

## **EASTER LIFE AT FAITH**

Easter is a 50 day feast. One day is not enough to encompass the wonder of Easter. Neither is one week enough. So Easter lasts for 7 weeks, not a day or a week but a "week of weeks". Seven is the number of Creation. God created the world in 6 days and completed it on the seventh day, the day of rest. So 7 is the number of completed creation.

Easter is the new Creation, when God brings the world beyond time into eternity which is God's time. So Easter lasts 7 x 7 days. 7 x 7 signifies the New Creation. That brings us to 49 days. But the Feast not complete until the 50th day.

The 50th day is Pentecost when the Holy Spirit is given to infuse the new creation with God's life and breath. Only then is the Feast complete. So we have a Feast that encompasses all of time (7) and all of eternity (7 x 7).

During these 50 days we contemplate and celebrate the meaning of new life. We are immersed in Easter, reaching for the new life that abounds within us and around us. We do well to consider ourselves as Easter people, always moving forward into the new life that God gives us.

This Easter at Faith finds us in a unique position to appreciate the wonder of the gift of new life. We are in what we call a "transition". This means we are letting go of some old things to make way for the new. This is God's gift to us. Like all of God's gifts, it presents challenges. It tests our faith.

We have had to let go of a beloved Pastor, and he has had to let go of us. This is easy neither for us or for him. We may find ourselves yearning for the old days because they are familiar. This is only natural. Even the Israelites of ancient days yearned for slavery back in Egypt sometimes as they met the challenges of freedom. How much more so will we yearn to return to something that was not slavery but was a great gift. Yet we cannot go back. Forward is the only way for us now.

As we go forward, there are many signs among us that the new life is rich and magnificent and filled with good things. Among these signs is the presence of new people among us. During Easter this year we will pay special attention to them.

We have been working hard to craft a new program for integrating new people into the congregation. We hope to find a way to share our love of the Church with those who are joining us. We desire that they become part of the new life we are living in Christ. We see them as "learners" in the sense that they are getting to know us and our ways. But we must also see them as "teachers" in the sense that God has sent them to us with ideas that are new, at least to us. In this way God renews all of us at the same time as we learn from each other and discover new things together.

Easter is an opportune time to focus on what is new. So we will begin to implement our new membership program. Watch for it and be ready to participate. Prepare for it by seeking out new people and making friends with them. In this way we can each enjoy the new life God is creating among us right now.

Henry Morris, Pastor

**Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

Bill Scheimer Ed Larson Lucille Brooks Karen Lamontagne-O'Brien  
Charles Benoit Marlene Nixon Carrie Heuser-Spruill Ivy Farinella  
Charlie O'Connell Gracie Peterson



04	John Ricciardelli	18	Holly McVicker
	Jamie Harmon		Wendy Parkany
05	Carol Henry	19	Robert Graff
	Candace Kearney		Evan Jaworski
07	Bob Neumeister	22	Lori Cerone
09	Arlene Taylor		David Lamontagne
12	Joe Carlson	26	David Carlson
13	Megan Godwin	27	Cindy Banta
16	Gerry DePold	29	Marilyn Cummings
17	Ray Furbush		
	Ted LePage		
	Ray Meneses		

**JOHN THE BAPTIST:  
THE MESSIAH PROCLAIMER**

The personality, mission, ministry and role of John the Baptizer in the life and ministry of Jesus are presented in brief vignettes throughout the Gospels and Acts. Everything about John is focused on his involvement with Jesus. As a consequence, it is hard to get a coherent picture of John himself. The most extensive treatment is the description of his death, bizarre to say the least. During these six weeks we will look at the various references to John the Baptizer in order to try to create a reasonably coherent picture of his personality, mission and ministry. Dates are April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18. The time is 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church (Main Street, East Hartford)

**HYMNALS**

If you would like a copy of our "old" hymnals, please feel free to help yourself. They are in the narthex and available for anyone that would like one.

