

Following Faith

The Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2015



HONEST TO GOD

A shortened and edited version of the "Pastor's Annual Report". Just in case you missed it the first time around. Or, a better version than the first?

I like the story of the young woman who wanted to go to college, but her heart sank when she read the question on the application blank that asked, "Are you a leader?" Being both honest and conscientious, she wrote, "No," and returned the application, expecting the worst. To her surprise, she received this letter from the college: "Dear Applicant: A study of the application forms reveals that this year our college will have 1,464 new leaders. We are accepting you because we feel it is imperative that they have at least one follower."

What an epiphany story! It is true, leaders certainly need followers, often the latter, the more essential. My former associate in ministry, Bob Howard, liked to encourage his young side kick that we be good "foot soldiers", reminding us of the importance of duty and service. However, the better part of *this* story is how the quality of "honesty" gets highlighted. In a world that doesn't blink at one's overstating the facts to appear more desirable, it's refreshing to hear a simple and *honest* answer. Evidently, the admission office felt the same way. The young applicant dared to be honest about who she was and who she was not, and her evaluators dared to qualify her as *acceptable* for owning up to such a rare commodity.



Faith Lutheran Church
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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. Stephen L. Cordes,
Pastor

Church Council Officers:

David Truland (President)
Sara Martin (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Joyce Duncan (Secretary)
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)

Council Members

Errol Bull (Property)
Joyce Duncan (In Reach/Out Reach)
Bill Jarosz (Property)
Bev Lanteigne (Property)
Sara Martin (Education)
Michael Moroskey (Property)
Carol Perrott (Missions)
Carolyn Rouse (History)
Donna VanZandt (Worship)
Stephanie Wagar (In Reach/Out Reach)

I am reminded of all the "call" stories throughout Scripture. God called people, not because of

their long lists of credentials. Rather, God called those who appeared least expecting.

They were as common as anyone, except for that one trait, their willingness to trust, willing to partner up with a bigger and better Power than themselves. People like Abraham and Sarah, Moses, King David, Jesus' mother Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, alien wise men from afar, not to mention unknown and uneducated disciples who dared to follow Jesus into parts unknown. All these were least expecting, unpretentious, *honest* in the sense that they did not think too highly of themselves. Such honesty can expect opportunity. Perhaps God makes unexpected offers to unexpecting people because given such, there can be no expected answer.... other than "only if you come along, only if you stay by my side." And God always has an answer for that kind of response. We'll never go it alone!

As we move on into the future as God's people in this time and place, may we take a lesson from that young woman who wanted to go to college. May we answer our hope for acceptance and our desire to witness, honestly and conscientiously. After all, we are who we are. God already knows us best. If we but offer such credentials, don't be surprised to hear, "By the way, I have something in mind. Would you be interested?"

It continues to be my privilege to walk with you, as your pastor, friend, and witness to the one who will always be with us. Honest to God!

Pastor Steve

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Sick and Recuperating: Beverly Lanteigne has concluded her chemotherapy and is awaiting further consultation with the doctors. **Polly Hayward** has returned home following rehabilitation at Heritage House. She is continuing to make good progress with her therapy at home following her fall and broken ankle. **Russ Lastrup** has received a skin graft on an injured leg he suffered last September. **Mildred Lalane** continues to receive treatment on her leg from the wound

center, making continued progress. **Barbara Boord** recently received a knee replacement at Albany Medical and is now home receiving physical therapy from visiting therapists. She is doing quite well with her rehabilitation. **Ron Turcotte** underwent surgery to remove a tumor from his bladder. His prognosis is good and he is cleared to take some rest and relaxation in Florida. **Carolyn Speanburg** is home from St. Peter's Hospital where she had back surgery to relieve pain from spinal stenosis and will take some necessary healing time in the near future. **Ben Wagar** is feeling well and awaits further evaluation in February. Having been diagnosed with lung cancer, **Joe Zepf** continues his days at Albany County Nursing Home, cheerful and positive.

Baptism: Skylar Mai Ferris, daughter of Andrew and Kendra Ferris, was baptized January 17th. Born May 3, 2014, Skylar's godparents are Julie Ferris and Hannah Ferris. We welcome Skylar into the family of Christ and His mission in which we all share!

ASH WEDNESDAY IS JANUARY 18th. This year Faith Church will host the afternoon service beginning at 4:00 p.m. For those who cannot make the earlier worship or simply prefer a later service, Evangelical of Poestenkill will host the 7:00 p.m service. Both worship services will offer ashes and Holy Communion.

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR AND KAREN

Please accept our deep felt gratitude for the generous monetary Christmas gift given by the congregation. Also thank you for extending such wonderful support and kindness throughout the year. We are truly blessed to be part of this faith community. Thank you to all! Also special thanks to Beverly Lanteigne who presented Pastor with a framed picture depicting Eagles in Flight.

Pastor Steve and Karen

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 1st.

Traditionally we collect monetary donations in a big soup pot at the back of the church on Super Bowl Sunday. 100% of donations are given to

local food kitchens and pantries. In so doing we join thousands of churches across the nation in raising millions of dollars for the hungry. What a way to make this day a **SOUPER** Sunday!

COUNCIL SUMMARY

Purchase of the defibrillator and wall mount is a work in progress.

A rebate from National Grid for our new boiler and hot water tank has been applied for.

