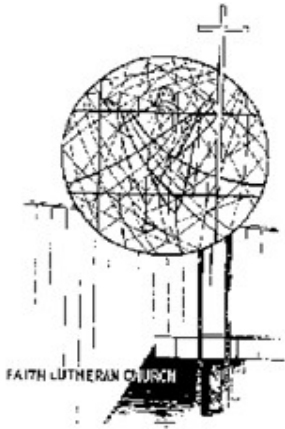


Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

DECEMBER 2022

***"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the
government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name
shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
ISAIAH 9:6***

Faith Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Kate Drefke

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

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**

Bill Jarosz, President (Property)

Vacant, Vice President (TBD)

Carol Karpien, Secretary (Stewardship)

Heather Bull, Treasurer

Rich Anderson, Financial Secretary (Interim)

Doug Adamek (Inreach/outreach, Missions, Property)

Katie Bonnier (Inreach/Outreach, Missions)

Errol Bull, (Property)

David Cerrone (Education, Worship)

Diane Dyer (Office Administration)

Sara Martin (Education)

Donna Van Zandt (Worship)

Partnership Council – Heather Bull, Bill Jarosz, Carol Karpien, 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.

Pastor's desk...

It's finally Advent! Last month it felt too early to talk about, and now it feels... a little too late to get into it. :-/ I'm just going to make the excuse that moving* threw me off. So, instead, I'll answer a question I got about our sermon series and corresponding Bible study on the Advent Mothers. (Hopefully I'll be a bit more concise in my writing than I was aloud and in person.) Without remembering the exact wording of the question, it was something to the effect of, "What do all these women have to do with Advent?" Or "How do they tie into Advent?" The stories of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba stand on their own in Jewish tradition. They each speak to who God is in their time and place. Jesus, or Jesus the Messiah, are not anticipated in their first telling. We, as Christians who have culturally appropriated these Jewish stories into our own religious faith, read Jesus *into* these women's stories. Tamar's righteous actions stand on their own in time and place. I think Matthew's writer included these women in his genealogy of Jesus because they were well known stories to his (presumably) predominantly Jewish audience. Reading Jesus into their stories, we say they point to him. For example, Matthew's initial audience would hear Tamar's name, know of her righteousness, and understand it as a foreshadowing of Jesus and his life, his teachings. Jesus, talking about righteousness in the sermon on mount, redefines it. If we know the story of Tamar and her risky righteousness, we can hear Jesus' redefinition as building off her.

All of these connect with Advent, a season created well after the gospels were written and Christianity religiously institutionalized, when we remember/ consider the socio-political-cultural climate into which Jesus was born. The Holy Land was occupied by the Roman Empire. Oppression and injustice were everywhere, and hope was... sometimes in short supply. The birth of the Messiah was hope and revolution in the flesh, coming to flip the tables and radically redefine what it means to be things like righteous and faithful.

Hopefully that makes sense to you. If not, tell me what doesn't, and ask me to clarify. My prayer for you this Advent season is that the stories of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba take root in your spirit, and inspire you to live more boldly in faith.

Peace of the Holy Mothers,
Pr. Kate Drefke

*We got a bigger apartment with real natural sunlight coming in through actual windows- can you guess a major complaint about our last apartment?- in Albany and spent the latter half of November moving.

Christmas Day Worship

A joint worship with the ELCA congregations of Albany, Faith in Troy, and ELCP. Christmas morning worship is at 10 am. All are welcome to be physically present at First Lutheran, Albany (181 Western Ave) or to join remotely via Zoom (<http://firstlutheranalbany.org/zoom> or call: 1-929-436-2866, Meeting ID: 518-463-1326, Passcode: 1.). Those who plan to attend remotely are encouraged to have bread and a festive beverage ready for communion and perhaps some candles to light.

New Year's Day Worship

Faith and Poestenkill will do one shared service at Faith, 10:45am. It will, as usual, be in person and on Zoom (usual link). The service will be a lessons & carols format with the carols being by request (like our hymn sing worship in July).

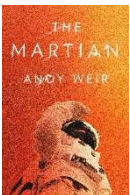
Midweek Advent Bible Study

Expanding on our Sunday sermon series (sermons can be heard at <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>), we'll dive deeper into the stories of the Advent Mothers on Wednesdays. Join us in person at Faith from 2-3pm, or on Zoom from 7-8pm (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83192075891?pwd=Q0UyT2Z3Ti9Fbk1JY2NFOHdaaFUzZz09> /Meeting ID: 831 9207 5891 Passcode: 239056).

Reading

Since I now have a longer commute, I'm starting to catch up on my audio books. Yay! So this month, my "reads" are "listens."

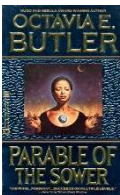
The Martian (2011) by Andy Weir.



This speculative fiction/ sci-fi novel finds Mark Watney abandoned alone on Mars after the rest of his crew makes an emergency evacuation during a storm. It's a lot of science to explain how the botanist survives, but the story isn't all... him. While most of the novel is narrated from Watney's point-of-view, Weir also gives his readers third-person perspectives on people at NASA and members of the crew.

