

From the Pastor:

Dear friends,

Easter Monday, March 24, 2008

From the cross Jesus said, "Mother, behold your son; son, behold your mother." (John 19:26-27) With those words of loving-kindness he transformed the grim scene of his death into the great life-giving moment we remember and celebrate during Holy Week.

Here at Faith Lutheran Church we stand together at the foot of Jesus's life-giving cross and hear those same loving words. We study the Living Word together; we worship together; we prayerfully create blankets together to bring comfort to suffering people, and we look after each other. We have adopted one another as family members in response to Jesus's words.

We care for and feed each other in times of trouble and rejoicing. Holy Week this year began when one of our worshipers went to court with another to support him in his difficulty. It continued as Merlin created a wonderful light-box to allow the glory of the Resurrection window to shine into our sanctuary during our overnight Easter vigil, and bring to life Richard Hillert's motet on the Resurrection. It continued with the Holy Week services, and concluded with a wonderful Easter morning worship celebration and breakfast.

Excellent preparation is one of the most faithful expressions of love we can give each other. Our preparations for Holy Week and Easter were wonderful! Our whole choir and our musicians (Beth, Sarah, Jennifer, Megan, and Fred, among others) worked hard to prepare our Holy Week music under the direction of Susan. Everyone was here at Faith five days in a row, starting with a rehearsal on Wednesday night and concluding with the great Easter celebration on Sunday. Kathy carefully printed countless worship bulletins and Mary and Jennie assembled and folded them. Janina baked bread, and she, Melissa, and Keryl worked hard to prepare the sanctuary and altar for our great festival. Many other people prepared to serve Easter breakfast, wrote letters of invitation to neighbors and did countless other tasks. I know I have forgotten to mention many people; my point is that everyone worked together to create inspiring Holy Week and Easter worship. Together we showed the Good News to our visitors and each other, and we showed our devoted love to the crucified and risen Christ. For my part, I am thankful that you all have welcomed and supported me in this time of Lent and Holy Week. Thanks!

I was deeply moved by our Good Friday Tenebrae service, and I know I was not alone. The meditations people offered on our Savior's dying words in that service showed the depth of our congregation's love for him and for each other. Truly, the Word made flesh dwells among us, full of grace and truth!

In Lent we focused on the practice of forgiveness. As we walk along the path of Life together into the Easter season, let us turn our attention to the practice of reading the Bible and attending to the Living Word of God. We'll explore reading the Bible devotionally and theologically, as well as reading it to understand its historic and literary contexts. We'll take time together to listen to God's word together, puzzle over it together, and open ourselves to being challenged and changed. I'm looking forward to taking this journey with all of you!

In the name of the risen Christ,
Pastor Ollie Jones



April

04	John Ricciardelli Jamie Harmon	17	Ray Meneses Robert Meneses
05	Candace Kearney	18	Holly McVicker Wendy Parkany
07	Bob Neumeister Dorothy Kubachka	19	Robert Graff Evan Jaworski
09	Arlene Taylor	22	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		

The Faith Cares Committee, Faith Cares Committee continues to help and pray for the following members and friends of our congregation: Clinton Chu Maggie McKenzie Eleanor Warren Denise Turner Frank Sauerbeck Ray Furbush Karen O'Brien Elsie Benjamin Ed Larson Lucille Brooks Bill Scheimer Arlene & Lee DeRagon Albert Fillmore Terry Scavetta Charles Benoit Rachel Kayza Dorothy Fillmore Ivy Farinella Betty Exley Carole Bardons Dave DeBarge and Esther Argenyi.

For prayer concerns, transportation, or meal support, please call Pat Sack (860-644-9575) or Beth Godwin (860-649-1073), or sign up on the posters provided on the Narthex doors.

VOICE OF FAITH DISTRIBUTION

In an effort to have the Voice of Faith delivered in a more timely fashion, we are in the process of switching over to sending it via 1st class mail. Currently we have approximately 25 families that receive it every month through e-mail, and this has worked out very well.