# 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:**

Beth Godwin

### **Christian Education:**

Janet Holowczak

Sarah Jaworski

### **Youth:**

Kent Tedford

### **Evangelism:**

Susan DePold

Joyce Lamontagne

### **Social Ministry:**

Tom Benoit

Donna Hubbs

### **Youth Deacons**

Eric Bolt

Ron Hart

## DIVISION II COMMITTEES

### **Stewardship:**

Joe Carlson

### **Finance:**

Jim Bevins

Kurt Christensen

### **Property:**

Jay Stolzenhaler

### **Publicity:**

Peter Carslon

### **Mutual Ministry:**

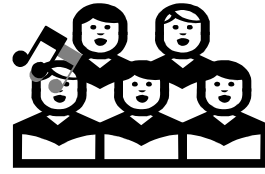
Janina Johnkoski

### **Prayer Blanket Ministry:**

Linda Woodrow

Caryn Furbush





## Notes From the Balcony

We have all, at some time, been guilty of complaining when something new has been introduced. It is hard to let go of the familiar and it takes a while to adjust to a change. Unfamiliarity can be uncomfortable. The new Lutheran hymnal has brought out some of those feelings. Not only are there new hymn tunes, but the words assigned to some familiar melodies are completely new or slightly different. How are we going to handle this?

Some of the change reflects the way we speak today. How many of you use the following words in your normal conversations: Dost, Thine, Thee, Thou, Wouldst? In several hymns, those words have been replaced. In some, because of the meter of the poetry, the words remain. Other changes incorporate the words of our contemporary vocabulary.

An example of subtle changes can be found in the fourth stanza of the Easter hymn, *The Strife is O'er*. In the old SBH, the words are: "He brake the age-bound chains of hell." In the LBW, the words became: "He broke the age-bound chains of hell." In the new ELW, the words are: "Christ closed the yawning gates of hell."

What are we going to do about all these subtle, and not-so-subtle, changes and nuances? May I suggest that you take the time before our worship service begins to read through the hymns. Then, when it is time to sing, the "newness" of the hymn will not be as apparent. Not only will you become more acquainted with the words, but you will also be preparing for worship. Hopefully, the words of the hymns will add to and reinforce the scripture that is read.

Join us, as we us grow in faith through new words and music.

Susan Lionberger

## Worship and Music for April

### **April 1<sup>st</sup> – Palm Sunday**

Luke 19:28-40  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Entrance Hymn #344  
HOD #349

### **April 5<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm: 116  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
Entrance Hymn #599  
HOD #463

### **April 8<sup>th</sup> – Resurrection of Our Lord**

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26  
Luke 24:1-12  
Entrance #365  
HOD #366

### **April 15<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31  
Entrance #361  
HOD #386

### **April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19  
Entrance #377  
HOD#712

### **April 29<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30  
Entrance #854  
HOD #764

## My journey to Faith: Tom Benoit

Hello Friends: As you all know, I am a newly elected council member and council liaison to Social Ministry. I'm very excited about this opportunity because it was through Social Ministry that I discovered Faith Lutheran Evangelical Church.

By way of background, I was born and raised in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. I was raised Catholic, attended eight years of Catholic grammar school, and was an altar boy for many years. In 1975 I joined the United States Navy, where I served twenty years as a Radioman and "retired" in 1995 as a Chief Petty Officer.

During my Navy career I went back to attending Catholic Mass from time to time, but never kept up. Finally, because I had so many beliefs that were not compatible with the Vatican's teaching, I knew that I could not continue to consider my Catholic. For quite a few years I wanted to attend church, but I couldn't decide where I would best fit in.

A few years ago, my wife Kathy and I wanted to donate an artificial Christmas tree and decorations to a family in the East Hartford area that might be able to use it. I thought that a church might know how to direct me, so a quick GOOGLE search led me to Faith's website. From there, I sent an e-mail to the office. Well, my e-mail made its way to Donna Hubbs, she contacted me, and made arrangements to pick up and deliver the tree to a wonderful family in Manchester. My wife and I went along to deliver the tree, and were then invited back to see the tree after it was decorated. I'm certain that the tree brought joy to the family who received it, but through that simple act of giving, it was I who received the greatest gift.