The preliminary Annual Budget which included recommended raises for Pastor Cordes and Donna VanZandt was approved by the council for presentation to the congregation on January 18th at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The raises are based on the suggested percentage of 1.5% provided by the Synod. The proposed budget was subsequently passed at the 2015 Congregational Meeting.

Officers and Committee Members for 2015 will be elected at the February meeting.

The council wishes to thank the members who have completed their terms for their fine service and wish a warm welcome to the newly elected members.

Council will hold its' next meeting on March 2, 2015 questions or concerns can be discussed with any Council Member.

Joyce Duncan, Secretary



There is not a lot of news to share this time of year regarding Sunday School. Classes have

returned to normal and things will remain fairly calm until the Easter season starts. I am hoping to organize a late winter activity for the students, perhaps a bowling or a laser tag event. It is always fun to get together with everyone outside the classroom.

Enjoy the winter weather!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE 2015:

February 1, 8 and 22

March 1, 15 and 29

April 12, 19 and 26

May 3, 17 and 31

Sunday School Picnic TBA

Sara Martin, Education Director

FLOWERS for FEBRUARY

February 1st Given for Rebecca Truland's Birthday by The Truland Family

February 8th To the Glory of God

February 15th To the Glory of God

February 22nd To the Glory of God

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our mission offerings 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. This is not a simple task. The Bible cannot be translated literally from English into this language. Our languages are so very different that such a translation would not make sense to the Arop-Lokep people. The translator must immerse himself into their culture in order to make an understandable translation. The D'Jernes' have been working in New Guinea for many years and count on the support they receive from congregations like ours to continue their work.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carol Perrott, Missions

SERVING FAITH In FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 ST	Altar	Donna St. John and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Aaron Cordes Barb Boord and Irene Pagel
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Gene & Donna St. John
Feb. 8 th	Altar	Merilyn Niles and Joyce Duncan
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Donna Gibson Errol Bull and Mike Moroskey
	Counters	Irene Pagel and Carolyn Rouse
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh & Marilyn Niles
Feb. 15 th	Altar	Merilyn Niles and Joyce Duncan
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Robert Gibson Ricki Franklyn and Ron Moss
	Counters	LouAnn Behrens and Janet Walsh
	Coffee Hour	Nadeen Thompson
Feb. 18 th	Altar	Donna Gibson and LouAnn Behrens
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Fred Howard Carol Perrott and Nadeen Thompson
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward

Feb. 22 nd	Altar	Donna St. John and LouAnn Behrens
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Jarosz Rob and Roberta Hayward
	Counters	Joyce Duncan and Carol Perrott
	Coffee Hour	Irene Pagel and Carolyn Rouse

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 Schedule for Coffee Hour by Heather Bull

WANTED

The church is always in need of more volunteers. It would be appreciated if you would consider helping on any one of the various committees/groups that we have. Worship Assistants, Ushers, Counters, Altar Guild, Coffee Hour, the Choir to name a few. 'The more the merrier' as they say. If interested in joining or helping with any of the fore mentioned, please speak with Donna Van Zandt. You will be pleasantly surprised how easy it is!

Thank you.

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.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Women of the ELCA resumed the monthly Bible Study on Transforming Life and Faith in January. We will continue the study at the February meeting which will be on Tuesday, February 17th at 10:00 AM at the Church. Kay reported a balance of \$157.54 in the treasury. New Baptismal napkins have been ordered since the supply is nearly depleted. Evelyn read the list of activities WELCA did during 2014 which was a busy year.

Renewals of Little Lutheran subscriptions for Sunday School children will be sent this month. If you have a child in the 4 – 7 age range that you would like to have receive the magazine, let Joyce Duncan know (along with the mailing address). The schedule of activities until June was reviewed. Valentine cookie packing for the shut-ins will be done on **Sunday, February 8th** following worship. If you would like to contribute cookies to that cause, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. If you can help with delivery, just wait a little while after church on the 8th and the boxes will be ready to go. These sorts of activities would not be possible without help from all of you. Thank you all so much. The goodies and visit are really appreciated by our shut-in members.

Mark **March 22nd** on your calendar for a Food and Bake sale. We will be raising funds to assist members attending the Region 7 Spiritual Gathering in April and the Upstate NY WELCA convention in September. There will be a variety of tasty goodies available for purchase that day. We are hoping for a date in May to provide lunch and dinner for the guests at Joseph's House. Stay tuned for more information.



DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club's Annual Banquet will be held on February 14th in the fellowship hall starting at 6:00PM Hor dourves. A catered dinner and delicious dessert will follow. Cost for this most enjoyable feast is \$10.00 per person. Anyone interested in attending would be truly welcome to enjoy this fine evening of good food and fellowship. Fred and Michele Howard and the other officers of the dinner club will gladly accept your reservation.

BARBARA BOORD ACTING NEWSLETTER EDITOR/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 web site at:

www.faihlutheranchurchtroy.com any time and see the newsletter there.

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 March newsletter deadline is Monday February 23rd. 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 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Choir 7:00 PM	6	7
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
8	9	10	11 Speigle Elders 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM	12 Choir 7:00 PM	13	14 Valentine's Day Dinner Club 6:00 PM
15	16 Presidents' Day	17 WELCA Meeting 10:00 AM	18	19 Choir 7:00 PM	20	21
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
22	23	24	25 Speigle Elders 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM	26 Choir 7:00 PM	27	28