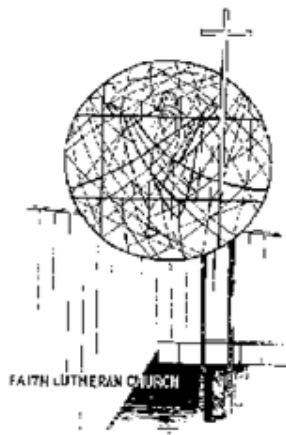


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



FOLLOWING FAITH

DECEMBER 2017



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Despite that fact that most commercial Advent calendars usually count from Dec. 1 - Dec. 25, Advent actually begins (this year) on Sunday, December 3, 2017. We begin a new church calendar year, we begin Cycle "B" in the lectionary: The Year of [the Gospel of] Mark, and we begin the liturgical season of Advent. The word "Advent" [capitalized] is a season of the church year, including the four Sundays preceding Christmas. Thus, the four Sundays of Advent this year are: Dec. 3, 10, 17, and 24. Thus, Sunday MORNING, Dec. 24, 2017 is not Christmas Eve. It is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Not till the *evening* of 12/24/17 do we turn our hearts and souls and spirits to the eve of The Nativity of Our Lord.

When not capitalized, "advent" means "coming into being or use." [www.merriam-webster.com] In other words, there is someone or something that is on the way, but not yet arrived. *advent*: There are many times of advent in our lives and many situations of advent in our world. Many people who have been affected by natural disasters -- fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, drought, famine, earthquakes -- live in day-to-day times of advent as they wait and work for what was once "normal" to either be rebuilt or find relocation, so that the literal basic structure of their lives comes into being. Refugees -- past, present, and future -- live in advent. They are traveling and hoping, fleeing from and fleeing toward something better to come into being. They seek for a place to be safe, to call "home." Persons with illness live in advent. They and their doctors and families seek and work and pray for wellness to come into being -- quite literally.

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Sunday morning worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: during worship

The Rev. Laretta Dietrich, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

Fred Howard (President)
Evelyn Jarosz (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
Michele Howard/
Pam Perras Financial Secretaries)

Council Members

Doug Adamek (Education)
Errol Bull (Property)
Donna Gibson (Stewardship)
Rob Hayward (Office Oversight/Admin)
Evelyn Jarosz (In Reach/Out Reach)
Sharon Morris (Worship)
Carol Perrott (Missions)
Pam Perras (In Reach/Out Reach)
Ben Wagar (Property)

But then there is this churchy - God thing called Advent. There are these weeks of waiting and preparing for this big event we call CHRISTMAS. Advent is not Christmas. While much of the world begins observing Christmas the day after Thanksgiving (if not before), Christians struggle to maintain the purpose and meaning of Advent; and while the world concludes Christmas as soon as December 25 is past, Christians know that December 25 is only the *first day* of Christmas. December 25 - January 5 really ARE the 12 days of Christmas! Then, on January 6 is The Feast of the Epiphany!

So, what is Advent about, and why is it *not* Christmas? Advent is about *preparation*. It is a time of getting ready. Some of it is an active form of getting ready. We know all about that, so I will

not go into that. But some of Advent, if not a majority of it, is meant to be a more reflective form of getting ready; it is about being open and present in the *getting-readiness and anticipation* of the moment.

Advent is about preparing our hearts, minds, and souls for who and what: a) came into being, and b) will come again. WHO came into being was Jesus, the Son of God, *Immanuel/God with us*. WHAT came into being was CHRIST, the Messiah, the chosen/anointed one of God who was made incarnate [human flesh and blood] for the purpose of our salvation. For Christians, Advent is to be centered less on the busy-ness of the coming Christmas and more on the message and meaning and purpose of the coming **Christ**, then and yet to come again. I do not expect any of you cease all annual, routine Advent-to- Christmas preparations; however, I invite you to consider balancing, if not tipping the scales, more toward the pondering and reflective purpose of Advent. If ideas about this elude you, here are some ideas and options to consider : 1) come to church on Sunday mornings, 2) set up in your home a small dedicated space for daily Advent devotions, 3) set aside scheduled, dedicated time for quiet, silent Advent meditation, 4) reflect in greater depth upon each week's lectionary passages for Advent, either reflecting all week on the lessons from Sunday or using the lessons from the Daily Lectionary (see ELW hymnal starting on pages 1132, in the back of the hymnal), 5) study and reflect upon one or two hymns of Advent, 6) begin an Advent journal, 7) re-familiarize and memorize, from Luther's Small Catechism, *The Apostles' Creed* and its explanations (see ELW hymnal page 1162). Those are just some ideas. You may come up with others. Blessed Advent and time of Holy Preparation.