Through social ministry I met Donna Hubbs and Bill & Melissa Golden. From the moment I met them they treated me as if they had known me for years. They were amazingly friendly, and encouraged me to attend services at Faith and/or meet with Pastor Henry. Well, after doing those things I was sold. I had never met a more friendly or inclusive group of people than all of you at Faith. I started attending services regularly and eventually joined the church.

Since that time, I've helped out on a few of the events and activities sponsored by Social Ministry. I can't tell you how many new members Social Ministry has brought to Faith Lutheran, but that's ok, because doing for others who are not as fortunate is doing the work that Jesus commanded, and is its own reward.

I feel extremely blessed to call Faith Lutheran Evangelical Church home and to have an opportunity to serve on both the Church Council and the Social Ministry Committee.

I encourage everyone to become involved in the ministry of their choosing. I also ask that you let me know of any ideas that you may have to build upon the great work that the Social Ministry Committee has been doing over the last number of years.

Tom Benoit

## Faith's History of Social Ministry in Troubled Times

The late 1960s and early 1970's were troubled times in America with civil rights marches and city race riots. In the summer of 1969 the riots of Hartford occurred. How did Faith Lutheran Church respond as tensions escalated?

In the fall of 1968 Faith entered into an inner-city social outreach ministry with Union Baptist Church in the North End of Hartford on Main Street. The choirs initiated the joint ministry effort followed by a joint Vacation Bible School that began in the summer of 1969. Over the next twenty-seven years this joint educational ministry was held each summer for two weeks, one week at Union Baptist and the next week at Faith.

Several women from Faith led a YWCA "Young Women Committed to Action" group and demonstrated on the lawn of the Capitol in solidarity with mothers on welfare when the Governor cut their programs. Another member helped draft the ordinance for the East Hartford Human Relations Committee and became its chairperson.

In 1972 Faith Lutheran and Union Baptist decided to expand their joint outreach ministry. They formed the Faith-Union Housing Corporation and sponsored a HUD financed rehabilitation of fifty-five low-income apartment units in the north end of Hartford. This joint project continued until the early 1980s.

Division 1 -HD

### Commitment Challenge

# BUDGET

The 2007 budget approved at our annual meeting in February included a significant commitment challenge. Our anticipated income for 2007 falls \$31,000 short of our anticipated expenses.

We all need to prayerfully consider our response to this challenge and act accordingly. Here are some ways we can do that:

- Give a specific gift to the Commitment Challenge. Make a check out to Faith Lutheran Church and mark it for the Commitment Challenge on the memo section of your check.
- Increase the amount of your weekly pledge.
- Give joyfully and generously to the special offerings during the year. The Holy week offering envelopes for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are all examples of these special offerings.

Throughout the year we may be receiving additional sources of income-merit increases at work, bonuses from our employers or income tax refunds from the IRS. Whatever the circumstances, sharing a tithe (10%) of this income will go a long way to meeting our challenge.

Annette Bolt  
Div. II Vice President

# WANTED



## Adult Forum Participants

Wanted: all young and young at heart seeking exciting Christian Education. Here are some of the thoughts expressed this year by members of Faith at the Adult Forum which is held every Sunday from 8:45 to 10 AM.

"We cannot keep Christ and the Holy Spirit confined to the Good Book. We need to put Christ into our message and let the Holy Spirit do the rest."

"Muslims teach that Jews and Christians distorted their bibles, that Christ was a lower level prophet who did not die for man's sins, and that Mary is part of the Christian's Trinity which consists of three different gods."

"We know Einstein accepted God but some day I hope to be surprised by who I meet in heaven. I hope and expect to ask Darwin a thing or two."

"The Buddhists and Hindus believe in an impersonal creator and a natural state of human suffering that they seek to escape. As such their beliefs resemble philosophies of life as much as religions. They dominant regions of the world where the life of an individual person is not highly valued. Do the cultures create the belief systems or do the beliefs create the culture?"

"Christ teaches us that life is not fair. Heaven forbid that we should get what we deserve. With God's mercy we reap far more out of life than we deserve."

