



## September

02	Carol Johnson	24	Hilda Schiemer
04	Kurt Christensen		Diana McVicker
06	Kevin Schiemer	27	Cathy Kay
13	Allen Ryea	28	Leslie Ann Furbush
17	Maggie McKenzie	30	Denise Turner
21	Eric Carlson		
22	Kimberly Long		

## Upcoming activities at Faith

- 9/4 – Youth Mtg. for Hammonasset
- 9/5 – Choir rehearsal resumes @ 7:30
- 9/7-9 - New England Youth Retreat @ Hammonasset
- 9/9 – Worship Service resumes @ 10:30 AM
- 9/11 – Council Meeting @ 7 PM
- 9/16 – Acolyte Meeting @ 8:45 AM
- 9/16 – Sunday Church School Begins @ 9:15
- 9/28-30 - Middle School Youth Retreat @ Calumet
- 10/13 – Organ & Trumpet Concert @ 7:30 PM
- 10/21 – Hartford Crop Walk (Brian Godwin)
- 11/11 – Youth Sunday @ Faith
- 12/9 – Bell Concert

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Kent Tedford

**DIVISION I VICE PRESIDENT**

Open

**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:**

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 Carlson

**Mutual Ministry:**

Janina Johnkoski

**Prayer Blanket Ministry:**

Linda Woodrow

Caryn Furbush

**Worship for September**

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

“Oh Praise the Gracious Power”

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness Lord”

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

“O God Beyond All Praising”

“All my Hope on God Is Founded”

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalms 51

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

“Rejoice, for Christ Is King!”

“There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy”

“Amazing Grace”

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7

Psalms 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

“Father Most Holy”

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

“The Spirit Send Us Forth to Serve”

Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalms 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

“Gather Us In” – “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” – “God of Grace and God of Glory”

**Teller Schedule**Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Jay Stolzenhaler & John HolowczakSept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Chuck Sack & Steve JaworskiSept. 9<sup>th</sup> - Craig Bolt & Keryl RobinsonSept. 30<sup>th</sup> - Jay Stolzenhaler & John H.Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> – Kent Tedford & Cathy Kay**AT YOUR SERVICE SEPTEMBER****Greeters:**

Sept. 2: Marjorie Coons & Barbara Lewis  
 Sept. 9: Dennis & Donna Hubs  
 Sept. 16: Cindy & Norm Banta  
 Sept. 23: Linda & Ken Parkany  
 Sept. 30: Debbie Carr & Kendra Dubiel

Oct. 7: Eleanor & Beth Warren  
 Oct. 14: Adell Kenyon & Diana McVicker  
 Oct. 21: Robbie Johnkoski & Norm Banta  
 Oct. 28: Doris & Walt Schoenfeld

**Ushers:**

Sept. 2: Pat & Chuck Sack  
 Sept. 9: Linda & Ken Parkany  
 Sept 16: Caryn Furbush & Tom Benoit  
 Sept. 23: Janina & Gene Johnkoski  
 Sept. 30: Donna & Dennis Hubs

Oct. 7: Bryan Godwin & Kent Tedford  
 Oct. 14: Kendra Dubiel & Cathy Kay  
 Oct. 21: Jay & Carla Stolzenhaler  
 Oct. 28: Bob & Kay Neumeister

**Communion Assistants:**

Sept. 2: Cindy Banta & Bryan Godwin  
 Sept 9: Joyce LaMontagne & Melissa Golden  
 Sept 16: Linda & Ken Parkany  
 Sept. 23: Carla & Jay Stolzenhaler  
 Sept. 30: Annette & Craig Bolt

Oct. 7: Caryn Furbush & Norm somebody  
 Oct. 14: Gene & Janina Johnkoski  
 Oct. 21: Melissa Golden & Tom Benoit  
 Oct. 28: Walt Schoenfeld & Kent Tedford

**Lectors:**

Sept. 2: Sarah Jaworski  
 Sept. 9: Keryl Robinson  
 Sept 16: Pete Carlson  
 Sept. 23: Shirley Chu  
 Sept. 30: Kurt Christensen

Oct. 7: Joyce LaMontagne  
 Oct. 14: Beth Godwin  
 Oct. 21: Cindy Banta  
 Oct. 28: Merlin Christianson

If anyone on this list has any questions, or conflicts, please let Norm and Cindy know, and they will rectify your concerns. We wish to include all who want to participate in these services. Please feel free to contact us anytime.

