

From the Pastor:

ALL THINGS NEW

*Then he who sat upon the throne said,
"Behold! I am making all things new!"*
Revelation 21:5

A new year is just ahead, bringing us many new things. The promise that God makes all things new is not reserved for the end of time, but is active in all times. We will see the benefits of this promise in new ways this new year. There will be new things and people in our lives, in our country and in our Church. Most exciting is the arrival of a new Pastor.

One thing is certain. Things will change. There will be new things and old things will be made new. This is a fact of life because it is a promise from God. We welcome it. We are grateful for it. Yet, as we do with all God's gifts, we tend to resist it.

Change is a funny thing. It is necessary and welcome and, at the same time, feared and resisted. Everyone says we need it but when it comes it is not easy to accept. In our country the cry is sounding for change as it does in almost any election year. Candidates wrestle over who will be the most effective agent of change. Yet, woe to the candidate who goes too far with it. What we really want is for things to be the same, only better.

In Church it's the same, only more so. We like things the way they are except for the things we don't like. So we talk about change and growth and challenge and commitment. We want things to be better, but please don't mess with the things we like.

I mention this so that we can be aware of it. Awareness helps us understand our feelings and control our impulses. As exciting as it will be to have a new Pastor and enter a new era in our life, we have to recognize that it is the biggest challenge we have faced in a long, long time. It will not be easy.

Last week at Bible study when it came time for our prayers, Joe Carlson prayed for our new Pastor, whomever it will be. This impressed me. We have been praying for our Call Committee all year but didn't really think to pray for our new Pastor until now. But now is a good time to start!

Pray for our new Pastor, for our congregation, for our mission and for our future. Pray for the courage to accept new things, new people and new ideas as we move forward. Pray for the faith to receive what God gives us as a blessing and accept it with gratitude. God who has brought us safe thus far is leading us still. The best is yet to come.

Henry Morris, Pastor



January

02	Donna Hubbs	18	Frida Nordgren
03	Edwin Larson	22	Linda Parkany
10	David Godwin	28	Mike Myette
	Paul Henry		
16	Beth Godwin		
	Jennie Kane		

Upcoming activities at Faith

- 1/2 – Worship & Music @ 6:15
- 1/6 – Undecorate the Church @ Noon
- 1/6 – Crossroads Church New Building & Faith Window Dedication @ 4
- 1/20 –Special Congregation Meeting – Following Service
- 1/21 –WELCA Meeting @ Pat Sack’s @ 7
- 2/3 – Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting – Following Service
- 2/9 – Youth Valentines Dinner @ Faith
- 2/10 –Special Lenten Service @ Trinity Vernon @ 5
- 2/13 –Lenten Pot Luck @ 6
- 2/18 –WELCA Meeting @ Beth Godwin’s @ 7
- 2/20 –Lenten Pot Luck @ 6
- 2/22 –Men’s Fellowship – Wolf Pack Hockey @ 7 (\$15)
- 2/27 –Lenten Pot Luck @ 6
- 2/29 –Youth Group Concert – “Casting Crowns” @ Amherst, MA
- 3/5 – Lenten Pot Luck @ 6
- 3/7-9 Sr. Youth Calumet Retreat
- 3/12 –Lenten Pot Luck @ 6
- 3/17 –WELCA Attends Passion Play @ Crossroads Church @
- 3/23 –EASTER
- 3/28 –Men’s Fellowship – Wolf Pack Hockey @ 7 (\$15)
- 3/30 –Sr. Youth Service @
- 4/6 – Sr. Youth Service @
- 4/21 –WELCA Meeting @ Marjorie Coons @ 7
- 4/25 & 26 –Youth 30 Hour Famine
- 5/1 – Special Ascension Service @ Concordia, Manchester
- 5/3 – WELCA Spring Gathering @ Christ the King, Windsor
- 5/17 –Youth Tag Sale & Car Wash
- 5/19 – WELCA Meeting @ Janina Johnkoski’s @ 7
- 6/16 – WELCA Picnic @ Linda Parkany’s @ 6
- 7/11-13 –WELCA Retreat @ Koinonia, Londonderry, VT
- 12/7 –Merrimack Valley Ringers Bell Concert @ Faith

COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Kent Tedford

DIVISION I VICE PRESIDENT
Open

DIVISION II VICE PRESIDENT
Annette Bolt

COUNCIL SECRETARY
Barbara Lewis

DIVISION I COMMITTEES

DIVISION II COMMITTEES

Worship and Music:
Beth Godwin

Stewardship:
Joe Carlson

Christian Education:
Janet Holowczak
Sarah Jaworski

Finance:
Jim Bevins
Kurt Christensen

Youth:
Kent Tedford

Property:
Jay Stolzenhaler

Evangelism:
Joyce Lamontagne

Publicity:
Peter Carlson

Social Ministry:
Tom Benoit
Donna Hubbs

Mutual Ministry:
Janina Johnkoski

Youth Deacons
Eric Bolt
Ron Hart

Prayer Blanket Ministry:
Linda Woodrow
Caryn Furbush

Winter Weather Alerts

In the event of bad weather, we are registered with Channel 3, and Channel 8, as well as WTIC AM radio. I will also change the outgoing message on the church answering machine if we need to close or cancel Service on any Sunday.

Worship Lessons for January

Jan. 6th – Epiphany of Our Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 13th – Baptism of Our Lord
Isaiah 42:109
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 20th – Epiphany 2
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Jan. 27th – Epiphany 3
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4: 12-23

AT YOUR SERVICE JANUARY

January 6th

Greeters: Joe Carlson & Frida Nordgren
Ushers: Tom Benoit & Kendra Dubiel
Comm. Asst.: Caryn Furbush & Linda Woodrow
Lector: Chuck Sack
Tellers: Chuck Sack & Steve Jaworski

January 13th

Greeters: Donna & Dennis Hubbs
Ushers: Barbara Lewis & Melissa Golden
Comm. Asst. Craig Bolt & Cathy Kay
Lector: Joyce Lamontagne
Tellers: Kent Tedford & Cathy Kay

January 20th

Greeters: Ken & Linda Parkany
Ushers: Bob & Kathy Neumeister
Comm. Asst.: Jay & Carla Stolzenhaler
Lector: Beth Godwin
Tellers: Craig Bolt & Keryl Robinson

January 27th

Greeters: Norm and Cindy Banta
Ushers: Robbie & Gene Johnkoski
Comm. Asst.: Donna Hubbs & Kent Tedford
Lector: Janina Johnkoski
Tellers: Jay Stolzenhaler & John Holowczak

YOUTH Happenings & Upcoming Events

December was the 1st time in a while the Group had an opportunity to pause, catch our breath, spend some time with each other and focus on our LIFESTORIES Devotional program at our meetings on the 2nd & 16th. In addition to time on our devotional program, we prepared a card for Bethany LaRose to help her get through some personal challenges related to the sudden loss of a friend. Our card included a copy of the LIFESTORIES Book and messages from everyone in the group. We also took a few minutes to build a ginger bread house for the young people at the Shelter to enjoy during the holiday season.

We again helped support the Bell Concert, keeping our record of no parking accidents intact!

In addition to our meetings, we began selecting music for our next Youth Services on 3/30 & 4/6, working on the details for the Valentines Dinner and Finalizing our major Activity Schedule for 2008

Coming up in January

- Sr. Youth Meetings on the 13th & 27th
- Finalize preparations for our 2008 Valentines Dinner on 2/9
- Begin preparing for Calumet Retreat on 3/7-9
- Continue preparing for our 2008 Youth Sunday (3/30 & 4/6)
- Continue Preparing for 30 Hour Famine (4/25 & 26)

HAPPY NEW YEAR! See you in February with January's highlights!

Kent

Social Ministry:

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone for overwhelming support of the Angel Tree Gift Program. This year we had 104 Angels on the tree, and thanks to your generosity, all have been accounted for. Thanks to Doris Schoenfeld and Tom & Cheryl Hanley for their diligent work in making sure everything was taken care of. Thanks, too, to Thrivent Financial for their dollar match and to the elf who put up the Christmas tree ahead of time so we could put all the angels on it!

Just a reminder that we are still looking for a few folks who can help out a couple of times a year at the Friendship Center. There are many individuals and family who rely on the Friendship Center for a hot meal, and that won't continue to happen without volunteer support. In this time of need it would be a shame if Faith Lutheran had to reduce its commitment to this important East Hartford project. See Cheryl Hanley if you'd like to add your name to the list!

The committee would also like to thank the entire congregation for their continued support of the many social ministry activities throughout the past year. It's wonderful to see the heart and soul of Faith Lutheran, reaching out to help those in need.