What we are asking from you is this; would you allow us to include you in the e-mail distribution rather than the postal mailing? If so, please just drop me an e-mail at office@faithlutheranct.org and your name will be added to the electronic mailing list.

Hard copies will always be available in the narthex should you ever want one.

Thank you in advance for your help, Kathy

Upcoming activities at Faith

- 4/2 – Tues – Worship & Music @ 6PM
- 4/6 – Sun – Sr. Youth Service @ Ebenezer
- 4/13 – Spring Concert @ Faith @ 4 – Manchester High School Choral Groups
- 4/14 – Mon – Council Meeting @ 7PM
- 4/21 – Mon – WELCA Meeting @ Marjorie Coons @ 7
- 4/25 & 26 – Fri & Sat – Youth 30 Hour Famine
- 4/30 – Wed. – Senior Luncheon
- 5/1 – Thur – Special Ascension Service @ Concordia, Manchester @ 7:30
- 5/3 – Sat – WELCA Spring Gathering @ Christ the King, Windsor
- 5/6 – Tues – Worship & Music @ 7PM
- 5/8 – Thur – Men and Women in Blue Day
- 5/10 – Sat – NE Synod Greater Hartford Mission Assembly @ Emmanuel Hartford 10-3
- 5/11 – Sun – Mother's Day
- 5/12 – Mon – Council Meeting @ 7PM
- 5/17 – Sat – Youth Tag Sale & Car Wash
- 5/19 – Mon – WELCA Meeting @ Janina Johnkoski's @ 7
- 6/16 – Mon – WELCA Picnic @ Linda Parkany's @ 6
- 7/11-13 – Fri-Sun – WELCA Retreat @ Koinonia, Londonderry, VT
- 8/24 – Sun – Faith & Family Day @ NB Rock Cats with Thrivent
- 10/8 – Wed – Hartford Conference Clergy Lunch @ Faith
- 12/7 – Sun – Merrimack Valley Ringers Bell Concert @ Faith

Council Holds Leadership Planning Session

Members of the church council and mutual ministry committee met in February to strategize for the upcoming year ...and beyond!!

It was an exciting meeting with council members having their first opportunity to work alongside Pastor Ollie. The group spent time evaluating the transition, the work of individual committees, and applying lessons learned to plans for Faith's future. The group discussed how we would like the community to view us, how we perceive ourselves and how to best communicate all that in order to grow our congregation and welcome new members. The council is in the early stages of making changes to Faith's vision statement as a result of those discussions.

Council members were elected to their committee posts and council positions. Although the planning session presented some real challenges, all agreed it was an enjoyable and very fruitful two days.

Watch for future council news and committee updates in each issue of the Voice of Faith.

Jennifer Kingstorf Faust was ordained to the office of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on Saturday April 5, 2008. Jennifer's parents were members here at Faith.

Social Ministry:

The Social Ministry Committee met on Tuesday, March 11 with 6 people in attendance. We were able to get through most of the Social Ministry Agenda, but did not discuss Men & Women In Blue. Another meeting is being scheduled for that the last week in March as this article is being written.

Men & Women In Blue will be held on Thursday, May 8 this year. Anyone who would like to help in any way is invited to do so. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex on Sunday, April 27. Meetings will be spotlighted in the bulletin and Sunday announcements.

We are looking for people interested in attending the New England Synod Program, Healing the Wounds of Racism. This year's introductory session is being held on June 20-22. You will be hearing more about this as reservations are due towards the end of April. If you are interested, please see Pastor Ollie.

The Friendship Center now has 4 ½ teams, but we could still use a few more volunteers as substitutes. If you can help out at the soup kitchen once in awhile, please let Cheryl Hanley know. She can be reached at thanley7@aol.com or 633-8742.

Covenant to Care, the non-profit that runs our Adopt A Social Worker Program, is sponsoring a fund raising drive in April as part of National Child Abuse Awareness Month. They are asking people to donate towards the many programs they sponsor to help children in distress. If you are interested in this, please get more information at www.covenanttocare.org or see Donna Hubbs and she will get you a copy of the letter. Social Ministry is planning to donate, on behalf of the Congregation, a \$100 check. We are hoping to present this check to a Covenant to Care representative on Sunday, April 20 during the church service. Plans are still being settled for renewing our Covenant with our Adopted Social Worker, Tawanda Hurdle-Jackson, on that day. More to come as information becomes available.

