

Following Faith

The Monthly Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

March 2012

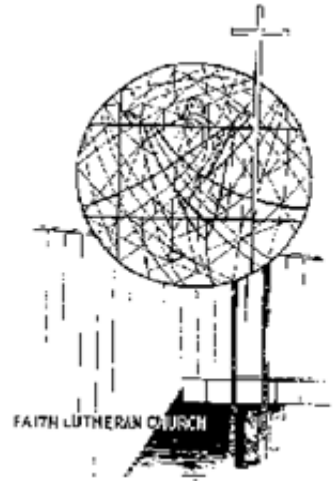


God Bless the Coopers

The Cooper family had the biggest lot in the neighborhood where I grew up. Granted, they had a larger house, but none the less, they still had the largest front lawn. The mere size of their lawn made their address very special in my neighborhood. Lawns in general had great appeal for my generation. After all, they served as the arenas, the courts, and the playing fields for our after school play time. Any yard, whether it be front, back, or side was a premium in my day, however, bigger was better. Because, the larger the lawn, the longer to run for a touchdown, the further to hit for a homerun, the wider the area to kick from in a game of soccer. Not everyone welcomed us into their yards. In fact, few if any ever welcomed us. Tolerated is probably the better word. Needless to say, one good romp of any good game could render certain effects upon the precious turf. Uncommon was it not, to be banned from any given lawn. One game alone was often one game too many. God bless the Coopers. Not only was their's the lawn of choice, but they actually *allowed* us to play on their front lawn.

The Coopers had the nicest looking house on the block. However, by far, they had the worst looking lawn. We kids (a large number I must say) were not insensitive to the matter. We tried several times to alternate playing fields, but such attempts were abruptly thwarted following the awareness of the effects of our play. So it was always back to the Coopers. We liked their place better anyway. However, I do confess that I often felt guilty about the consequence of our fun. True, their kids were involved, accomplices as well, but there was no doubt who received more than their fair share. They had little, if any grass ever. To this day, I feel indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, who were more than tolerant about their lawn. I'm sure they at least considered ruling us off the playing field more than once. However, I am just as convinced that they cared about the kids more than they cared about the lawn. God bless the Coopers.

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

Sunday morning worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

The Rev. Stephen L. Cordes, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

Robert Gibson (President)
Beth King (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)

Council Members

Errol Bull (Property)
Joyce Duncan (InReach/OutReach)
Bill Jarosz (Property)
Beth King (OutReach/InReach)
Sara Martin (Education)
Carolyn Rouse (History)
David Truland (Missions)
Donna Van Zandt (Worship)
Stephanie Wagar (Stewardship)

Sunday School is at 9:15 am (6th gr. – adult)
10:30 am (5th gr. & under)

Sunday morning worship is at 10:30 am

I drove through my old neighborhood just a few months ago. The Coopers are long gone, but their house is still there. The lawn, I'm pleased to say, "Couldn't look better!"

In fact, it's lush. Of course there is an obvious reason for it's return to beauty. Apparently, there are few if any children that live in the neighborhood. If there are, they certainly aren't in the front yard playing.

As I gazed down the old block, I think I said it out loud, "God bless the Coopers." For they understood the important things in life. The grass would always grow back, but the kids? They would go away too, and when they did come back, what would they remember? Take it from one who did. Those were the best "playing days" one could ever wish for. Such were the days, thanks to the Coopers! They understood. Some things are temporary. Some things are eternal. Wisdom knows the difference. You can always grow a lawn. Growing kids, that you only get one shot at. God bless the Coopers!

Pastor Steve

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Sick and Recuperating: **Julia Cannon** continues under Hospice Care at the Eddy Nursing Home. **Lois Ambuhl** has begun a schedule of chemotherapy and is responding well. **Dottie Polk** is scheduled to undergo surgery in late February. **Don Zepf** is home and continuing rehabilitation there after suffering a fall which resulted in some broken bones. **Gunther Pagel** has been limited in action due to an episode with vertigo. **Eileen Thompson** was in Samaritan Hospital for a few days due to complications with congestive heart failure. She has returned to Van Rensselaer Manor. She celebrated her 99th birthday this past January 26.

