

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

August 2016



As I settle into ministry with you at Faith Lutheran Church, my first Lutheran congregation, I have been thinking about Martin Luther. In seminary, my favorite thing I remember learning about Luther was his view of vocation: the calling to live a life of holiness.

Luther challenged the idea that priests and monks, with their cloistered lives of full-time service to the church, were living a life of greater holiness than other Christians. He suggested that God was present in every kind of work – as present in the loaves of the baker, the plowed fields of the farmer, and the tasks of the woman around her house as in the rituals of the priest and the monk.

This idea resonates deeply with me. I certainly feel holiness in the tasks of my life – cooking a meal, reading with my child, watering plants – alongside the privilege of leading worship and other tasks for the church.

I'm always interested in the ways that you all find to live a holy life in the midst of your daily activities and jobs. Clergy have the luxury of doing church work full-time. Most Christians live the challenge of multi-tasking their Christian faith in the midst of their day job, whatever that may be.

Recently I encountered a person who was doing his job – a stressful and thankless job on that day – in a way that seemed to me full of grace and holiness. His name was Sergio and he was a ticket agent at the Albany airport. I met him at the ticket counter, more than two hours after the flight I was supposed to be on to Chicago was cancelled with mechanical problems. After a long time of being shunted from line to line by unhelpful and exasperated employees, I was standing at his counter, tired and losing hope that I would be getting to join my family in Colorado anytime soon.

If it had only been encountering me or a few people like me, his work would not have been so daunting. But I was one of more than a hundred in the same situation and the collective mood was deteriorating toward exhausted and surly.

**Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, New York 12182
(518) 237-4641**

www.faithlutherantroy.com

**Sunday morning worship: 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: 9:15 a. m.
Sunday School: during worship**

The Rev. Jennifer Wegter-McNelly, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

**Donna VanZandt (President)
Sara Martin (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)**

Council Members

**Errol Bull (Property)
Dana Cerrone (In Reach/Out Reach)
Elizabeth King (In Reach/Out Reach)
Evelyn Jarosz (Worship)
Sara Martin (Education)
Michael Moroskey (Property)
Pam Perras (Stewardship)
Carol Perrott (Missions)
Ben Wagar (Property)**

So what a surprise it was when it was my turn to talk with Sergio. He was kind and sympathetic, with his words and with his eyes. He apologized for the string of errors that were in no way his fault. He reassured me in English and a woman next to me in Spanish even as his fingers clicked away at his computer searching for a solution.

He walked me over to the ticket counter of another airline, where he greeted his colleague with a smile and checked that I really was going to get on another flight. A few minutes later he came over with a triumphant grin rolling my misplaced suitcase.

"He was just doing his job," someone might say. But that wasn't what I experienced at all. He did fulfill his tasks well, but he also related to me with grace and kindness. I felt that he recognized me as a person, a child of God.

That he could do his job effectively in the midst of that chaotic crowd and also convey a sense of sympathy and encouragement made a huge difference to me. I have no idea if he is a person who thinks of his work as a spiritual vocation. I certainly experienced him as a channel of peace and hope in what had otherwise been a rotten day.

Last week's sermon talked about ordinary evil (or suffering) and connecting through prayer with God's extraordinary, powerful love. The way we do our work or go about any of our daily tasks always holds the opportunity to do them with a mindfulness that may imbue them with holiness.

I am interested in hearing your stories of times in your own daily tasks you may be experiencing holiness or feeling it in the actions of others in your life. It is a mystery and source of wonder that God is in everything and everyone, present here and now, waiting for the invitation to flow through what we are doing. I look forward to learning of "God sightings" you may have in your own lives.

Thank you for letting me share this journey with you.

*Peace in Christ,
Pastor Jennifer*

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Pastor Bill Hempel has been diagnosed with Kidney Cancer and is scheduled for surgery this coming week. Please keep Pastor Bill and Marty in your prayers.

Dave Cerrone is home. He continues to improve, however his struggle is far from over. Our prayers and get well wishes are appreciated and needed. Larry Boords' physical therapy is a slow process but hopes are that it will be successful.

A Memorial Service celebrating the life of Dorothy Benzinger will be held at Faith on September 11th at 12:30 pm. Please come and share your remembrances of Dottie.

COUNCIL SUMMARY

On July 10th, members of both the Faith and Evangelical Councils attended a special meeting to hear a presentation about a Church Assessment Tool (CAT). The tool can be used to anonymously collect information on areas of church satisfaction/dissatisfaction, areas of importance and priorities for the church from church members and those affiliated with the church. The objective of administering the assessment would be to prepare both churches for making the call for a permanent pastor.

The presentation stressed the importance of full participation and techniques to accomplish that task and the best time of the year to administer the Church Assessment Tool (CAT). The assessment would be administered separately for Faith and Evangelical churches. After the CAT results have been collected, the creator of the tool would analyze the results and make a presentation on findings/recommendations.

The Council has decided to move forward with use of the tool for Faith. Evangelical will make a decision on the use of the tool for their church.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday August 1st, 2016 at 7pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary



C.A.T.