If anyone is not on this list who is interested in one of these services, we want to know this, too. Thank you very much.

Norm and Cindy Banta  
 674 Center St.  
 Manchester, CT 06040-2701  
 Phone: (860) 643-4115  
 E-mail: bantanorman@sbcglobal.net

**Please remember we begin our 10:30 Service on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday Church School begins on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:15.**

## ***YOUTH Happenings & Upcoming Events***



The Youth have had a busy Summer and it's looking to continue into the Fall starting with Hammonasset!

July kicked off with the group attending Jesus Fest in Tolland on the 7th with our friends from Ebenezer. The day was highlighted by a concert from Holyfire and watching the Riverfest Fireworks from the Buckland Hill Mall parking lot with hundreds of others. A number of us then attended a cross denominational Youth Service @ Nickerson Park with the Ebenezer Group on the 13th. The organizers are trying to put together something like Hammonasset, but it's in the very early stages. We followed that by attending a concert @ Holy Trinity in Middletown on the 21st with the Ebenezer Group to benefit Holy Trinity's Music Ministry program. The concert featured Holyfire. We ended the month by spending the weekend of 27th - 29th

White Water Rafting on the Kennebec and Dead Rivers in Maine and playing a little Paintball with 20 others. A first for the group and a great experience (see the pictures at church).

In August we had our Annual Picnic on the 25th at the shore and followed that by attending the New Britain Rock Cats Faith & Family day on 8/26.

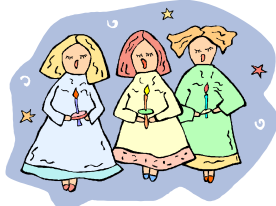
We've also spent time finalizing our plans for the September Hammonasset weekend (7th-9th), which will include hosting a special Thrivent sponsored lunch for the churches in the Hartford area with groups attending the gathering (apx. 175 people). We've also begun discussing putting together a possible Stewardship Play @ Ebenezer in November.

We have finalized plans for our 1st Middle School Youth Group activity - a trip to Calumet for their Middle School Weekend in September with our friends from Ebenezer (the FABENEZER legacy grows). We'll have 8 youth & 3 adults from Faith plus an Ebenezer group of 9-11.

Coming up in September we'll begin our regular bi-weekly meetings and finalize our 2007-2008 activity schedule.

See you in October with the highlights from our Hammonasset weekend!

### **Kent**



Cherub Choir will be starting on Sept 30 at 8:45 AM. All 3-7 year olds are welcome. We will meet in the Cherub Choir Room (1st room on right in Sunday School Wing) If you have any questions, please call Pat Sack at 860-644-9575.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

You should soon see active progress on the building for our Phase 2 improvements. Since the last Voice of Faith, we received four bids from builders, did the evaluation, made our selection and signed a contract. The builder has submitted the plans to the Town of East Hartford for review as a normal part of the building permit procedure. We hope they will respond by mid-September with a permit. Allied Construction of Manchester anticipates they can complete the building in 60 days after they start. The Council endorsed going ahead with the construction based on the potential to complete the work within a two month period.

Arrangements have been made to remove the shrubs around the entryway in the breezeway and to make the Church Hall door a keyed entryway. Right before the construction begins we will remove the brick walkway. (Please keep in mind we will need help when you see the appeal in the Sunday bulletins.) For a while we will have to enter the Sanctuary from the side ramp and walk around outside of the building to the Church Hall.

I know this process has gone slower than all preferred. My lesson learned is that there is a lot of people and coordination involved and when you depend on others the task moves at the pace they set. This is often slower than you might expect.