We will once again be asking for school supplies in June for the Fall, 2008 school year for children in our Adopt A Social Worker program. This worked very well last year as more people are still here in June rather than waiting for everything in August when people are on vacation. You will recall that we asked for general supplies in June and then the individual backpacks in August.

However, due to feedback received about the difficulty in buying school supplies at that time of year, we will make the deadline for their delivery back at church August 24th. Some of the backpacks will be purchased directly this year out of the Social Ministry budget as prescribed by Council, but we are sure to need some help. Seems like Tawanda's caseload gets larger every year!

The Mother's Day Appeal for the programs of East Hartford Interfaith Ministries will once again be celebrated on Mother's Day with a collection plate in the Narthex. You can celebrate your Mother and / or another significant woman in your life with a donation to the EHIM Human Needs, Friendship Center, or New Beginnings programs. If you would like to donate and receive an acknowledgement of your gift before that so you can give it to the Honoree on her day, please see Donna Hubbs and we will arrange to do that for you. We will also have general certificates available on Mother's Day for those last minute donators who wish acknowledgement.

Thank you to those who stepped up in March to help with our "Missions". Even Pastor Ollie got into it! We sincerely thank you for your time and energy to move furniture and get items to people who need them. We managed to empty an apartment for a woman who was moving to a smaller place and then fill an apartment for a woman who had no furniture at all! Thanks to Melissa and Bill Golden who went the extra mile and found her a queen bedroom set. When the box spring wasn't useful, they even went out and bought a new one! We also provided a bed and other furniture for a teenager baptized here at Faith who is living in East Hartford. Some items were also delivered to the East Hartford Community Shelter. Also, we were able to direct people to the Shelter with household items...people who are not members of Faith, but who had heard about our good works.

Praise the Lord!

When we are about God's business, amazing things happen! We are constantly reminded how actively God works in our hearts and actions to help those in need. For those of you who have stepped up to help, you have seen His hand in the work you do. For those who haven't experienced this yet, we invite you to come along anytime. You will be glad you did. Just let us know you are interested in doing so as your schedule permits and we'll be sure to put you on our "call" list!

Donna Hubbs, Committee Chair

Tom Benoit, Council Liaison

Healing the Wounds of Racism:

In the beginning there was a synod vision, part of which calls upon people to do justice. In 2002, the New England Synod Council chose *Healing the Wounds of Racism* as the vehicle by which the Synod would confront racism. *Healing the Wounds* is not another "program," but rather a "process" which involves participants in an ongoing attitude of prayer and openness to new feelings, understandings and actions about racism and its affects on all of us.

Healing the Wounds of Racism is a two-stage learning process engages participants spiritually, as well as cognitively.

The **Introductory Weekend** is centered in prayer, history, analysis and learning about racism, white advantage and the affect of this on both white people and people of color. Participants commit to attending the next stage of development (**Stage 2**) and community building

The Stage 2 Weekend furthers the development of analytical skills to look at institutional systems and continues to encourage learning and nurture in a community of accountability.

The Healing the Wounds Community is open to all who have participated in the learning process. Community work involves Bible study and the support of one another in personal and institutional transformation.

This year, the Introductory Weekend is being held June 20-22 at the Espousal Center in Waltham Massachusetts, and the Stage 2 Weekend is scheduled for July 11-13 at the same location. The fee charged for room and board for each weekend is based on a sliding scale.

If you are interested in attending this exciting workshop, or would like information please see either Pastor Ollie or myself, or go to the Synod website at <http://www.nesynod.org/healing-the-wounds.html>.

Tom Benoit, Council Liaison to the Social Ministry Committee

YOUTH Happenings & Upcoming Events

Hopefully by the time you read this you had a chance to join us at our 1st Youth Service on March 30th. Eric will be preaching and the Youth will be handling all the music. See next month's VOF for all the highlights!