"It is amazing what they are doing in Quantum Mechanics, and investigating the Big Bang. Some of the scientist working in those areas think they are like us on a quest for God."

## ***HEADING OUT INTO the DEEP WATER and CASTING the NETS***

Recently the Faith Lutheran Church Leadership team got together for a weekend to determine our Council positions and discuss what our focus should be over the next 12-18 months, keeping in mind that real opportunity only occurs when we are willing to head out into the deep waters, drop the nets and trust in the Lord to show us the way. In a surprise vote (had to fend off all kinds of challengers), I'm back in the captain's chair, listening closely for the Lord's navigation and crew management tips so we can successfully get the good ship Faith Lutheran out and back with a full catch!

In addition to establishing 6 overall objectives for the Council, each of the Committees worked together to develop Committee specific objectives and action plans that support these broader objectives, identifying specific opportunities to work together to be successful.

While I think its important to share all of these with the whole congregation, for now I'll focus on sharing the 6 broader objectives with you and tell you to keep your eyes open for a new "Council Happenings" bulletin board that will provide you with summaries of each of our Committees and their specific objectives and plans (of course if you're so excited you can't wait and would like to see what a specific committee came up with, you can contact the Committee Chairperson directly).

So here we go:

### **Spiritual Growth**

Encourage and Strengthen the Spiritual Growth of all members of Faith Lutheran Church in all aspects of the Church's Life.

### **Manage the Pastoral Transition**

Ensure Faith Lutheran Church completes a successful transition to a new permanent Pastor by the end of 2007.

### **Christian Educational Growth**

Provide additional opportunities to expand the understanding of our Liturgy, the Bible and our Lutheran Roots to all.

### **Continued Communication Improvement**

Continue to improve the information sharing within the family of Faith Lutheran Church so that all its members are aware of and have the opportunity for input into important discussions and decisions impacting Faith's future.

### **Expand Community Outreach**

Identify opportunities within the Community of Faith Lutheran to leverage & share our assets & resources in response to their needs, placing a special focus on the needs and social agendas within the East Hartford community.

### **Evangelize, Evangelize, Evangelize**

Help those without a fulfilling Church home, recognize that Faith Lutheran is there for them and help them understand how it can be their church home, expanding their understanding of Christ's message and how it can help support them in their lives.

***So what do you think? Do these make sense to you?***

***Are you ready to come aboard and help Faith Lutheran Church take the next steps forward and build on the strong foundation that has been poured during its first 50 years?***

Hopefully you are, but if you have any questions, think something important has been missed, or aren't sure where something important fits in, let me know. I'm usually at "Coffee And", disguised as Kent Tedford, and always willing to chat while snacking.

So you know who is already in the boat, here is the current leadership team!

**Pastor – Henry Morris (EC)**

**Council Officers**

President – Kent Tedford (EC)	Financial Secretary – Bruce Weston
VP Div I – Hans DePold (EC)	Treasurer – Gene Johnkoski
VP Div II – Annette Bolt (EC)	Secretary – Barbara Lewis (EC)

**Council Committees & Members**

W&M – Beth Godwin	Mutual Ministry – Janina Johnkoski
Youth – Kent Tedford	Youth Deacons – Eric Bolt & Ron Hart
Christian Ed – Janet Holowczak (Chair) & Sarah Jaworski	
Evangelism – Joyce Lamontagne & Susan DePold (Chair)	
Social Ministry – Tom Benoit (Donna Hubbs Chair)	
Finance – Jim Bevins (Chair) & Kurt Christensen	
Stewardship – Joe Carlson	Property – Jay Stolzenhaler
Publicity – Peter Carlson	Member Support & Visitation – Beth Godwin

**Stand Alone Committees**

Prayer Blanket Ministry – Linda Woodrow & Caryn Furbush  
WELCA – Carla Stolzenhaler & Annette Bolt  
Men's Fellowship Ministry – Hans DePold  
Stained Glass Windows Ministry – Hans DePold  
Kitchen Fellowship Ministry – Hilda Schiemer & Susan DePold (being formalized)