(Church Assessment Tool)

On Sunday, July 10th a joint Council Meeting was held with members of Faith and ELC of Poestenkill. A presentation was given by Keli Rugenstein regarding a specific assessment tool that both churches can use to help in the process of finding a new minister for the two parishes. On Monday, July 11th both Councils met individually and agreed that we would pursue the use of this assessment tool. Currently Faith is in the process of registering and making plans to make this available to all congregants of Faith. During the

month of September you will be hearing more and more about C.A.T. (Church Assessment Tool) and how it will be implemented. Please mark your calendars. There will be a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, September 18th** to kick off this project. It is extremely important that we get as many congregants to participate in this assessment as possible. Therefore, people will be encouraged to do this either on-line or on paper. Members of the Council hope to make this as painless as possible. With help from everyone in the church, we hope to determine.....

What is important to each age group?
What will raise the energy of the church?
What keeps people coming back?
What ministries do people find most helpful.

Stay tuned for more reminders and more information. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to speak with Pastor Jennifer, myself or any Council Member who was in attendance for this presentation.

Peace be with you this day,

Donna Van Zandt
Council President

OUR FAITH at WORK

For the month of August our mission will be in support of the Ebenezer Child Care Trust – Christian Orphanage in Zambia.

The Ebenezer Child Care Trust was founded in March 2001 and was initially a feeding program for street kids in the town of Livingston, Zambia. Today it has expanded into a school for orphans and also rents out three homes where orphans are given the sense of a family they have lost. A housemother lives with the children and takes care of them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carol Perrott, Missions

My apologies for the incorrect information with respect to the mission news for July the correct

mission should have been YWCA of the Greater Capital Region.

Barbara Boord

FLOWERS for JULY

Aug. 7 th	To the Glory of God
Aug. 14 th	To the Glory of God
Aug. 21 st	In Memory of My Mother Given by Nadeen Thompson
Aug. 28 th	In Memory of Margaret Speanberg Given by Brenda Stevens



June 18th WELCA had Pastor Jennifer bless a quilt and displayed 14 quilts that were complete and ready to be delivered to the St. Paul's Center. The quilts were delivered the following week to many oohs and aahs from St. Paul's staff. The ladies held their June 21st potluck picnic at the home of Marilyn Niles. Pastor Jennifer was able to join us for a day of swimming, dining and fellowship. The next gathering will be September 19th at 10:00 a.m. for bible study, a meeting and fellowship.

PRAYER GROUP NEWS

Members of the joint Faith Lutheran and Evangelical/Poestenkill Prayer group meet on a regularly on Mondays at 10:00 am. The group generally meets at either **Evangelical in Poestenkill or Faith. The August prayer group will meet at Faith.** Anyone wishing to join the group is welcome. For further details, contact Michele Howard at 518-4288.

SERVING FAITH in AUGUST

Schedule for Coffee Hour by Heather Bull

Aug. 7 th	Altar	Donna Gibson and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant	Donna Gibson
	Ushers	Roberta and Rob Hayward
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh and Marilyn Niles
Aug. 14 th	Altar	Janet Walsh and Roberta Hayward
	Lay Assistant	Dave Truland
	Ushers	Beth and Joe King
	Counters	Diane and Rich Anderson
	Coffee Hour	Nadeen Thompson
Aug. 21 st	Altar	Janet Walsh and Roberta Hayward
	Lay Assistant	Fred Howard
	Ushers	Nadeen Thompson and Pat Brundige
	Counters	Joyce Duncan and Pat Brundige
	Coffee Hour	Carolyn Rouse
Aug. 28 th	Altar	LouAnn Behrens and Donna St. John
	Lay Assistant	Bill Jarosz
	Ushers	B. Morgan, B. Speanburg, B. Stevens
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Heather and Errol Bull



DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club held their second annual church picnic July 9th at Grafton State Park. Despite the cold, rain and thunder storms the picnic was a success. There were many hearty church members that enjoyed the picnic fare and fellowship. A big thank you goes out to Eugene and Donna St. John for hosting the day.

Topping off the month of July is the play, Chicago, at the Washington Park Playhouse on the 27th. Polly and Bob Hayward are organizing the evening making reservations and purchasing sandwiches for everyone.

September 10th dinner will be hosted by LouAnn Behrens, Joyce and Bob Duncan, and Carol and Ron Karpien.

BARBARA BOORD ACTING NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COORDINATOR

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at church for pick up when you are present.

You may go to the church web site at: www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com any time and view the newsletter.

We will email you a copy if you send your email address directly to Barbara at her email address. At your request, we will be happy to send you a copy via the USPS.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please arrange to trade dates with another assistant. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

*Donna Van Zandt, Worship Chairperson.
Schedule for Altar Guild by Pam Perras*

The August newsletter deadline is Monday August 22nd. Please email articles to: barbboord@hotmail.com.

Assistance with the compiling and distribution of the Newsletter is always appreciated. Anyone that can give some time to this joint effort is encouraged to contact me at the above e-mail address.

PEACE AND GOD'S BLESSING

AUGUST 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<i>Council Meeting 7:00 PM</i>		Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:20PM			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<i>Newsletter Items Due</i>			Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
28	29	30				