During March we sure had a lot going on. On Friday Night 2/29 we went to the Casting Crowns Concert at UMASS in Amherst, MA with about 10,000 other fans. We had 20 in our FABENEZER Group, for some their 1st ever concert, for others their 1st Christian Concert, but for all a Great Time! Kathy and I were sure glad Gary was handling all the driving in a nice big bus, as the ride home was full of snow and ice. We stayed at the church that night and spent 3 hours Saturday morning working on our Youth Service Music. As you can imagine, not much sleep!

The next weekend FABENEZER was off to Calumet for the Sr. Group's retreat Weekend. We had a smaller than usual group, but had a great time, including introducing a couple of 1st timers to the Calumet experience. In between climbing through 4-5 feet of snow, dodging snow balls and rain drops from every angle, we met people from Old Saybrook, Windsor & Faith in Andover,

Mass. and helped make Sunday's service a musical delight! Watch the Youth Bulletin Board for pictures.

We were also very busy back at Faith on Easter weekend, helping with the Easter Vigil Service again on Saturday and the Easter Breakfast on Sunday morning. In between all these activities we spent time getting everything ready for our upcoming Youth Services on 3/30 @ Faith and 4/6 @ Ebenezer and continuing to prepare for the 30 Hour Famine at the end of April.

Coming up in April

- Sr. Youth Meetings on the 5th, 20th & 25th
- Holding our 2008 Youth Sunday (3/30 & 4/6)
- Helping with the MHS Concert on the 13th
- Attending the Skillet Concert in NYC on the 19th
- Continue Preparing for the 30 Hour Famine (4/25 & 26)
- Begin Preparing for the Tag Sale & Car Wash on 5/17

See you in May with the Highlights from the Youth Services & the Famine

Kent

Pastor Ollie-Emergency Contact information

Telephone: 860-966-5712 (cell)

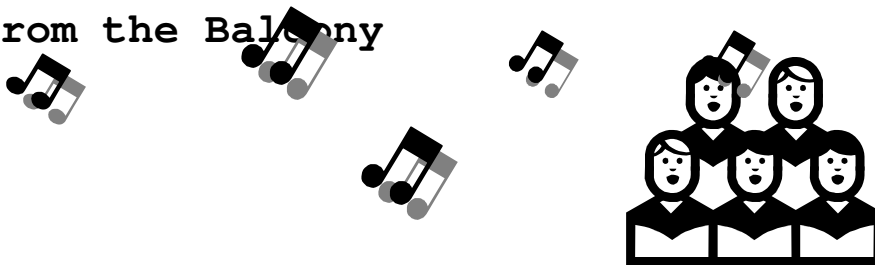
Email: Pastor.Ollie@gmail.com or olliejones@gmail.com

Keryl Robinson –Council President- emergency contact information

Telephone: 860-648-1867 (home); 860-995-7892 (cell)

Email: kyr1212@cox.net or keryl.robinson@symetra.com

Notes From the Balcony



Alleluia, our celebration of Easter continues. Now that the intensity of Holy Week and the joy of the Resurrection of Our Lord have been observed with great liturgical grandeur, we can continue the

celebration daily with more simplicity as springtime unfolds around us. With Easter coming so early in the calendar year, we have the entire month of April to reflect on that wondrous gift of Love, our Easter Joy, our Salvation.

Have you ever wondered why Easter is celebrated on a different Sunday each year? One of the many game shows on television had a question relating to the date of Easter...and everyone had the wrong answer, for a variety of reasons. One answer: Easter Sunday is the Sunday following the full moon after the Vernal Equinox. This is wrong! Vernal means spring, and countries in the Southern hemisphere have opposite seasons to those in the Northern hemisphere.

Easter Sunday is the Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon (PFM) date for the year. In June 325 A.D., astronomers approximated astronomical full moon dates for the Christian church, calling them Ecclesiastical Full Moon (EFM) dates. From 326 A.D. the PFM date has always been the EFM date after March 20 (which was the equinox date in 325 A.D.). Therefore, Easter Sunday occurs around the time of an astronomical full moon, but the astronomical full moon has nothing to do with determining Easter Sunday date.