(The 2015 film adaptation starring Matt Damon was the first movie Lowell and I saw together.)

Parable of the Sower (1993) by Octavia E. Butler.



From the publisher:

Parable of the Sower is the Butlerian odyssey of one woman who is twice as feeling in a world that has become doubly dehumanized. The time is 2025. The place is California, where small walled communities must protect themselves from hordes of desperate scavengers and roaming bands of people addicted to a drug that activates an orgasmic desire to burn, rape, and murder. When one small community is overrun, Lauren Olamina, an 18 year old black woman with the hereditary train of "hyperempathy"—which causes her to feel others' pain as her own—sets off on foot along the dangerous coastal highways, moving north into the unknown.

Carols of Christmas – December 10, 2022

The joint community choir again resumes this year at Cornerstone Community Church, corner of 3rd Avenue and 115th Street in Lansingburgh. The program will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday afternoon. A free will offering will be taken with the collection used to support people suffering in war torn Ukraine and to the Regional Food Bank of Eastern NY. A reception with light fare follows the program in the church hall.

Stewardship Committee Report - Fall 2022

Thank you all for your continuing financial support of Faith Lutheran Church during these difficult times. That said, most of us are keenly aware of the effects of recent inflation on our households. While we are reminded of this every time we purchase groceries or fill up our gas tanks, it may be less obvious that inflation is negatively affecting our church's financial health. Heating, electricity, and general operating costs are increasing. At the same time, weekly offerings are less than is needed to meet our budget.

Offerings declined significantly over the summer and have not increased as they usually do in the fall. Clearly this is not where we want to be.

With this in mind, it is most important that we continue to give generously and regularly as we are able. Please prayerfully consider how together we may accomplish this.

Our Faith at Work

December Mission of the Month

The Mission for December is in support of the Albany Maritime Ministry. The Albany Maritime Ministry is an ecumenical group of volunteers who offer a warm welcome and a variety of support services to seafarers that dock at the Seafarers Center in the Port of Albany. Most Seafarers have been at sea for weeks or months. The Albany Maritime Ministry welcomes seafarers, offers a clothing bank, helps them contact loved ones, conducts Christmas at sea program, provides bible and devotional materials, pastoral counseling and van transportation. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

October Mission Collection was \$238 (St Paul's Center for Women)

Thank you!

Katie Bonnier, Inreach/Outreach.

November 7, 2022 Council Meeting Highlights

Opening Devotion - Pastor Kate, open with a prayer and group discussion of congregation's goals and challenges.

Treasurer's Report

Both September and October's report were reviewed. Pastor Kate confirmed that her housing allowance should remain at \$2,000/month for fiscal year 2023. Roberta Hayward confirmed that we are running at a deficit and eventually will have to dip into our savings. The reports were accepted.

Financial Secretary's Report was accepted.

President's Report

Bill Jarosz reported that Catechism class is going well. Planning for end of year committee reports needed for the annual meeting should begin. The furnace repairman is coming on the 8th.

Pastor's Report

Pastor officiated at one wedding and one funeral and has conducted hospital visits. The catechism class is going well, and an Advent reading of Matthew's gospel is planned as well as a midweek study of 4 women in scripture. She and Lowell are sharing the chaplaincy for the Maritime Ministry at the port of Albany. She attended the Conference Assembly. She will be moving to a new apartment in Albany.

Committee Reports

- Inreach/Outreach – Kate Bonnier & Doug Adamek
Katie Bonnier will send cards.
- Office Administration – Diane Dyer No report
- Missions – Kate Bonnier – the mission for Nov. is Joseph's House. \$238 was collected in October for St. Paul's
- Education – Sara Martin, Dave Cerrone – Martin hopes to plan events for youth.
- Stewardship – Carol Karpien, and council collaboration - An article was sent out in the Oct. newsletter.
- Property – Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz – Jarosz asked if anyone knew of someone with sound system expertise.
- Worship– Donna VanZandt, Pastor Kate – A meeting with ELCP is planned to discuss Advent services. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.
- Partnership Council Carol Karpien, Roberta Hayward, Bill Jarosz, Donna Van Zandt
The Partnership council met on Oct. 25. The following was agreed upon.

1. Both councils recommend to their respective congregations that the current pastoral compensation split of 45% from ELCP and 55% from Faith be continued.

2. The holiday services schedule was set:

Christmas Eve – Faith 7:00 pm, ELCP 9:00 pm

Christmas Day – 10:00 am – In person and Zoom. See details in Pastor's message above

New Year's Day - Joint service with ELCP at Faith 10:45 am (Lessons and Carols)

Ash Wednesday - ELCP at 4:00pm, Faith 7:00 pm

3. Annual Meeting dates 2023 - ELCP January 22; Faith January 29, 2023

Business at Hand

- Policy writing team
- Hall Rental Agreement – The Hall Rental agreements were accepted.

Memorials gift agreement – The memorial gift document with the suggested edits was accepted.

- Christmas Service - See details above and in Pastor's message
- Roberta Hayward's Retirement as Treasurer.

Motion by Jarosz; second by Van Zandt: Faith Lutheran Church accepts Heather Bull for the position of church treasurer.