During August we did have a couple of successful clean-ups at church. Thanks go to Janet and Emily Holowczak, Ken and Linda Parkany, Carla Stolzenhaler and Frida Nordgren. With these folks helping we were able to get all the classrooms ready for Sunday school after our Sexton, Austin Delemos, cleaned and polished all our floors. We also cleaned the bathrooms, sanctuary and meeting rooms while Austin took his vacation. This helped the budget gap since we did not have to hire out any of the work.

If you have questions or suggestions, please call me at home, 528-0165, or send email to [j.stolzen@cox.net](mailto:j.stolzen@cox.net)

*Jay Stolzenhaler*, Property Chair

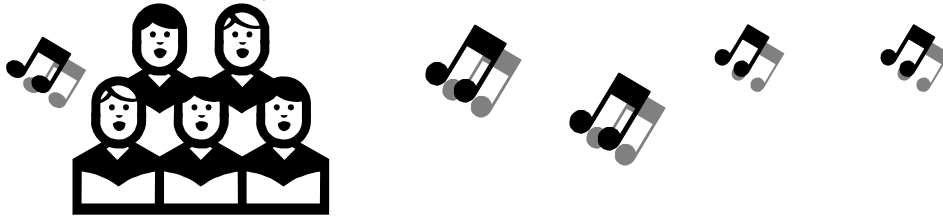
### Christian Education News

It's hard to believe another summer has passed and we are ready to start another Sunday School year. Before all gets underway, we would like to extend many thanks to Carla Stolzenhaler for her time and dedication as the Sunday School Director for the past 14 years. Mrs. "S" has been a tremendous asset to Faith with her leadership, time, and talents. Thank you again from all of us at Faith, both past and present. Enjoy your "retirement". You will be missed.

This year we welcome Keryl Robinson, Sarah Jaworski, and Janina Johnkoski to our volunteer Sunday School staff. We look forward to and thank you for contribution in helping our young people become closer to Christ. Our Sunday School year begins on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am.

Adult Forum classes will also resume this month before the Sunday Worship service. Please contact Joe Carlson for further information.

## Notes From the Balcony



If you were away this summer, you missed our “hymn lotto” which was held every summer Sunday. It was the congregation’s opportunity to select a hymn that would be sung by all as the closing song. Everyone in attendance could submit a favorite hymn number from the new hymnal and one would be drawn. We had an interesting variety of hymns including *Joy to the World*, *This Little Light of Mine*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *Amazing Grace*, and more. Everyone seemed to enjoy the hymn drawing.

The lotto will conclude when the regular worship service schedule resumes on September 9. However, we would still like to hear from you. If you have a favorite hymn that has not been used in a long time, let us know. We will maintain a list of those congregational (translate that as Lutheran!) favorites and include them when they would be most appropriate. Hymns for each service are selected to complement the scriptures and message of the day. Some of the hymns in the new hymnal have new words...which are unfamiliar to all of us. Yet, many of them really hit the mark when referencing specific lessons. When you wonder why a specific hymn has been selected, don’t stop with the first verse. Read all of them. Sometimes, the most relevant connection is expressed within the other verses.

It has been very lonely up in the balcony this summer. On **Wednesday, September 5, the Faith Choir will resume rehearsals.**

The choir welcomes new singers. I have heard that many are reluctant to join because of the excuse: “I like to sing, but can’t read music.” Well, isn’t it about time to learn a new skill? Everything in life requires dedication, practice, and determination. Finding our actual skills and talents requires some effort and experimentation. We won’t ask you to “try out.” Instead, come and try us out!

*Susan Lionberger*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Great Bible Reef Vacation Bible School at St. Mark’s was a great success. We had 23 students including five teen helpers who supervised games and crafts. We thank Caryn Furbush for letting us borrow the parachute, which was a real hit! We heard water-related stories from Moses to Jesus healing the blind man. What a surprise to see those water creatures (puppets borrowed from South Windsor Library) watching baby Moses in the basket! We appreciated Norm and Cindy Banta sharing their Braille writer, Braille clock, cane and expertise with the excited students. Lively, meaningful music was led every day by Linda Hilliard, organist and music teacher. Finally Pastor Doug guided each one to a large treasure chest where we saw that **EACH** of us is God’s greatest treasure. We should do more joint projects with other churches!!