Donna Hubbs, Committee Chair

Tom Benoit, Council Liaison

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 or Beth Godwin at 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:

Clinton Chu, Ethel Wirtemberg, Lucille Brooks, Elsie Benjamin, Charles Benoit, Ed Larson, Eleanor Warren, Pastor Haas, Marilyn Haas, Ken Parkany, Karen Lamontagne, Robin Duesler, Ivy Farinella and Corina, Bill and Hilda Schiemer, Linda Woodrow, Rachel Kayza, Nathan Kay, Linda Woodrow, David Woodrow, Diane Hurd, 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, Melissa Golden, Megan Godwin, and Janina Johnkoski

FAITH in ACTION

Our congregation has once again seen Faith in Action this year in terms of the gratifying response to our Commitment Challenge. As of November 30th, offerings in the amount of \$23,060 had specifically been given to the \$31,000 Commitment Challenge we accepted at our annual meeting in February. With this inspiring response to our transitional year needs, we have every reason to believe that we will end 2007 in the black.

Our total year-to-date offerings through November 30 were \$162,912 and our year-to-date expenses through the same time period were \$158,420.

We thank all of our members for their offerings given in faithful witness to God's abundant blessings and His most precious gift of all, His Son.

Annette Bolt
Division II Vice-President

TRANSITION – The Next Steps

As we approach the end of another fulfilling year of Worship and Ministry at Faith Lutheran Church, ***I'm excited to invite you to a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday January 20, 2008.***

Recently the Call Committee met with the Church Council and forwarded their recommendation for the next Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church on to the Council for consideration. The two groups had an energetic and exciting discussion which led to the Council then meeting with the Candidate and agreeing to move on to the next step in our Transition Journey. That next step is to have the Candidate come to Faith on Sunday January 20th and preach for the Congregation.

Following the service, the Congregation will have an opportunity to ask the Candidate questions and then we'll vote on whether we want to make a "Call". Assuming the Congregation agrees with the Call Committee's and Council's recommendations to "Call" this Candidate, we will have a reception after the service so everyone can meet the Candidate and his family.

These are exciting times as we get ready to begin a new chapter in the history of Faith Lutheran Church. Over 15 months ago we embarked on an important journey, and while it has presented challenges along the way, we used our Faith in Christ and Trust in each other to work through those challenges and get us successfully to this point. The careful thought each of you put into selecting our Call Committee has proven to be worthwhile. They have been thorough and focused on their assignment. I can't imagine a group working any harder or doing a better job. We should all take a minute to Thank them.

While our making this "Call" brings an end to the first phase of our Transition, it also starts a new phase in our overall transition process, that of helping our new Pastor get settled at Faith. To ensure this next phase is as successful as the first, we need to

- Be helpful and supportive of our new Pastor and each other
- Be reasonable with our expectations – even the Lord needed 6 days to make Heaven and Earth
- Be tolerant of each other and careful with our assumptions

We will provide more information on the Candidate as we get closer to January 20th, but for now, please mark the date and plan to join me for this important event and remember these important words from Romans 8:31:

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

In Christ,
Kent

A very special thank you to the following people for all of their hard work on the Merrimack Valley Bell Concert:

Barbara Lewis, Doris Schoenfeld, Hilda Schiemer, Cathy Kay, Marjorie Coons and Terry Zocco for organizing and setting up the fantastic reception afterwards.

And to everyone who helped clean up in a hurry so we could beat the weather home.

Kent Tedford and the Youth group, and their special guests from Ebenezer, for organizing the parking and ushering.

Fred Schoenfeld and Brian Godwin for setting up all of the candles in the windows. And to Fred for his correspondence with the choir – they will be returning next year on December 7th!

To Kathy Ricciardelli for the extra work she did above and beyond.

And to Susan Lionberger for recording the concert to be passed along to our shut- ins.

Once again, I hope I haven't left anyone out, but if I did, it certainly doesn't mean we don't appreciate your contribution.

Coming up in January we will have some special events, however one thing that will not be happening is Youth Sunday. The Youth have decided to hold Youth Sunday after Easter because of their performance in November and so that they will have more time to prepare. Also, be looking for a new Lenten program starting in February which will include a kick-off service involving other Lutheran congregations in our area.

Thank You!!!

Our family wishes to express our sincere appreciation to all of you for your many cards, prayers and other acts of kindness extended to us during my recent illness. It is good to be home after 63 days in the hospital and re-hab!

Thank you also to Pastor Henry Morris, for his faithful ministry to our family during a very difficult time. His visits, prayers and phone calls were most appreciated.

God Bless You All,
Sincerely,

The Chu Family – Clinton, Shirley, Sharon and Sandra