In Christ, Pastor Dietrich

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Pastor Dietrich is healing from her foot surgery. All seems to be well but she is asking for prayers for healing as due to the location of the break this will take time.

Peter Edelman recently had knee replacement surgery. Your prayers would be welcomed.

Pastor Jennifer Wegter McNelly continues her Cancer treatments as we pray for remission.

Paul Molesky has had Gaul Bladder surgery and has had complications. Your prayers and cards are appreciated.

We are saddened by the passing Pauline Lupo, a longtime member of our congregation, on November 9, 2017. Her family noted that she ended her earthly journey on her own terms and assured them, on the evening before she died, that she was going to be fine. We extend our sympathies to her loved ones.

ORDINATION and INSTALLATION of REBECCA LYNN TRULAND

Trinity Lutheran Church in Burlington, New Jersey celebrated the LITURGY OF HOLY EUCHARIST RITE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION for our own Rebecca Truland on November 11, 2017. The Rev. Charles Schwartz was Rebecca's Sponsor, representing the Upstate New York Synod of the ELCA. David, Donna, and Rachael Truland were Lay Participants in the ceremony.

Rebecca's message in her Installation program included thanks to her parents and family for support along her journey. In addition, she specifically noted, "My home pastor of nearly twenty-five years, The Rev. Steve Cordes, passed away unexpectedly while I was in seminary, but I cannot fail to include him in any list of appreciation and gratitude, along with my home congregation, Faith Lutheran Church in Troy, NY, for your kindness and generosity over the years – it has meant a lot to me." Of course, she thanked many others who have shepherded, encouraged, taught, and supported her along her journey to this point in her life.

How wonderful to have Pastor Rebecca Truland, a daughter of Faith Lutheran, as a legacy of our congregation and particularly of Pastor Stephen Cordes! We pray that God will continue to watch over Pr. Truland as she moves forward in her calling.

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE

Deacon Duane gave us energetic words of encouragement regarding preparation of our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which is the first step in becoming eligible to receive a call candidate from Synod for our congregations. Where are we in this process?

We have been working on this for the last 18 months. It first involved the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) that we used to find out what was important to the members of our congregation and a similar survey that was undertaken by Evangelical for their congregation. This was followed by the Joint Discernment Committee, consisting of five representatives from each congregation, which determined that our congregational cultures are compatible and that it is appropriate that we proceed jointly on a shared call. The two congregations worked out an updated Covenant Agreement. It has been ratified by both congregations at specially called congregational meetings. This agreement specifies how the two congregations will share and support our Pastor. For the past two months, a Council sub-committee has been working on the actual MSP form which is 11 pages long. The purpose of the form is to provide Synod, and Pastoral candidates, with information related to our congregations, what characteristics we seek in a new Pastor, what our Congregation thinks is important as we move forward, and what we can afford. Pastors awaiting call provide extensive personal information relating to their goals and needs on a companion form. The information from the two forms is then used by Synod to select an appropriate candidate, who is compatible with our cultures. We anticipate making final MSP coordination with Evangelical after Thanksgiving. The form is then approved by Council and submitted on line to ELCA headquarters in Chicago which then passes it on to Upstate NY Synod. Our four-person call committee has been appointed by council. More on this in December.

Fred Howard, President

COUNCIL SUMMARY

Pastor Dietrich has joined Faith and Evangelical as transitional pastor until a call is made for a permanent pastor. A motion was made and approved to accept Pastor Dietrich's letter agreement which outlines the terms of her engagement with both congregations.

The proposed Covenant Agreement has been approved by both Faith and Evangelical. The next step is to send to the bishop and dean for their review and approval.

Work on the Ministry Site Profile has continued. The committee met and has reported that good progress has been made, but there are still some gaps that need to be filled in. Completion of the Ministry Site Profile is an important step in the pastor call process.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday December 4th, 2017 at 7pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our mission for the month of December will be in support of Albany Maritime Ministry.