THANK YOU

Thanks so much to all of you at Faith for your generous Christmas gift given on Christmas Eve. Your monetary gift was not only most generous, but very thoughtful as well. I continue to appreciate your best gift, your wonderful spirit and support. God bless you all in this coming year!

Pastor Steve

CELEBRATION

This year is Pastor's 30th anniversary of Ordination. To honor this occasion, a special coffee hour will be held immediately following the worship service on March 4th. A joint committee of Evangelical Poestenkill & Faith are organizing the refreshments. Please plan to attend and congratulate Pastor Steve.

MARCH EVENTS

Sun.	March 4	Reception for Pastor
Mon	March 5	Council @ 7pm
Sat	March 10	Dinner Club @ 6:30pm
Sun	March 11	Worship & Altar Committee Meeting after worship
Tues	March 20	WELCA @ 7pm
Sat	Mar 31	WELCA Spring Assembly

COUNCIL SUMMARY

New Council members were welcomed and provided with an overview of Council meeting proceedings and other informational items. Retiring Council members were thanked for their service.

Nominations and appointments to Council officer positions and committees were conducted. The Council re-affirmed that Council meetings be held the 1st Monday each month with 2 exceptions; the July meeting and the August/September combined meeting. Council members were installed in front of the congregation on February 19.

The Council discussed the annual Congregational meeting, including the favorable response to the handicap accessible bathroom project.

Financial options for the remaining annex mortgage balance are being researched and reviewed. The current mortgage will mature in 2014 with a final balloon payment due at that time.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday March 5, 2012 at 7pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary

COUNCIL & OFFICERS INSTALLED

The reorganization meeting for the 2012 Church Council was held on January 30th. Elected to serve as officers for the year were Bob Gibson as president, Beth King as vice-president, Diana Rieker as secretary and Barbara Boord as Treasurer. Returning Council members were reappointed to continue in the same committees as last year – Errol Bull – Property; Beth King – InReach/OutReach; Sara Martin – Education; Carolyn Rouse – History; Stephanie Wagar – Stewardship. New Council members were appointed to the following committees: Joyce Duncan – InReach/Outreach; Bill Jarosz – Property; David Truland – Missions; and Donna Van Zandt – Worship. The Council also reappointed Fred Howard as Financial Secretary. Pastor Cordes installed the officers and council members at the worship service on February 19th.

Bob Gibson, President



God is love, the children learn this every week in Sunday School, but February was a time to remind the children just how much Jesus loves them and all that God does to help us love each other. As we enter the Easter Season, we will be continuing to explore all the ways God loves us and the miracles that happen all around us. This month we will be working on some Easter projects and the children will be asking the congregation to participate in a special fundraiser called "Buck a Chick".

Another area in which we hope to expand the children's religious education is in service to God. I am going to be working with the worship committee to start an acolyte program again. If you are interested in helping out, or have a young teen that would be interested, please let me know. In addition, I am still looking for volunteers for the children's nursery, I haven't had any luck yet, but will keep trying.

Once again, if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help out with the children's education, please contact me at 237-7124 or s.martin@hvcc.edu.

Sara Martin
Education Committee Chair

FLOWERS FOR MARCH

Mar. 4: In memory of Eugene and Everett Boomhower.
Given by Joyce and Robert Duncan

Mar. 11: To the Glory of God

Mar. 18: In memory of Bill Niles
Given by Marilyn Niles

Mar. 25: To the Glory of God

Spring plants will placed on the Altar for Easter Sunday. If you would like to order a plant in honor or memory of someone, see the order form printed at the end of this newsletter

SERVING FAITH

March 4	Altar Lay Assistant Ushers Counters Coffee Hour	Merilyn Niles, Helen Inglis, Lou Ann Behrens Pat Turcotte Diana Rieker & Jim Peters Evelyn & Bill Jarosz Gene & Donna St John, Jim Peters
March 11	Altar Lay Assistant Ushers Counters Coffee Hour	Merilyn Niles, Helen Inglis, Lou Ann Behrens Carol Karpien Roberta & Rob Hayward Janet Walsh & Mildred Lalanne Errol & Heather Bull
March 18	Altar Lay Assistant Ushers Counters Coffee Hour	Sally Davis, Roberta Hayward, Evelyn Jarosz Aaron Cordes Donna Truland & Mike Moroskey Joyce Duncan & Carol Perrott Speanburg Family
March 25	Altar Lay Assistant Ushers Counters Coffee Hour	Sally Davis, Roberta Hayward, Evelyn Jarosz Richard Anderson B. Morgan, B. Speanburg, B. Stevens Polly & Bob Hayward Nadeen Thompson