Based on these calculations, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22) than it was this year, but that is very rare. This year was the earliest Easter most of us have ever seen. Only the most elderly (95 or older) of our population have seen it this early and none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier!

The next time Easter will be observed on March 23 will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913. The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. Thus, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

If you are curious, there are websites with calculators for determining the date of Easter from now until 4099.

By the way, next year, Easter will be observed on April 12.
Lionberger

Susan

At Your Service April:

04/06

Ushers: Dennis & Donna Hubbs
Greeters: Norm and Cindy Banta
Reader: Linda Woodrow
Comm Asst: Keryl Robinson & Cathy Kay
Tellers: Craig Bolt & Keryl Robinson

Ushers: Tom Benoit & Barbara Lewis
Greeters: Jill Geyer & Ed Carlson
Reader: Don Francis
Comm Asst: Caryn Furbush & Kendra
Dubiel
Tellers: Jay Stolzenhaler & John
Holowczak

04/13/08

Ushers: Bob & Kathy Neumeister
Greeters: Mike Myette & Beth Warren
Reader: Brian Godwin
Comm Asst: Kent Tedford & Bruce Weston
Tellers: Kent, Pete Carlson, Joe
Carlson

04/27/08

Ushers: Gene Johnkoski & Robbie
Johnkoski
Greeters: Linda Woodrow & David
Woodrow
Reader: Janina Johnkoski
Comm Asst: Ken & Linda Parkany
Tellers: Chuck Sack & Steve Jaworski

04/20/08

Tithing "Rehearsal" Opportunity

Sometime (?) in May 2008, you will be receiving a "windfall" check from the Internal Revenue Service as authorized by recent Federal legislation entitled the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. If a 2007 tax return has been filed and depending upon one's filing status, everyone at Faith Lutheran will be receiving checks for \$300 or \$600 or \$1200.

The government wants you to spend that money...promptly...in order to get the economy back on track.

This represents an outstanding opportunity for members and friends of Faith Lutheran to practice tithing. As soon as you cash/deposit the government check, why not contribute **10%** to the **Faith Building Fund**? What a great way to spur the economy! As Faith nears completion of Phase II (new entrance, handicap bathroom and handicap lift) of its Capital Campaign, it will move on to Phase III (parking lot re-paving) and Phase IV (?). Faith's expenditures on capital improvements will be a boon to local contractors. It's just what the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 has been designed to accomplish!

Such a deal! You'll never have an easier time to tithe. Make your checks payable to Faith Lutheran and in the memo section of your check indicate "Economic Stimulus". Practice patriotism; practice proper Christian stewardship...tithe your stimulus check.

Faith Lutheran Church Leadership Roles for 2008

Pastor – Ollie Jones (EC)

Council Officers

President – Keryl Robinson (EC) Financial Secretary – Bruce Weston

VP Div I – Beth Godwin (EC) Treasurer – Gene Johnkoski

VP Div II – Annette Bolt (EC) Secretary – Martha McKerley (EC)

Church Committees & Council Contacts

W&M – Beth Godwin Evangelism – Joe Carlson

Youth – Megan Godwin Youth Deacon – Megan Godwin
(*Kent Tedford Chair*)

Social Ministry – Tom Benoit (*Donna Hubbs Chair*)

Christian Ed – Sarah Jaworski Publicity – Dave Cummings

Sunday School Superintendant – Janina Johnkoski

Finance – Pete Carlson Stewardship – Kurt Christensen

Property – Jay Stolzenhaller

Member Support & Visitation – Beth Godwin & *Pat Sack*

Mutual Ministry – Kent Tedford (Chair) Prayer Blanket Ministry – *Linda Woodrow*

WELCA – Annette Bolt

Men's Fellowship Ministry – Kurt Christensen

Stained Glass Windows Ministry –

Kitchen Fellowship Ministry – *Hilda Schiemer & Cathy Kay & Barb Lewis* (being formalized)