The Albany Maritime Ministry is an ecumenical group of volunteers who offer a warm welcome to seafarers that dock at the Seafarers Center in the Port of Albany.

Most seafarers they greet have been at sea for weeks or months. They face many challenges, such as isolation, separation from family, hard labor and sometimes human rights violations. Relief and support is given by:

- Welcoming them on their ships.
- Addressing their spiritual, family and material needs.
- Offering special programs such as Christmas-at-Sea.
- Advocating for their rights.
- Collaborating with agencies worldwide.

Carol Perrott, Missions



Every year when I write the article for the December newsletter I am amazed at how quickly the year has gone by. We have been through a lot

of transitions, but one thing that will stay the same for this year is the annual Sunday School Christmas Program. This year the program will be held on Sunday, December 10 during the regular church service. Afterward there will be special cookies and treats during coffee hour. We are looking forward to a wonderful, joyous day that we can share with the Congregation.

Have a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.

Sara Martin,
Education Director

FLOWERS for DECEMBER

- Dec. 3rd** **In memory of Harold A. Behrens, Jr.
Given by the Behrens Family.**
- Dec. 10th** **To the Glory of God**
- Dec. 17th** **To the Glorious Birth of Our Lord
Jesus Christ.**
- Dec. 24th** **To the Glorious Birth of Our Lord
Jesus Christ.**
- Dec. 25th** **To the Glorious Birth of Our Lord
Jesus Christ.**
- Dec. 31st** **In Memory of Bob Young
Given by Kay Young**

2018 FLOWER CHART

The new 2018 flower chart will be hung in the Narthex during December. If you are interested in placing flowers on the Altar in memory of or in honor of someone special in your life, please sign the calendar.


Find the date and fill in the blank line. Put the name(s) of those these flowers are in memory of or in honor of and then put the name of the person(s) these flowers are being given by. Price for each bouquet remains the same at \$19.00 each.

Speak with Donna Van Zandt with your questions or concerns.

SERVING FAITH in DECEMBER

Dec. 3 rd	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Sharon Morris
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Carol Karpien Errol and Ryland Bull
	Counters	Pat Brundige and Katie Bonnier
	Coffee Hour	Kathy and Doug Adamek
Dec. 10 th	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Sharon Morris
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Jarosz Barbara Boord and Mike Morosky
	Counters	Michele and Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	Sara and John Martin
Dec. 17 th	Altar	Joyce Duncan and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Maloney Errol and Ryland Bull
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Carolyn Rouse and Donna Gibson
Dec. 24 th	Altar	Joyce Duncan and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Pat Turcotte Barbara Boord and Mike Morosky
	Counters	Donna Gibson and Linda Hulihan
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh and Merilyn Niles

Dec. 24 th	Altar	Donna Gibson and Evelyn Jarosz
	Lay Assistant	To
	Ushers	Be
	Counters	Determined
CHRISTMAS EVE		
Dec. 25 th	Altar	Donna Gibson and Evelyn Jarosz
	Lay Assistant	To
	Ushers	Be
	Counters	Determined
CHRISTMAS		
Dec. 31 st	Altar	Polly Hayward and Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant	Dave Truland
	Ushers	Pat Brundige and Katie Bonnier
	Counters	Rich and Diane Anderson
	Coffee Hour	Heather and Errol Bull



The ladies of the WELCA met Tuesday, November 21st to plan their annual Christmas potluck luncheon. No reservations are needed just bring a dish to share. The luncheon will be Saturday, December 2nd at 12 noon in the fellowship hall. Following the noon meal there will be a short devotional service. The afternoon will be topped off with the packing of the Christmas mariner's boxes for the Seafarers Mission. Sunday, December 17th following service the ladies will be packing donated homemade cookies to be distributed before Christmas to our special care members.

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group will be meeting at Poestenkill on Tuesdays at 1:00 P.M. during the month of December. Everyone is welcome to join the group.

Please contact Michele Howard with any questions or for directions

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.

*Sharon Morris, Worship Chairperson.
Schedule for Altar Guild by Pam Perras
Schedule for Coffee Hour by Heather Bull*

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals continue Thursday evenings at 7:00 P.M. New voices are welcome. Please consider joining in raising our voices to the Glory of God.

