

From the **PASTOR**—

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

"The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory..." (John 1:14).

We live in a visited world. On that holy night twenty centuries ago, God visited the world in the miracle of Bethlehem. Held in Mary's arms that night was the revelation of steadfast, unbounded love for all humanity. The birth of Jesus disclosed God's saving will and eternal desire for reconciliation and peace.

In this season of Christmas, we encounter again Jesus, sent from God for our salvation. As the Word is proclaimed in both simple buildings and cathedrals of grandeur, we receive the good news of God's love in Christ Jesus for the whole earth. We witness the mystery of rebirth in the waters of Baptism and rejoice as new ones are embraced by the community of faith. As bread is broken and wine poured in the Eucharist, we give thanks for the real presence of Christ in our midst.

We gather with the whole Church for the celebration of our Lord's Nativity. In our gathering, however, we hear the sounds of discord throughout the world. From divisions caused by walls of separation, from the struggles of many for survival from disasters, devastation, hunger, and poverty, from the dread of rampant disease and the spread of HIV and AIDS, from war and the threat of war, even with nuclear weapons, from broken relationships in homes and hostilities within communities and countries, we seek rescue. We yearn for the gracious, healing, and reconciling Word of the Prince of Peace.

We hear the angel say, "Do not be afraid." With that message of courage, we realize as believers that we are never alone. We have been claimed by God and made a part of the household of faith.

So we join with the whole Church on earth, lifting our voices with renewed hope. In so doing, we join the grand anthem:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king....

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor Henry Morris
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ALL ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY VOICE OF FAITH NEED TO BE IN THE
OFFICE BY JANUARY 17TH



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Marilyn Haas Ed Larson Lucille Brooks Karen Lamontagne-O'Brien Michael Kay
Norma Sandberg Carrie Heuser-Spruill Linda Hartl



JANUARY

02	Donna Hubbs	16	Beth Godwin
03	Edwin Larson		Jennie Kane
05	David Ryea	18	Frida Nordgren
06	Matthew St. Jean	20	Rose Ann Pfaff
10	David Godwin	22	Linda Parkany
	Paul Henry	27	Russ Larson
11	Ellen Lasky	28	Mike Myette

Worship Lessons for January

Jan. 7th – Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan 14th – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm: 36
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Jan. 21st – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Jan. 28th – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

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!!

Stained Glass Window Fellowship to Resume in January

The glass we used in our Windows of Faith had many flaws. Look closely at the windows and you will see the surfaces often are wrinkled and crackled. There are bubbles trapped in the glass, and the impurities give it colors that are not uniform. In many ways the windows are imperfect like we are. As we built them they lay in pieces flat on the table and looked plain. But the moment we raised each window into the sunlight it was transformed. In the sunlight the glass sparkles brilliantly, spreading the light to all who enter Faith.

God, our Creator, our Craftsman, knows that we too sparkle in His light. When asked, He accepts our flawed lives, finds a place for us in His window of life, and transforms our lives to become whole, meaningful, and a part of His beautiful creation. God does not seek value from us. God creates value, love and beauty through us as long as we live in His light. And we call it evangelism... when God's message, God's light is spread through us.

We have two windows planned for 2007. One is a design for our neighbor, Crossroads Cathedral, donated by Joe Carlson. Merlin Christianson is already busy designing a full scale back lighting system for it so that we can see how our window looks and works before it is installed. The second is an Ascension window design we have yet to decide for our new church entrance. There will be other "Ministry" windows for our new church entrance later.

We will start a new stained glass window fellowship in January and hopefully train another generation of window masters. Church youth are invited too. Matthew Scoles was our youngest worker the last time and he made the eyes of Martin Luther. Each window will take about two months after training is completed.

The Fellowship of the Windows -HD

SOCIAL MINISTRY

"Our Missions" – On December 2, several of us met at church to go out and pick up donated furniture to deliver to the East Hartford Shelter for folks moving out into their own apartments. Thanks to Melissa Golden, Jim Bevins, Jim McKerley, Ken Parkany and Donna Hubbs for participating.

The Christmas White Gifts were a great blessing this year. We had 7 families to help through East Hartford Social Services and 40 children from our Adopt A Social Worker. We actually at first thought the load was going to be too much. Because of that, we applied for a matching grant from Thrivent to make sure we would not have to disappoint any of the children. Well, the members of Faith came through again. We ended up even asking for 3 more families from East Hartford Social Services once we knew the Thrivent money was there to back us up.

We ended up donating approximately \$3600 in goods and cash to people in need. \$1,000 of that has been matched by Thrivent Financial. Thank you all, and to Thrivent, for making Christmas a bit brighter for many in our community and surrounding towns!

Praise God that our small, but faithful congregation can make so much difference!

Sincerely,

Donna Hubbs
Social Ministry Chairperson

Division 1 News

We are taking steps to help support Evangelism, and to embed/integrate evangelism into the ministries of Faith Lutheran Church.

1) Division 1 began a process to open Faith to the community with well organized and publicized Church-Community events. Caryn Furbush puts the events on our church web site and takes care of sending articles to the media. This process is working well! We had 118 people at the Organ/Trumpet Concert and about 200 people at the Handbell Concert. Many local visitors attended, and Faith members had a great time as well talking to the musicians and our local visitors. The Christmas Eve midnight service is the first regular traditional Faith service we are opening to the public in that manner. Each ministry is asked to have a poster for visitors to look at and to have someone present who can evangelize by just talking with visitors and answering questions. Worship & Music usually organizes the event, and any reception that follows is usually organized by the Coffee and Kitchen Crew.

