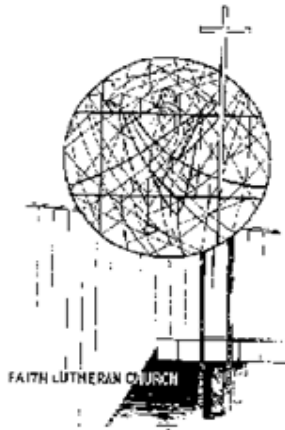


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

February 2018



On Wednesday, February 14, 2018, we enter the season of LENT. It is Ash Wednesday. During the Lenten season, how might we re-focus our life, our time, and our energy in ways that help us live out our baptismal gifts and promises?

A labyrinth for your use is printed and included in this newsletter. A labyrinth is not a maze.

A labyrinth has only one continuous path to the center and back out again.

The entrance the labyrinth is at the bottom, at "6 o'clock."

Ancient Roots: Prayer Labyrinth

For centuries, the labyrinth has been found in religious traditions around the world.

The "Wholeness Wheel Labyrinth" printed on the next page, on the other side of this page, follows the labyrinth pattern in the 13th century floor of Chartres Cathedral in France.

Directly below are the directions to engage in this spiritual discipline.

May the practice of praying your way through the wholeness wheel labyrinth be a blessing and a part of your Lenten spiritual discipline.

Pray the Wholeness Wheel Labyrinth daily.

- Sit comfortably in a quiet place.
- Place your finger at the entrance to the labyrinth.
- Trace your finger *slowly* along the path.
- **Rest** in the center.
- Return *slowly* on the same path.



**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**

Church Council Officers:

**Fred Howard (President)
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)**

Each time, as you trace the path of the labyrinth, carry with you in your thoughts/reflections one of the following:

- What am I most grateful for? How is God present in that?
- What is troubling me? How is God present in that?
- In which areas of my life am I strong? How is God present in that?
- In which areas of my life am I vulnerable? How is God present in that?
- What area of my life might God be nudging me to tend?

I invite you to do this spiritual practice every day during Lent (and beyond). May doing so center you in Christ, center you in faith in God, send you out to share the love of Christ with others, and remind you daily to **BE STILL -- AND KNOW THAT GOD IS GOD.**

Blessed Lent to you all.
In God-centered, prayerful, Lenten reflection,

Pastor Dietrich

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Please pause for a moment during your busy day and remember our Brothers and Sisters in Faith who are still recovering. Rev. Hempel, Rev. Wegter-McNelly, Rev. Dietrich, Peter Edelman, Paul Molesky, Dave Cerrone and Larry Boord.

CALL PROCESS MINISTRY SITE PROFILE UPDATE

As of this writing our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), and Evangelical's Ministry Site Profile, have been accepted by the ELCA to Upstate NY Synod. A potential candidate for Pastor will soon be recommended to our joint (Faith and Evangelical) call committee and they will begin their vetting process.

The MSP process has been a lengthy one. While there has been material related to its preparation in earlier newsletters, I know that it is difficult to understand just how the process is working. The bottom line is that we have prepared a profile of our ministries, our communities, our financial position and our hopes for our church's future that will be given to a candidate to help him or her understand who we are. Synod will use this information to match us with a person whose goals are compatible with ours.

Below is an MSP section taken from what has been prepared, approved, and submitted. Please read it carefully and think about how you can be part of this process. The second section describes what we have said that we will do as a congregation to help the new Pastor settle in and begin leading us into our future.

Mutual Expectations

Please list the five primary areas of activity or focus that you wish your newly-called rostered leader to give special attention to during the first year of his or her ministry at this congregation:

A. Settling in to the new community, new home, and new congregations. Becoming familiar with our communities.

B. Ministering to our existing membership. Spending time meeting with and calling on congregants to get to know us individually and corporately.

C. Following existing routines and service format, take stock of who we are. Begin thinking of ways that the existing programs may be changed for the better to minister effectively to both existing and potential future members.

D. As the year progresses, establish a general schedule and time allocations that realistically address what one person serving two separate congregations can actually do. Work with the Covenant Council to involve lay participation to better cover areas of ministry that need additional attention.

E. Work with the Covenant Council and individual congregational councils to develop plans and goals for the future of the two congregations bound by our Covenant Agreement.

Please list 5 ways that this congregation will support and encourage the rostered leader during the first year in order to help him or her accomplish these responsibilities:

A. We will take affirmative steps to make sure that the new Pastor is shown around the new community and introduced to community contacts who may be important in fulfilling his/her new role.

B. We will set up opportunities for the Pastor to meet the congregation in informal settings and will provide support persons to accompany her/him on initial visits to shut ins and inactive members, if so desired.

C. Provide opportunity for two-way feedback. On a monthly basis review with the Pastor the effectiveness of the support that is being provided. Communicate progress and needs to the congregation via monthly newsletter.

D. Realizing that change is needed in order to continue our journey together into the future, work through and with the Covenant Council to embrace, support and try new and different ways of being God's people in our communities. Assist in enlisting lay support to actively engage in the change process and work towards the successful implementation of new ways and ideas.

E. With the Pastor, prioritize what we need to do and can do vs what we wish for. Work together with the Pastor to accomplish the goals that are set. God Bless each and every one of you.

Fred Howard, President

COUNCIL SUMMARY

Council last met on January 8, 2018. The Council reviewed and approved the proposed budget for 2018.