Worship & Altar Committee Meeting

Calling all members of the Altar & Worship committees. A joint meeting will be held on **March 11th** following the worship service. Topics to be discussed include altar flowers and spring clean-up in the sanctuary and sacristy.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

At the February meeting the group began the final session in "The People of God: Witnessing and Evangelism". This session will be completed at the March meeting which will be held at church on Tuesday, March, 20 at 7 pm.

Again WELCA wants to express gratitude for the cookie miracle that occurred on February 12. Loads of cookies appeared to be packed for the shut-ins. Thank you everyone who contributed. Over two

dozen tins were sent out. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the recipients. They were delicious—we had to test them to be sure they were good for sending out. All tests were positive!

The annual Spring Assembly will be held here at Faith on Saturday, March 31. The Conference Planning team will be sending out registration information next week. So watch the bulletin and bulletin board for pertinent information. Our group will be serving coffee and refreshments in the morning and lunch. Anyone who would like to help out with these activities is welcome to join us. The day will be filled with information regarding activities of Women of the ELCA in Upstate New York and Churchwide and well as a spirit-filled program,. Come for coffee, enjoy the program and lunch and closing worship and get acquainted with Lutheran Women from the Hudson Mohawk Conference. Hope to see you there.

Region 7 Spiritual Gathering, "Angels Among Us" will be held at Camp-of-the-Woods Friday – Sunday, April 27 – 29, 2012. Bishop Jerge is the keynote speaker. There will also be Bible Study and Focus Groups for participants and a lovely setting to explore. Registrations are due by March 15 without a late fee. Donna Gibson has registration forms and can answer any questions.



OUR FAITH AT WORK

Mission contributions for the month of March will be in support of Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County. Literacy Volunteers aids the 30,000 teens and adults in Rensselaer County who can't complete a job application, write a letter to a child's school or read the directions on medicine bottles.

Adult Education programs help these people learn the language skills necessary to obtain or retain a job, get a promotion, read to their children and achieve success and self-sufficiency for themselves and their children.

Your monetary donation to Literacy volunteers can make a real difference. If you are interested in

becoming a volunteer, there are tutoring and non-tutoring opportunities available. For information on becoming a volunteer call 274-8526, Monday through Thursday, 9AM to 4PM.

In addition, The website of the ELCA churchwide organization has a page dedicated to materials for a program called "Living Simply with God," a 40 day Lenten program with a "Hunger Calendar" which explores the concept of "living simply so that others might simply live." You can explore this resource at the following shortened link: <http://bit.ly/xhkkn0> [note: the last character is a zero]

David Truland, Missions Chair



DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club enjoyed the annual dinner out at McGrievy's in Waterford in February. The meals were delicious and the price was good as well. Retiring President, Evelyn Jarosz, installed the new officers: Donna and Eugene St. John, Presidents; Louann Behrens and Nadeen Thompson, Secretaries; and Michele and Fred Howard, Treasurers. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

The March meeting will be on Saturday, March 10 with Carol and Ron Karpfen, Stephanie and Ben Wagar, Pauline Lupo, Pastor Steve, and Chris and Larry Lansing as the host committee. Make reservations to join the group with one of the committee members by Wednesday, March 7. Don't forget your green!

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The April newsletter deadline is Sunday, March 18th. Please place your articles in the box in the Church office by Sunday, or email them to DSGLVA@aol.com by Monday morning.

EASTER FLOWERS

EASTER PLANTS

We will have a variety of spring plants adorning the Altar for Easter Sunday. If you would like to place a plant in loving memory of or in honor of someone please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt by March 28, 2012.

I would like to purchase _____ Easter Plant(s) at \$10.25 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

If possible please fill out a separate order form for each plant purchased.

Make checks payable to WELCA.