Carla Stolzenthaler

## **THE TRANSITION PROCESS – UPDATE**

† LAST SPRING COMPLETED

- ◆ *Worked with the Synod to find an Interim Pastor*
- ◆ *Pastor Henry Morris comes to Faith*
- ◆ *Mutual Ministry & Church Council – listen to the concerns of the congregation. Pro-active, regular communication through VOF article, announcements and prayers*

† **Cottage Meetings October thru November COMPLETED**

- ◆ *Talk about our congregation, what aspects are important to us, what do we want to put more time into, what do we think we could do without*
- ◆ *Need to take time for prayer, study of scripture, and mutual conversation*
- ◆ *Discussions will be brought back to the Mutual Ministry Committee to summarize for the parish*

† **Late Winter/Early Spring COMPLETED**

- ◆ *Begin to compile a portrait of the congregation - demographics – what makes Faith, Faith. A final report will be submitted to the church council for review*
- ◆ *The final report will be made available to the congregation*
- ◆ *After approval by the council a compellation will be sent to the synod*

† CREATION OF A CALL COMMITTEE SPRING/SUMMER COMPLETED

- ◆ *Nominations are made to the Mutual Ministry Committee*
- ◆ *Mutual Ministry makes recommendations to the council*
- ◆ *Church Council reviews candidates and makes their recommends to the congregation*
- ◆ *The congregation votes*
- ◆ *Complete the Congregational Profile*

It is hard to believe, but we have reached the final phase of the selection processes. The profile has been submitted and there are copies available at the church. Our next step is the selection process:

### **Selection of a Candidate**

Summer/Fall 2007

- ◆ Bishop submits the name of a candidate
- ◆ Call Committee travels to see the candidate preach
- ◆ Call Committee meets and interviews the candidate
- ◆ Call Committee votes on the candidate (must be unanimous or majority plus one vote in favor of the candidate). If not, the Call Committee Chairperson (Keryl Robinson) contacts the Bishop
- ◆ The Candidate agrees to continue through the process
- ◆ Call Committee recommends the candidate to the council
- ◆ Church Council meets and interviews the candidate
- ◆ Church Council votes on the candidate
- ◆ Church Council presents the candidate to the congregation – the candidate preaches at Faith Lutheran Church
- ◆ That same day Faith holds a congregational meeting (with a Synod representative present) to vote on the candidate
- ◆ Faith begins to transition from Pastor Morris to our new Pastor

Please continue to keep the Call Committee in your prayers. Their journey is one of deep faith that the Lord will send them the right person to lead our congregation.

God Bless,

**Janina R. Johnkoski, Mutual Ministry Chairperson**

## 2) Sighting of the Golden-Vested Yankees

*Roundup of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly by Bishop Margaret G. Payne*

The voting members of the New England Synod provided a visible and articulate witness at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly (CWA) of the ELCA Aug. 6-11 at Navy Pier in Chicago. Our matching golden colored fleece vests were very visible, cozy in the chilly air conditioning of the vast meeting hall, and often the object of admiration and envy from surrounding synods. It was good to present the appearance of a team, because we felt like a team.

Although each voting member enters discussion and makes decisions individually and prayerfully, we had a strong sense of representing a part of the country that may be low in percentage of Lutherans, but is high in commitment and passion for the work of the church.

"God's Work, Our Hands" was a theme that emerged from this assembly, and we were proud to hear about all the ministries that the ELCA does, and proud also to bring our voice and witness to this gathering. God's work truly is being accomplished in wonderful ways in New England, and echoes of that work resounded throughout the week.