The council is pleased to welcome Heather Bull as the congregation's new treasurer.

The Council is grateful to Roberta Hayward for her dedication, expertise, and service as treasurer.

New Business

Annual Audit – An auditor is being recruited.

Altar Guild – Diane Anderson has volunteered to oversee the work of the Altar Guild. Thanks to Diane.

Holiday Gifts for needy families - The Council approves supporting 2 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and gifts. Donna Van Zandt has volunteered to coordinate this project and is seeking assistance. Thanks to Donna

Tentative date to set up the Christmas tree is Dec. 10. Sara Martin will recruit families to help.

Next regular meeting Monday Dec 5, 2022, at 7:00pm. – ZOOM

Joys and Concerns Jaroszes will be great grandparents again!

Closing with Lord's Prayer Adjournment at 8:22

----- *end of council meeting highlights* -----

What's with the Heating System Problems?

Supply chain issues hit home. The burner blower on our boiler (Peerless – an American Firm with an international presence), which was in stalled in 2014, failed in early November. Our installing contractor diagnosed the problem as a failed motor/electronic controller on the blower (manufactured in Germany) that is required for the boiler to fire. Estimated times for a new burner blower ranged from 2 weeks (distributor) to 10 weeks (manufacturer). To keep the waterlines in the building from freezing, the circulator pumps for the heating system were wired to run continuously and water faucets set to drip throughout the building.

The contractor found a part on line that matched the boiler specs which was received in 7 days from the time of order. It arrived, but having been misrepresented, did not fit our boiler. Bypassing the normal distributor the contractor found a blower in western NY that did meet our specs. It was shipped by overnight freight and our expectation was that it would be installed the week of November 27th. When it arrived it was damaged with a broken bolt that cannot be replaced. In parallel, the original blower was taken to a local firm that deals with sophisticated electrical/mechanical equipment repair; it was determined that the blower was high tech with too

much electronic gear integrated with the motor and could not be repaired. Meanwhile, another original equipment burner was located in NJ which will be arriving in Albany December 3rd. Our expectation is that it will be undamaged and installed on December 5th or 6th.

A ray of sunshine? We were able to use temporary measures to warm the building enough to be comfortable for the Truland Funeral on December 2 and will be using these same measures to allow in person service on this Sunday, December 4.

Quilt Ministry – December



The quilt featured in December has been constructed by Ruth Goerold. The many gem tones make it a colorful quilt. It is sure to keep someone at St. Paul's Center warm in the winter months.

Evelyn Jarosz, Master Quilter

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Warren H. Truland

TROY - Warren H. Truland, 92, passed away on November 25, 2022, at St. Peter's Hospital. He and Marion were married for over 68 years and were the parents of 3 children, including David (Donna) and 6 grandchildren including Pastor Rebecca Truland, a daughter of Faith's congregation.

His funeral service was held at Faith on Friday, December 2, 2022 with burial following in the Oakwood Cemetery. Warren was active in the governance of our Upstate New York Synod for many years and participated in many local ecumenical organizations.

The family is asking those who wish to make a donation in Warren's memory to consider either the Upstate New York Synod of the ELCA or the ELCA World Hunger program. Online giving is available at <https://upstatenysynod.org> or checks may be sent to the Upstate New York Synod, P.O. Box #160, Syracuse, NY, 13214.

If you have a special Joy or Concern that you would like to have included in this section, please email your item to: farmerf169@aol.com by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if he is unable to answer.

We ask that the Holy Spirit guide us all as we discern and move forward in the coming year. We pray especially for individual guidance as we commit to our financial support for our church in the coming year.

Bonnie Speanburg-Snyder has recently been diagnosed with cancer. The operation to remove the pancreatic cancer and other affected tissue was successful and is believed to have removed all of the cancerous sites. She is currently undergoing chemotherapy. Please pray with her and her family that she makes a complete and successful recovery.

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 leading to the terror of destructive violence.

Continued prayers for healing and recovery for Larry Lansing.

Paul Haas who continues to do well at Van Rensselaer Manor. He has a new cell phone number - 518-203 6547 - and enjoys telephone calls from his friends. His address is the same: 85 Bloomingrove Drive, Unit B – room 318A, Troy, NY 12180.

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

Leading Our December Worship

Lay Assistants

Dec. 4 - Evelyn Jarosz
Dec. 11 - Bill Jarosz
Dec. 18 - Carol Karpien
Dec. 24 - Fred Howard
Jan. 1 - This will be Lessons and Carols.

Flowers on the Alter in December are as follows

Dec. 4 - In loving memory of Mark
Lastrup. Given by Mom
Dec. 18 - In loving memory of Michael
Maselli. Given by Mary Maselli

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the January, 2023 newsletter is Wednesday, December 28, 2022. Please email your articles to: farmerf169@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=ZVJDL3FhRjZSN2ZHTTFlUkVmdz09>

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>

POINSETTIAS

Again, this year, we will have poinsettias adorning the Altar for Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in loving memory or in honor of someone, please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than December 15, 2022. (If possible, please fill out a separate order form for each plant.)

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) at \$12.00 each in loving memory 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