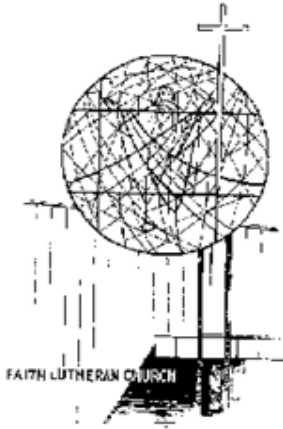


Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, NY 12182



# ***Following Faith***

***April 2024 Newsletter***

***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness and self-control.”  
Galatians 5:22***



**Faith Lutheran Church**

50 Leverage Road  
 Troy, New York 12182  
 (518) 237 4641

**Pastor Kate Drefke**

[drefkekate@gmail.com](mailto:drefkekate@gmail.com)

(518) 279 6127 (Voice and Text)

(Observes Sabbath 9:00 PM Thursday thru Friday)

(In an emergency call the number above)

[www.faithlutherantroy.com](http://www.faithlutherantroy.com)

Gospel and Sermon Recordings <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>

**Sunday Morning Worship**

In Person and Zoom

10:45 AM at Faith

**Church Council Officers****(Committee Assignments)****Council Members**

Evelyn Jarosz, President, (Finance, Inreach/Outreach)

Diana Rieker, Vice President, (Property, Stewardship)

Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)

Linda Hulihan, Treasurer

Errol Bull, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek (Education, Finance)

Mike Moroskey, (Property)

Diane Anderson ( Missions, Stewardship)

Dana Cerrone (Inreach/Outreach)

Partnership Council – Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Doug Adamek, and Donna Van Zandt  
 Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

**Want to Speak with Pastor?**

See phone/text/email contact information above and let her know that you want to speak with her. *(See her out of office schedule and Pastoral coverage at the end of From the Pastor’s Desk)*

**Holy Week Services**

Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM at Faith, Troy

Good Friday Service, March 29, 2024 at 7:00 PM at ELCP, Poestenkill

Easter Service, March 31, 2024 at 10:45 AM Faith, Troy and on Zoom

**From the Pastor’s Desk****Easter Greetings!**

It’s very weird to be writing about the risen Christ at the start of Holy Week. Jesus hasn’t yet been handed over for suffering and death, let alone been killed. Some of his most popular (or maybe better put- his most well-known) teachings happen in the Temple after Palm Sunday, and it is at the final meal on this side of the grave that Jesus institutes the eucharist (at least in the synoptic gospels; for John’s writer, Jesus’ whole life and ministry has been living eucharist).

Throughout this Lent, several of us have gathered every week to do some in depth study of Mark’s gospel, care-of New Testament scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Of three A-J “Beginner’s Guide” series we’ve

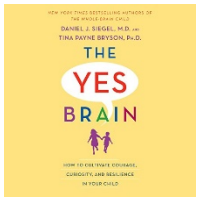
done thus far, this is definitely the densest. I know some of you bought the book, but weren't able to be part of the study group. I hope the density of reading didn't put you off. I hope all of you will go back to it at some point. It, like the Gospel of Mark itself, asks us more questions than it answers. Like the ending. The true ending of Mark's gospel has the women being told Jesus is risen, tell Peter and the others he'll meet them in Galilee like he said, and the woman running away in fear. We are left to guess what happened next, to fill in the rest of the story, to share the good news. Mark's writer makes us engage with the text in ways the other gospel writers don't: no birth or other origin story; no resurrection appearances; no story about what happened to Judas after Gethsemane. But there is a naked man in Gethsemane that A-J spends several pages pondering.

Thinking about engaging with the story, asking questions, and sharing the good news, we are Easter people. We live in the Resurrection, secure in its promise that death is not the end. Our mortal lives are full of little deaths and resurrections, individually and communally. As a congregation (and as partnered congregations), there have been deaths- literal and metaphorical. I feel we are on the verge of something new- a resurrection of our own. I don't know what it is for either congregation separately, or both together, but I take reassurance that, like Mark's... not so satisfying ending, it's still good news. We get to engage with our story, write what happens next, discern together where the Spirit is leading us. What do you think the women did after they ran from the empty tomb in fear? What do you think is next for us?