The New England Synod Resolution on Darfur was the only one on that topic and was supported by the assembly. Our synod assembly resolutions on the war in Iraq and global warming were relevant to the work of the CWA.

Our role as companion synod for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) was significant. We co-hosted a reception with the Southeast Michigan Synod for Bishop Munib Younan and participated in the discussion on a resolution that deepened ELCA support for our brothers and sisters in that troubled land.

We had contributed thoughtful resolutions to the debate on human sexuality and were a witness that helped to shape the discussion in this difficult issue. We shared dinner with fellow voting members of our partner synod, Southeastern Minnesota, and took time for prayer, conversation, meals and worship together, enjoying a growing camaraderie.

When it was time to say good-bye to the work of the assembly and to one another, we were glad to conclude our endless hours of sitting at the tables, but grateful to have shared this special time – a time when the Golden Vested Yankees were sighted, and were in full throat in our churchwide gathering of witnesses to the gospel.

Sister Virginia E. Strahan

Editor and Webservant

## ***FAITH IN ACTION***

As we move from Summer to Fall, much is getting ready to happen within the Faith Lutheran family and I hope you are energized and poised to be an important contributor.

Here are a few highlights and some things to think about:

On the ***Property*** front, we've selected a Contractor for the Entry Way project and we're planning to start on or around September 1<sup>st</sup>. You'll hear much more from Jay on the details and the adjustments we'll need to make in moving through the church building for a couple of months as we get going. We also had to unexpectedly replace the Boiler fuel line. Please continue to Pray for Jay and the Property Committee as they guide us through this important building effort!

With respect to the ongoing ***Pastoral Transition***, our Church Profile has been completed and submitted and the Call Committee is working hard to get ready for the Bishop's notification on our candidate, so they can start the next step in the process. Please remember this is a confidential process and initially only the Call Committee members will know who the candidate is. This isn't done to hide anything from the congregation, but instead to protect the candidate's relationship with their current congregation. There is a good chance the candidate's current congregation isn't aware of a possible move and if things work out for us, we need to allow the candidate to notify their congregation in the appropriate manner. While we won't hear a lot from Keryl as the Call Committee Chairperson, she will let us know when they have been notified of a candidate. Please continue to pray for this group as they lead the way to our new Pastor!

On the ***Education*** front, Sunday School, Adult Education & Bible Study programs are restarting and for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 14 years Carla will not be the Sunday School Superintendent. She informed the Council in July that she needed to step away as a number of others family priorities needed her attention. We'll miss her leadership, but Thank her and the Lord for working tirelessly together over those 14 years to help provide our children a wonderful Christian educational experience. Janet and the Christian Education Committee are working closely with Carla to ensure we don't miss a beat. Please Pray for all our education leaders as we start a new year!

On the ***Worship & Music*** front, in addition to getting all the choirs geared back up and discussing when to restart the 8 AM Service, the Committee is working on the details for our next Concert in October. Look for more on the details from Beth. Please Pray for all those who work to make our Worship experience fulfilling!

On the ***Stewardship*** front, Joe has worked with the Committee to finalize this year's program and approach, which we'll be hearing more about soon. Please Pray for this group as they help us understand what being good stewards is all about and how we can use all our resources to best serve the Lord!

On the **Financial** front, we've kept our head above water, but we haven't closed our Challenge Gap yet. Please make sure your pledge is current and Pray for guidance on how you can help meet our financial goals.

On the **Youth** front, the group has been busy attending concerts and rafting in Maine's rivers. Please Pray for this energetic group as they prepare for the Annual Hammonasset gathering and they work with their friends from Ebenezer to share the Lord's Spirit with those around them.

Please also note that there is a new **Council Bulletin Board** in the Parish Hall. This will be the focal point for keeping everyone up to speed with the latest Council & Committee happenings. Thanks Barb for getting this set up! Please Pray for our Church Leadership as they continue to guide us through these challenging times.