2) Lenten Services are important to evangelism in several ways. They are opportunities to bring new members in to be familiarized with this holy time in the church year and what it means to Christians. It is an opportunity to update all members with the latest Faith ministry activities. It is a circle of friends, one of many uniting the congregation. Typically the Lenten potluck services have been organized through the Worship & Music Committee. Merlin Christianson has already started the committee planning. Everyone attending is asked to sign up and bring a food item/desert/beverage to be shared with everyone else. It concludes with a short program and service.

3) The Evangelism Committee will organize new member luncheons each spring. Joyce Lamontagne has now been joined by Susan DePold, the former Evangelism chairperson for increased emphasis on this ministry in our year of transition. Congregation members will be asked to provide a food item/desert/beverage for the event. It will be a time to honor new members and discuss church news and ministries.

4) The Church Council will organize new member orientation and mentoring with the Evangelism Committee and other church members who are willing to be mentors. One objective is to also connect each new member with a circle of Faith friends sharing a common interest. The mentor will help new members make that connection. There will also be sponsors for people seeking to become members of Faith. Kent Tedford and Pastor Morris will schedule this.

5) We will resume the Men's Group in the spring as a fellowship and also as a service group to support church functions and activities. Some of the men set up for the concerts. Men-in-Aprons rescued the ladies from their hot kitchens and fallen arches after all the baking done by the women in early December... when the men served the ladies at Coffee-And. The women have asked for more Men-in-Aprons in the future! The men will also do Easter breakfast again. The men's group meetings will be a low key study and fellowship time without extensive cooking or desserts. Joe and Hans are discussing possible studies that will involve men's group participation.

“So What’s the Difference?”

Adult Forum will begin a new series, beginning **Sunday, January 7**, studying a book entitled **“So What’s the Difference?”** which is a look at 20 different worldviews, faiths, and religions and how they compare to Christianity. Each Sunday @ **8:45 AM** the group will examine the basic tenets of a particular persuasion so that Christian believers will be able to recognize the real differences between their faith and that of others. The author’s perspective is not so much as to give tacit recognition or acceptance of cultural or religious pluralism as it is to prepare Christians to share one’s faith with others. In addition to traditional religions, such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, the book examines other very diverse traditions such as New Age, Unitarianism, Freemasonry, Mormonism, and the Jehovah Witnesses. The discussion will probably be quite lively and everyone, except Zorastrians, is welcome. Copies of the text will be available for purchase (**\$ 10.19**)

STEWARDSHIP: Time & Talent Sheets

Included in this edition of *Voice of Faith* is your **Time & Talents 2007** survey of available ministries at Faith. As a community of believers, it's important that we participate fully in the life of our congregation. God has endowed each of us with particular gifts which can be utilized to glorify Him. There is a wide range of activities from which to select and each is important to our faith community. Please complete the survey at your earliest convenience and bring it with you to church where a specially-designated basket will be placed in the narthex to collect the 2007 surveys. The surveys will be collected throughout January in order to be collated prior to the date of the Annual Meeting in which a new church council will be established. The new council soon after the Annual Meeting will receive their committee assignments and each committee chairman will be given the names of Faith-folk who want to participate in their particular assigned area. Your completion and return of the surveys is vital for achieving the blessings of God that Faith will experience this coming year. Thank you for filling it out and returning it promptly.

YOUTH GROUP TAG SALE



The Youth Group will be holding a Tag Sale this Spring, so please save any of those "unwanted" items as a donation. The Youth are holding this Tag Sale to help raise funds for future Youth activities and programs.



The Youth Group will be holding their Annual Valentines Day Dinner. Please mark your calendars now for Saturday, February 10, 2007. More information will follow.

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:

Evangelism:

Susan DePold

Joyce Lamontagne

Social Ministry:

Youth Deacons Eric Bolt - Alaina Tobin

DIVISION II COMMITTEES

Stewardship:

Joe Carlson

Finance:

Jim Bevins

Property:

Publicity:

Caryn Furbush

At Your Service Schedule – January 2007 – 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>
Jan. 7 th 10:30 AM	Barbara Lewis & Charles Turner	Caryn Furbush & Linda Woodrow	Fred Schoenfeld	Peter Carlson & Kendra Dubiel	Keith, Jen, Kyle	Kathy Ricciardelli	Bruce Weston & Keryl Robinson
Jan. 14 th 10:30 AM	Bill & Melissa Golden	Joyce Lamontagne & Susan DePold	Bruce Weston	Kent Tedford & Brian Godwin	Keith, Jen, Kyle	Melissa Golden	Kent Tedford & Cathy Kay
Jan. 21 st 10:30 AM	Dennis & Donna Hubbs	Joe Carlson & Adell Kenyon	Janina Johnkoski	Craig & Annette Bolt	Keith, Jen, Kyle	Melissa Golden	Craig Bolt & Chuck Sack
Jan. 28 th 10:30 AM	Youth	Sunday		Youth	Sunday	Frida Nordgren	Jim Bevins & Lynn Tobin