Christ's peace,  
Pr. Kate Drefke

### What is the pastor reading?

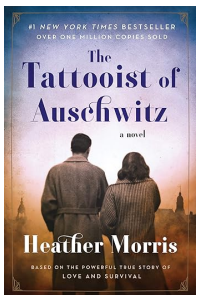
*The Yes Brain: How to Cultivate Courage, Curiosity, and Resilience in Your Child* (©2018), by Daniel J. Siegel MD and Tina Payne Bryson.



I don't remember why I added this title to my audible library a couple of years ago. Probably because Siegel is awesome and I've always enjoyed his books. I remember I picked it to listen to because it's short. But not the chapters. Siegel and Bryson build off and refer to their previous work on child development, teaching kids to recognize their own internal warning signs of distress and anger, and to be more empathic. Parents learn how to help their kids

develop these skills, and even how to start thinking about their own internal needs. As I finished it, their conclusion quotes Elizabeth Lesser and her discussion of eudaimonia. I had already started a different book by Lesser- see below.

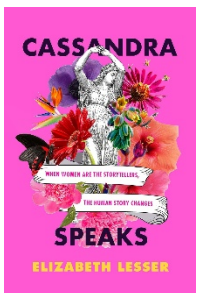
*The Tattooist of Auschwitz: A Novel* (©2018), by Heather Morris.



Like the title says, this novel takes place in Auschwitz, and it's based on the real life experience of Lale Sokolov, a Polish Jew. After reading *Ashes in the Snow* last month, I seem to be in a bit of a historical-fiction-based-on-real-events-at-Auschwitz kick. This one starts in April 1942, as Lale is transported to the "camp," his family's volunteer to work and (allegedly) keep his loved ones at home safe\*. I'm still early in it; he hasn't quite met the woman that becomes his reason for surviving. To this point, he has been saved from death by fellow prisoners, though this has meant the sacrifice of another young man.

\*Put like that, I kinda get *Hunger Games* "tribute" vibes, and I can almost hear Effie Trinket saying, "May the odds be ever in your favor."

*Cassandra Speaks: When Women Are the Storytellers, the Human Story Changes* (©2022), by Elizabeth Lesser.



This has been on my to-buy-and-read list for a bit. And when we were at Book House Friday for Lowell to pick up a cookbook he had preordered\*, I decided that was the day. I've only gotten through the introduction and her pages on Eve. For those of you have heard my mini rant about man not being tempted by woman, but humanity being tempted by life, the chance to be like or usurp God, you won't be surprised by me liking Lesser's take on Eve: that "Eve is humankind's first grown-up. The 'temptation' she succumbs to is the most fundamental huma

yearning- to know oneself, to find one's own path, and to courageously engage with the big world beyond the garden of childhood.”

\*It's a book of pasta recipes. By a guy who makes new pasta shapes. That Lowell has preordered. Yes, you read that correctly- I'm married to a guy who *preorders* new pasta shapes.

### **The Pastor is Out**

- Kate is on vacation Tuesday 2 April through Monday 8 April. If you have a pastoral emergency or other need please call Pr. Josh Evans of St. John's Lutheran, Albany at 518-250-9098, or your council president and you will be connected with the on-call pastor.
- And then she's out for continuing education Tuesday 23 April through Friday 26 April. If you have a pastoral emergency or other need please call Pr. Lowell Chilton of First Lutheran, Albany at 518-285-0441, or your council president and you will be connected with the on-call pastor.

----- End of From Pastor's Desk -----

### **Letter to the Editor**

**None this month.**

### **Council Meeting Highlights**

**None this month.**

### **April Missions of the Month**

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The April Missions are in support of Sidewalk Warriors and Unity House.

Sidewalk Warriors are a grassroots group of volunteers who support people in our community who are experiencing a need. That need includes homelessness, food insecurity or those who just run short at the end of the month. They believe in empathy, compassion and don't pass judgement or question anyone's need. The volunteers are from our amazing community and help follow community members. They set up at United Methodist Church in Troy located at 35 State Street, Troy at 4:30 p.m. and start serving at 6:00 p.m. each Thursday. They welcome anyone who would like to join and help with distribution.