The next order of business was the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). It was reported to the Council that Faith's and Evangelical's draft MSP's were very compatible, all outstanding issues with the process have been resolved, and the only thing left to do in order to submit it to synod was for the Council to approve it. Therefore, Council approved the MSP and it has been submitted. Once it has been reviewed by synod, we expect to be advised if any amendments are needed.

Council continued to discuss current council member's term expiration dates and possible nominees to fill the upcoming vacancies. The suggested nominees will be asked if they would be interested in serving on the Council.

The Council approved keeping Church Trac for 2018 and using it more extensively in church business.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. These concerns will be discussed at our next meeting on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Sharon Morris, Acting Secretary



Faith Lutheran Sunday School has officially entered the 21st century! The laptop and online curriculum have officially been purchased. Now we just have to learn how to use them! We are so excited to start teaching the kids using the latest technology along with a more interactive and interesting curriculum. The kids will probably be teaching the adults by the end of the year. Once we "get used" to the new equipment, we will invite anyone who is interested in for a demonstration.

This year we have students in the Sunday School ranging from 3rd grade all the way up to 8th grade. If you know any families that are interested in having their kids attend Sunday School at FLC, please let me know as we are always trying to expand. Although we are not planning on First Communion for this year, we hopefully will have our next First Communion class next year, and potentially a Confirmation class.

Have a great winter!

Sara Martin, Education Director

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our mission for the month of February will be in support of the important work of Jeff and Sissie D'Jernes as Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Jeff and Sissie work to translate the Bible into the language used by the Arop-Lokep people of Papua New Guinea.

Jeff and Sissie are also a voice to the Arop-Lokep people on issues of AIDS awareness, linguistic vitality, physical environment, education, matters of faith, and other topics crucial to better preparing them for the encroaching western world and global influences.

Quarterly journals from Jeff and Sissie can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Carol Perrott, Missions

SERVING FAITH in FEBRUARY

Feb. 4 th	Altar	Sharon Morris and Evelyn Jarosz
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Carol Karpien Pat Brundige and Katie Bonnier
	Counters	Donna Gibson and Linda Hulihan
	Coffee Hour	Kathy and Doug Adamek
Feb. 11 th	Altar	Karen Cordes and Donna St. John
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Jarosz Donna and Dave Truland
	Counters	Michele and Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	Dana and Dave Cerrone

Feb. 14 th	Altar	Karen Cordes and Donna St. John
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Errol Bull and Ryland Bull
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
Feb. 18 th	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Polly Hayward
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Maloney Barb Boord and Mike Moroskey
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Carolyn Rouse and Donna Gibson
Feb. 25 th	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Polly Hayward
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Dave Truland Pat Brundige and Katie Bonnier
	Counters	Diane and Rich Anderson
	Coffee Hour	Heather and Errol Bull

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.
Roberta Hayward, Altar Guild
Heather Bull, Coffee Hour

FLOWERS for FEBRUARY

February 4th To the Glory of God

February 11th To the Glory of God

February 18th To the Glory of God

February 25th To the Glory of God

ALTAR FLOWERS

Alter Flowers in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion can be ordered for \$19.00 per bouquet. The sign up is on the calendar hanging in the Narthex.

CHOIR REHERSAL

Choir rehearsals are generally held every Thursday at 7:00 PM for about an hour. Anyone interest in joining is welcome to come and enjoy singing our praises to the Lord.



Weather and illness canceled the January meeting of the WELCA group.

There was a wonderful feedback regarding the delivery of Christmas cookies. A big thank you to all who baked and to the elves that delivered cookies. We will be delivering Valentine cookies February 11th so please don't put you baking sheets away just yet for we will once again be asking for cookie donations.



DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club held their pot luck dinner January 13th a snowy and icy evening. The chefs out did their selves with a wonderful selection of delights from appetizers to desserts. The entertainment was a trivia game on facts about winter. A truly appropriate game for the evening!

The February gathering will be Saturday, February 10th. This evening's dinner will be a catered event hosted by the officers. It is an event to honor the outgoing officers and to welcome the incoming officers. Reservations may be made by contacting

Bill and Evelyn Jarosz, Donna Gibson, LouAnn Behrens, Joyce Duncan or Stephanie Wager. Cocktails are served at 6:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m.



A few members of the Prayer Group continue to meet for prayer. We will be meeting at Evangelical Poestenkill on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm during the month of February. We welcome any who would like to join us. However, due to inclement weather we have had to cancel several times. If you decide to join us, please contact Michele Howard at 518-753-4288.

VISION MISSION TO HONDURAS

The First Presbyterian Church of Chili (near Rochester) will be missioning to rural Honduras mid-March 29018. This issue at hand in the community is lack of vision care with reports of children dropping out of school because they cannot read the board nor their books. Their needs are listed as: a mobile Autorefractor and Phoropter, lenses, glasses, eye patches and lensometer. If anyone would like to donate any of these items, there will be a box stationed in the Narthex.

BARBARA BOORD NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Barbara Boord is coordinating the Newsletter efforts. Hard copies of the Newsletter will be 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: barbboord@hotmail.com.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The March newsletter deadline is Monday February 19th. Please email your 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.

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	2	3
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
4	5 CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 A.M. COUNCIL 7 P.M.	6	7 Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	8 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	9	10 Dinner Club 6:00 PM
11	12 CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 A.M.	13	14 ASH WEDNESDAY	15 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i> Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM	16	17
18	19 CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 A.M. Newsletter Items	20 WELCA 10:00 A.M.	21 Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	22 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	23	24
25	26 CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 A.M.	27	28			