LISTEN TO THE STARS

On Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 7:00 PM the annual Community Christmas Concert will be held at Cornerstone Community Church in Lansingburgh. The program of word and song involves choir members from several area churches including Faith. This program is always a special time for those who attend and we hope that you will put it on your calendar. A free will offering is taken to support local needs and refreshments follow. 3rd Avenue at 115th Street, Lansingburgh, NY.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS 2017

As we begin our preparation for the Christmas season, let us thank God for all his gracious gifts and pray for those who struggle through this difficult financial time.

As in the past we will again collect donations to help families during the Holidays. Donation envelopes will be available in the back of the church if you choose to donate through our church offering, OR, we are happy to accept them personally. Any amount is acceptable.

Together we can make a difference. Your donation will provide a bounty of additional food items to a few local families for Christmas, together with clothes and toys for the children.

Thank You,
LouAnne Behrens
Pat Turcotte

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COORDINATOR

Barbara Boord is coordinating the Newsletter efforts. 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.faithlutherantroy.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 shown below.

At your request, we will be happy to send you a copy via the USPS.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The November newsletter deadline is Monday December 18th.

Anyone with items of interest or submissions for Among Our People please email your articles to:

barbboord@hotmail.com or call (518) 982-1250.



DINNER CLUB

If you were unable to attend November 11th dinner you missed a delicious scalloped potato and ham dinner. You also missed a comedy skit written by a local artisan and performed by Jim Hulihan and his friend, a fellow actor.

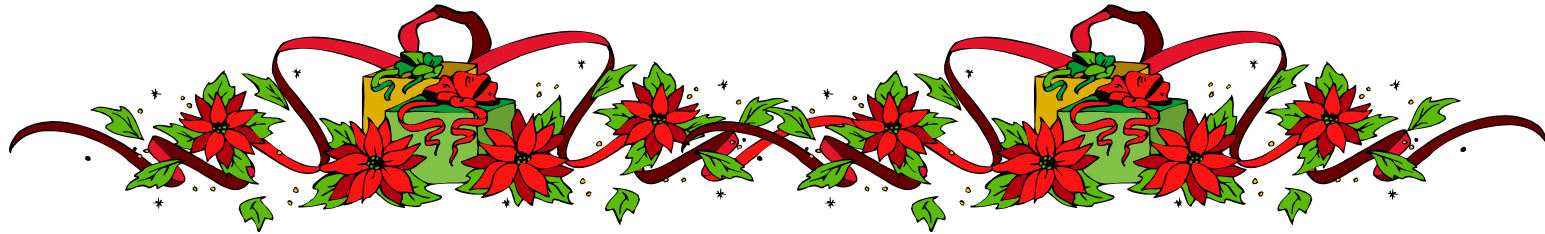
Dinner Club's Christmas party will be Saturday, December 9th. The committee of Joyce Duncan, Stephanie Wagar, Donna Gibson, LouAnn Berhens, Evelyn and Bill Jarosz have planned a festive dinner menu and entertainment to follow. The entertainment includes the exchange of a \$10.00 grab bag gift and the traditional singing of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Come join the fun. Make a reservation with anyone of the committee members. Cocktails to be served at 6:00 p.m. dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 2017

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 12:00 PM
3	4 CREATIVE THREADS 10:30AM COUNCIL 7:00 PM	5	6	7 CHOIR 7:00PM Home Bureau 1:00 to 3:00PM	8	9 DINNER CLUB 6:00PM
10 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM	11 CREATIVE THREADS 10:30AM COUNCIL 7PM	12	13	14 CHOIR 7:00PM	15	16
17	18 CREATIVE THREADS 10:30AM NEWSLETTER ITEMS	19 WELCA	20	21 CHOIR 7:00PM Home Bureau 1:00 to 3:00PM	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27 Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	28 CHOIR 7:00PM	29	30
31						

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”



POINSETTIAS

Once again, we will have poinsettias adorning the Altar for Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in loving memory of or in honor of someone, please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt by December 12, 2017. (If possible please fill out a separate order form for each plant.)

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) at \$10.50 each in loving memory of or in honor of:

Given by: _____

My plant(s) may be given to the sick or shut-ins. Yes _____ No _____

Please make checks payable to WELCA