As I said in May, I hope you'll take some time to reflect and pray on the things going on within Faith, the challenges we have and direction on the ways each of us can contribute. Please keep in mind the words from Romans 8:31:

***If God is for us, who can be against us***

I hope you'll continue to be in our boat with Christ, ready to fill the nets with "fish" and ensure Faith Lutheran Church continues to actively further Christ's ministries!

So bring a friend and help fill Christ's nets!

Your Friend in Christ

*Kent*



## YOUNG RINGERS AND SINGERS



**Sunday, September 23, rehearsals begin promptly at 8:45 a.m.**

We are looking forward to an exciting new year of music. Last year, we acquired additional bells so that more music is accessible. As with any group, participation requires dedication and practice. Our group meets every Sunday before Sunday School. It means getting up a little bit earlier, but the benefits to your child's life experiences far out-number those extra minutes. Please consider including your children. Our group is designed for children who have completed the first grade. Sunday School begins on September 16. I will be available to answer any questions you may have.

*Susan Lionberger*



## ACOLYTES WANTED

Do you want to become active within the congregation?  
Do you want to contribute to the weekly service?  
Are you currently in the sixth grade or older?

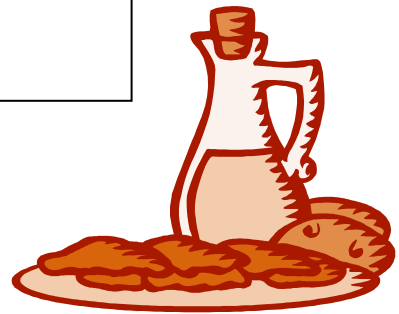
If you have answered yes to these questions then we want you!

Acolyte teams are now being formed, and you are just a call away from making a difference at Faith Lutheran.

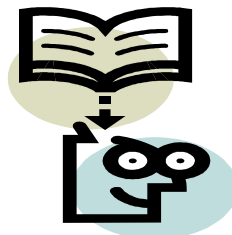
Call Gene Johnkoski (644-5543) if you would like to become a member of a team that is crucial to the weekly services.

On the job training is available and essential to your membership.

Come and join a team that makes a difference.



The next meeting of the **Faith Book Club** will be on Friday, September 28 at 7:00 pm at Beth Godwin's house. This is the postponement of the meeting from June so we will be discussing *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. If you haven't read it already, it is a pretty quick read. If you have, but have forgotten it, you have a few weeks to brush up on the details. Please RSVP to Beth 649-1073 or [bandbgodwin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bandbgodwin@sbcglobal.net) or Janina 644-5543 or [krjg@cox.net](mailto:krjg@cox.net) if you are planning to attend.



## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

Social Ministry kept relatively busy this summer...

### **EAST HARTFORD HOMELESS SHELTER**

Several items were brought to the shelter this summer by people who we referred there as well as by pickups. Thank you to all who helped!

### **COVENANT TO CARE / ADOPT A SOCIAL WORKER**

Our social worker, Tawanda, kept us pretty busy this summer. One of her placements was a brand new baby named Sura (pronounced SirA) who is being taken care of by her maternal grandmother here in East Hartford. We brought her baby furniture, clothing, diapers, wipes and a \$100 Target gift certificate. Thank you to all who donated! At last check, everyone is doing well.

We also delivered beds and bedding to a family being reunited in Hartford. Unfortunately, we were given the wrong address so it took a bit to get the items to the right address. Thank you to Melissa, Cheryl and your team who were persistent in getting the items successfully delivered!

27 filled backpacks plus a few extra supplies were delivered to Tawanda on August 22. Thanks to Melissa Golden, Ken & Linda Parkany, Frida Nordgren, Cindy Banta and Cheryl Hanley who helped put everything together. Thanks, too, to all of you who donated items. We found that asking for general items in June and the backpacks in August worked better than we even expected so we are certain to do that again next year!

On another note, at one of the last Prayer Blanket Ministry meetings before summer, we made a prayer blanket for Tawanda. She and her two children joined us for the knotting and it was a wonderful evening. Thanks to Pastor Morris for blessing the blanket with a very meaningful and moving prayer...

