry. Imagine yourself in church mid-week performing Kingdom work in addition to regular Sunday worship. Imagine yourself more child-like. Imagine. Just Imagine !

Imagine ! is a time for personal introspection and growth, and it dovetails nicely with the corporate visioning in which the congregation is engaged in the coming year. By now all of us have been invited to attend a "Cottage Meeting" as we seek to explore the possibilities for Faith Lutheran. It is, indeed, a time to Imagine.

In the coming weeks, you will be presented with stewardship materials which offer you two opportunities for giving. You will learn about "**A Step Forward**" and "**A Step of Faith.**" You will be asked to consider either option. My prayer this year is that each of us may become more child-like in our stewardship...that we may react not *sternly* but JOYFULLY to enhancing and expanding the Kingdom of God.

May God continue to bless you as you give.

Joe Carlson, Stewardship Chairperson



Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation! A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers. "Yuck" says her daughter.

"How about a couple raw eggs?" "Gross, Mom!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

website: www.prayerblankets.net

email: prayerblankets@msn.com

contacts: Linda Woodrow (875-4570) or Caryn Furbush (568-2309)

Thank you for the warm, embracing welcome to Faith Lutheran Church! This ministry has had a rebirth with its move to this inviting, friendly community!

The Prayer Blanket Ministry was started in February 2004 at Peace Lutheran Church in Tolland. Judy Buch, Director of Hands of Peace Puppet Ministry, was the driving force behind starting this ministry. She and I worked on the floor of the pastor's office every week for a few months to try to get one or two blankets out to people in need. Pastor Holger Lundin, interim pastor at the time, was our "delivery guy" and thoroughly enjoyed sharing the fruits of the labors of this ministry. We grew slowly but finally got enough interest and "fame" to be able to sponsor our first "blitz" – knotting and praying multiple blankets all at once – for kids with cancer. With a lot of community involvement we were able to prepare 35 blankets in 90 minutes!

The ministry continued on a steady course providing an average of 2-4 blankets every week year round. Dedicated members helped prepare these blankets for a never ending list of people in need. We formed a ministry partnership with the Aetna Foundation Children's Center in Hartford working with families that had been victims of multi-generational sexual abuse. We worked with 16 families through that program including providing a family night experience for each of these families to knot and pray a blanket for themselves and a blanket for the waiting room of the Children's Center.

We have traveled to area churches and presented the ministry. We traveled to Worcester and presented the ministry as workshop in the Rooted for Life series sponsored by the New England Synod. We provided two workshops with WELCA at Faith. We provided guidance for a Girl Scout Gold Award project. We even took the ministry into a private home to provide a more intimate experience with the ministry.

We have had families and faith communities from other religions come together for prayer blanket knotting and praying. We have had an American Indian ceremony with a blanket preparation. We have provided a blanket that now stands as the symbol of the compassion of the Salomon Family Foundation (sponsoring programs caring for victims of sexual abuse).

We have sponsored two "blitzes" for the men and women of our armed services – knotting more than 50 blankets for our soldiers. Our blankets have gone to Japan, South Africa, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Germany and Afghanistan. Within the United States we have touched the lives of others in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Georgia, South Dakota, California, Arizona, Washington, Texas, Maine and Indiana. And we have celebrated our second birthday in style!

And with all that this ministry has done in the last 2 ½ years it is just beginning to come alive!! We have been physically located at Faith for just 8 weeks and have completed twenty blankets!! The list grows of those who need blankets but the list also grows of those who believe in the power of this ministry and who are dedicated to its concepts and service. We have had 4 special events evenings in the two short months we have been here (Breast Cancer, Farewell to the Henry's, Faith and Pastor Morris, and an evening dedicated to the

Leslie Brothers). A blanket hangs in the sanctuary at Faith – providing a visible sign of the embrace of the Lord throughout this time of discernment for a new pastor.

Thrivent has stepped forward and offered to match financial donations made to the ministry dollar for dollar for the first \$1,600 raised before the end of November. This ministry comes from Peace as a self-sustaining ministry operating entirely on donations. At present this ministry is not a part of the operating budget of this church. We still continue to operate on the generosity of all we come in contact with. You will be hearing more about the opportunity to help us maximize our matched funds over the next few weeks. Your consideration of a donation is truly appreciated. Donations of any amount can be of great help.

Blankets cost us between \$20 and \$30 for materials depending on the size and type of fleece chosen. We try to purchase material that will be meaningful to the recipient but also try to purchase it on sale (and with my employee discount from JoAnn's). As you consider a donation to this ministry (not just in November but any time throughout the year) please consider sponsoring a blanket!

Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your welcome and support of this ministry. We meet every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Church Hall. You are invited to join us any time. No skill is required – just a willingness to be a conduit for God's love for someone in need.

Come and have your life changed as you help change the lives of others.

In Christ,

Linda Woodrow