Unity House is a nonprofit organization that provides a wide range of services to meet the otherwise unmet needs of people in our community. Unity House assists those who are living in poverty, adults living with mental illness or HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, and children with developmental delays. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Total contributions of \$500 were made to our March missions, Lansingburgh Boys and Girls Club and Ebenezer Foundation.

## Creative Threads Blue Streak

The quilters have been busy at their sewing machines since the beginning of the year. They have completed some beautiful quilts, which will be featured in the coming months.

This month's quilt is a favorite one to do. It is pieced with hundreds of 2 1/2" squares to make this striking pattern known as the Blue Streak.

Monday, March 4th Creative Threads met at the church to tie a quilt. They started working at 10:00 a.m. stopping at noon to have lunch. They will meet Monday, March 25th at 10:00 a.m. to finish tying this quilt and perhaps starting another. Bring a lunch and join in the fun and creativity. Evelyn



## Serving our April Sunday Programs

### Altar Guild

April 7	Diana Rieker
April 14	Diana Rieker
April 21	Diane Anderson & Janet Walsh
April 28	Diane Anderson & Janet Walsh

### Lay Assistants

April 7	Diana Rieker
April 14	Carol Karpfen
April 12	Bill Jarosz
April 28	Rich Anderson

### Flowers on the Altar for April

April 28 - In loving memory of Cynthia Crossen. Given by Mary Maselli and Kathie Vumbacco.

The flower chart is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, please sign your name and who the flowers are in honor/memory of. The price remains the same at \$19.00 per bouquet.

See Donna Van Zandt with questions and/or payment. Checks should be made out to WELCA.

### Coffee Hour

The coffee hour service on the third Sunday continues this month.

April 7	Jim Peters
April 14	Diane & Davie Cerrone
April 21	Fred & Michele Howard (Coffee Hour Service)
April 28	Bill & Evelyn Jarosz

If you would like to be a coffee hour host, please see Fred Howard.

### Counting Team

April 7	Fred & Michele Howard
April 14	Errol & Heather Bull
April 21	Joyce Duncan & Janet Walsh
April 28	Ev & Bill Jarosz
May 5	Rich & Diane Anderson

If you would like to volunteer to help with counting and depositing our weekly offering, please see Errol Bull.

## AMONG OUR PEOPLE

**Prayers of sympathy and support for Peter Edelman on the passing of his wife, Patricia.**

**Bob Duncan is now at Van Rensselaer Manor and Joyce Duncan is recuperating at home from a back injury. Please keep them both in your prayers.**

**Jim Peters is now recovering at home following a recent hospital stay for pneumonia. Prayers for healing and strength to return to church soon!**

**Prayers for Alan and Carol Fike as they deal with repeated hospitalizations and now require 24 hour care. Also, for Sara Martin and her sister who plan, manage, and share in their parents' care.**

**Prayers for strength, healing, and continuing support for Nancy Johansen as she lives with chronic conditions and disabilities.**

**Continued prayers for Larry Lansing, suffering from chronic conditions. We ask for continued healing and a return to better health.**

**Prayers of thanksgiving for the prayers that have been answered for the numerous successful medical procedures that our members have undergone in recently.**

**Prayers of supplication for people suffering in war torn countries. Where there is starvation nourishment; where there is persecution, shelter, and clothing for refugees; and where there is open warfare, negotiations leading to peaceful settlement of the issues that are leading to the terror of destructive violence.**

**Prayers for renewal of our Congregations as we work to move into a new journey of faith, service, and outreach in our communities.**

**Finally, prayers for our country that we focus on the things that unite us as one nation under God, rather than differences that divide us.**

## Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the May, 2024 newsletter is Thursday, April 25, 2024. Please email your letters or articles to: [farmerfl69@aol.com](mailto:farmerfl69@aol.com). If you would like a special joy or concern shared, you can also contact him by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if he is unable to answer.

## Online

“Like” Faith on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FLCTroy/> and keep up with what’s happening.

Can't make it in on Sunday morning for worship? Join us on Zoom!

Zoom Meeting ID: 83772454374 Password: 049977 Dial-In: 646-558-8656

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83772454374?pwd=ZVJDL3FwRjZSN2ZHTTFlUGo3TVVmdz09>

Miss worship altogether, but still want that Gospel lesson and sermon? Pr. Kate posts audio recordings of her sermons online each week at <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>