Now for the new program year...

We would like to hold a **Social Ministry meeting on Tuesday, September 25 at 7pm** in the church office to discuss the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons as well as any other items that might come up. All are welcome to attend!

Yours in Christ's name,

Donna Hubbs, Social Ministry Chairperson  
Tom Benoit, Church Council Liaison to Social Ministry

Friendship Center Kitchen--Part of Faith Lutheran's Social Ministry outreach is to provide volunteers to prepare and serve meals at the East Hartford Interfaith Ministries' soup kitchen, housed at St. John's Episcopal Church on the corner of Burnside Avenue and Main Street in East Hartford. Each team of volunteers, 3-5 people, is responsible for only 3 first Fridays during the year, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Our IMMEDIATE NEED is for 2-3 volunteers to serve the first Friday of September. Food is provided--we just prepare and serve it. If you can peel a potato or cut cake, you are more than qualified to be a volunteer! If you can help, please call Cheryl Hanley at 633-8742 for more information.



The Mutual Ministry Committee will be meeting within the month of September.

There is still a lot of work for this committee:

- † *Begin planning the shift from Pastor Morris to our next Pastor*
  - *Gathering information and preparing it for the next part of our journey*
  - *Meeting with the congregation (ie: cottage meetings) to reflect on the past year*
  - *Keep the lines of communication open and flowing during this next phase*
  
- † *Develop a preparation strategy to transition from Pastor Morris to our next Pastor*
  - *Debrief with Pastor Morris on critical elements to bring to the next Pastor*
  - *What changes have been welcome and would like to continue*
  - *A proper send-off for Pastor Morris*
  
- † *Transition from the current Mutual Ministry Committee to one whose purpose is:*  
“...to strengthen the pastor’s ministry through careful listening and sharing, reviewing and reflecting on the shared ministry, and providing an opportunity for fuller communication with the congregation. Develop goals for the ministry, and to engage in regular and mutual feedback and evaluation. Members will serve in this capacity for the new pastor’s first year.” Page 34 – Healthy Transitions Resources for Appropriate Endings and Beginnings; *Office of the Bishop*.

*God Bless,  
Janina Johnkoski, Chairperson Mutual Ministry Committee*

## *From the Pastor:*

### **DID JESUS GO TO HELL?**

People have asked me, so I figure others are wondering about this as well. In the Apostle's Creed we say that Jesus "descended to the dead". But we used to say he "descended into hell". So, why the change?

Once again, this is not a "change" in the Creed. Let me remind you that the Creeds belong to the whole Church. They are not subject to change. We can talk about what they mean, but we cannot change the content. This is a translation issue. But it is an issue with a twist. It is not a matter of modern language but of ancient language.

The Apostle's Creed was written in ancient Greek as was the New Testament. The Greek word used is *Hades*, which refers to the land of the dead or the underworld. Jews in the time of Jesus were familiar with the concept of the underworld but did not think in terms of "heaven" or "hell" usually. The idea of "hell", or a place of eternal suffering and punishment, was talked about but not as widely accepted as the idea of the underworld.

Jesus did refer to "hell" in a few sayings. The word he used was not the Greek word *Hades* but the Aramaic word *Gehenna*, which referred to an actual place on earth, not in the underworld. Gehenna was a kind of garbage pit that was constantly burning. It became the image for "hell".

One could make a distinction between *Hades/underworld* and *gehenna/hell*. For Christians, the two concepts began to merge early in our history until they became interchangeable. But the Creed says that Jesus descended into *Hades*, not *Gehenna*.

The issue is how to translate that. Here's where the twist comes in. This is not a new issue. It has been in dispute virtually since the beginning. It seems that the predominant rendering for the most time has been that Jesus "descended to the dead". The alternate reading, he "descended into hell", has been around the whole time.

For Lutherans, the alternate reading has been predominant. There is more than one reason for this preference among Lutherans. If you want to learn more about this, you can watch for the class I will be offering this fall about Lutheran perspectives on Christian faith.

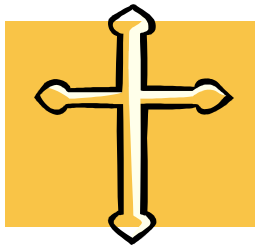
That is just one of the exciting things happening this fall at Faith. Stay tuned, stay involved and bring a friend.

Henry Morris, Pastor



The Faith Cares Committee, whose purpose is to support the membership of Faith Lutheran Church, is still in need of some volunteers to help with the following tasks: driving people when needed, visiting shut-ins, bringing meals to people who need help, and/or participating in the prayer chain. As part of these activities, we need helping making sure that we know who is in need of these services. If you ever know of someone in need, please contact Pat Sack at 644-9575 or [Patshops@yahoo.com](mailto:Patshops@yahoo.com) or Beth Godwin at [bandbgodwin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bandbgodwin@sbcglobal.net). (Additionally, if you know if someone who should be removed from the list also contact us.) Currently, we would like for you to keep the following people in your prayers:

Ethel Wirtemberg, Lucille Brooks, Elsie Benjamin, Alice Solomonson, Charles Benoit, Ed Larson, Eleanor Warren, Pastor Haas, Marlene Nixon, Marilyn Haas, Karen Lamontagne, Robin Duesler, Ivy Farinella and Corina, Bill and Hilda Schiemer, Rachel Kayza, Nathan Kay, Diane Hurd, Jennifer and Manny Morales, as well as the following people who are working through the process of enrollment at Faith: Don Francis, Barbara Dokter and Carol Meskill. Additionally, please keep the members of the call committee in your prayers: Joe Carlson, Carla Stolzenhaller, Fred Schoenfeld, Jennifer Morales, Keryl Robinson, Megan Godwin, and Janina Johnkoski



I hope that everyone had a great summer full of fun and relaxation. We are about to embark on an exciting year and there will be many opportunities to get involved in the life of Faith. The Worship and Music committee would like to offer you the following opportunities:

Worship assistants – we will be offering training on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:45. The workshops will focus on how to be communion assistants, lectors, ushers, altar guild, and acolytes. Just come if you are interested in learning more about how to participate in worship in these roles. In the meantime if you feel comfortable filling one of these roles you can contact

Norman and Cindy at [bantanorman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bantanorman@sbcglobal.net) for lectors, ushers, greeters and communion assistants,  
Melissa Golden at [melissaflicka@gmail.com](mailto:melissaflicka@gmail.com) for altar guild,  
Gene Johnkoski at [erjohnko@stpaultravelers.com](mailto:erjohnko@stpaultravelers.com) if you have a 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader who is interested in acolyting.

Music – we have a variety of programs to offer for all ages. If you are interested in one of these programs please don't hesitate to talk to the person in charge – there is no limit to the number of people can become involved.

Chapel Ringers – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up meets Sunday mornings at 8:45 with Susan Lionberger beginning on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Cherub Choir – 3-7 year olds meets Sunday mornings at 8:45 with Pat Sack beginning on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Bell Choir – open to anyone who wants to have fun meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 with Fred Schoenfeld beginning on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Faith Choir – open to anyone willing to learn to sing parts meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 with Susan Lionberger beginning on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Instrumentalists – if you play an instrument and would like to enhance the worship service let Susan Lionberger or Beth Godwin know.

Concerts – in addition to the above activities, we will be offering 3 concerts this year. The first will be the Trumpet and Organ concert on October 13 at 7:30. This is a repeat from last year and if you weren't there it was a fantastic concert. Also already scheduled are the Merrimack Valley Ringers on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. Again this is a repeat from last year and is a must see. The third concert is TBA. We will need people to help with publicity, ushering, food and a variety of other ways. If you have a specific talent you wish to share for these events, please contact Beth Godwin at [bandbgodwin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bandbgodwin@sbcglobal.net).

We hope to see everyone come out and get involved.

Beth Godwin  
Chair, Worship and Music Committee