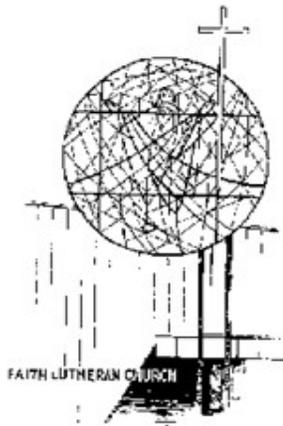


Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

APRIL 2023

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed Alleluia!

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage 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)

Sunday Morning Worship
In Person and Zoom
10:45 AM at Faith

www.faithlutherantroy.com

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

Church Council Officers

Bill Jarosz, President (Property)
Sara Martin, Vice President (Education)
Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)
Roberta Hayward (Interim), Treasurer
Linda Houlihan, Financial Secretary

(Committee Assignments)

Doug Adamek (Inreach/outreach, Missions, Property)
Katie Bonnier (Inreach/Outreach, Missions)
Errol Bull, (Property)
Evelyn Jarosz (Stewardship)
Vacant (Office Administration)

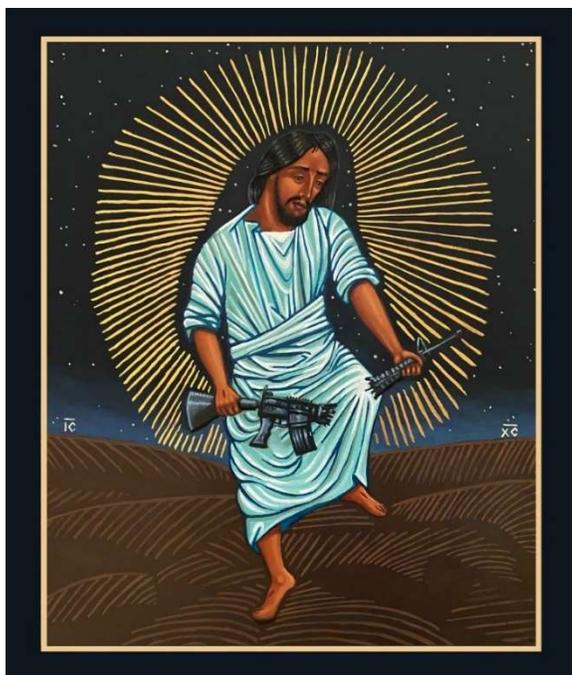
Council Members

Partnership Council – Roberta Hayward, Bill 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.

Pastor's Desk



The day after the shooting at The Covenant School in Nashville, this icon of Jesus (by Kelly Latimore) was shared by various people and groups on social media, often with some additional commentary regarding Jesus' own nonviolence.

I know better, but I read the comments on one such post. There was a thread started by and in response to some guy trying to convince everyone Jesus' wasn't against the sword, he was even okay with his associates carrying weapons. His scriptural argument was something like, "if Jesus was so against the sword, why did he go with his people who were carrying swords and clubs?" This was the whole basis of his argument and we all need to go back and read our Bibles because Jesus wasn't non-violent or against using swords. So, since this particular reading is part of this coming Sunday and Passion Week narrative, I've looked it up for us:

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him [Judas] was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. [...] Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly one of

those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his

ear.⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. [...]”⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. [...]”. (Matthew 26:47-56; compare with Luke 22:35-38, 47-53)

The crowd arriving with Judas to arrest Jesus brought swords and clubs. We picture these weapons at the ready as their wielders approach. Someone with Jesus- presumably based on pronoun placement- does not have his weapon at the ready but needs to draw his sword when he wants to defend. In Luke’s telling, someone asks, “Lord, should we strike with the sword” (22:49)? Then does so before Jesus can say “no.” There’s obviously still a lot to unpack, to compare and contrast, between Matthew and Luke’s tellings of Jesus’ arrest. But suffice to say, Jesus makes a statement against violence- “live by the sword, die by the sword” and that guy in the comments section is a troll.

Also making its rounds was a picture from a couple of years ago featuring the congressman representing Nashville. It’s his family Christmas card for that year. In it, he, his wife, and their minor children, are all holding large guns. Several politicians in the last years have circulated Christmas card images of themselves with their families all holding guns of varying sizes. I see such images and think they are aligning themselves with the Empire, threatening and sending the Prince of Peace, whose birth the Christmas season celebrates, into hiding in a foreign land to live as a refugee. The United States is the *only* country in the world to have more civilian owned guns than people¹ and we have far more firearm deaths than comparable nations. We live and die by the gun.

As Holy Week begins, the Prince of Peace returns to Jerusalem astride a donkey, a sharp contrast to the war horses ridden by the Empire’s representatives. He teaches and preaches about the Reign of God and how we live into it for the good of all whom God has created. Tells us that what we do for the poor, sick, imprisoned, marginalized, vulnerable among us we do for him, too. At prayer in a garden, he is surrounded by people wielding weapons, arrested, given a sham trial, and executed by the State at the urging of his own people. A life of peace calling for justice and mercy in the midst of occupation has yielded an unjust and violent death. His life and death were a sacrifice made to compel us to turn from violence, to lay down our weapons and pick up peace, to be merciful. Why do we keep choosing violence, sacrificing children, over following Jesus in peace and justice as we have promised in our baptisms? Why do we insist on living and dying by our guns? How many more must be risen to eternal life before they’ve lived this mortal life?

Feeling the suffering of Good Friday and looking with hope to the Resurrection,

Pr. Kate Drefke

¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-05-25/how-many-guns-in-the-us-buying-spree-bolsters-lead-as-most-armed-country#xj4y7vzkg>

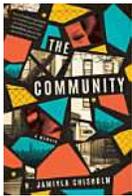
Reading

I haven't done much reading this month because I've been working on a crochet project (several of you have seen me working on it in book study). But, the other week, someone after worship said they were going home to read. I asked what, and got told about an action thriller they were in the middle of, nearing the novel's climax. And then they were kind of embarrassed because this creative work they were enjoying isn't "Christian." So, more concisely than I said to them, I give you all this gentle reminder:

God gifts us in a variety of ways. Appreciating the creative work of writers, painters, quilters, musicians, etc. IS rejoicing in the gifts of God.

What have you been reading? What other creative endeavors have you appreciated from yourself and others?

The Community: A Memoir (2022) by N. Jamiyla Chisholm



When she was very young, Jamiyla's mother followed her husband into an intentional community of Black Muslims in New York. Ultimately more cult than faithful community, as a teenager, Jamiyla begins to ask her mother questions about the dreams she has about being in a room with other young girls and being allowed to only speak Arabic. *The Community* is her memoir decades later detailing that time in her young, forming life, and its impact on her and her family as she grew into adulthood.

Additional Worship?

The idea of an additional worship opportunity, particularly on a weeknight, has been talked about on and off at both congregations since I began as your pastor, if not before. At March's Joint Council Retreat this was talked about in more depth, and then again at Partnership Council (PC). The decision for moving forward with this idea from PC is that we would like a couple of people from each congregation to come together to create a



working group exploring this in more detail. With a goal of offering a third worship service starting in the fall, the work group will be tasked with identifying WHO we most want to reach out to (e.g.: families with young children, working adults who might have work on Sunday mornings, etc.), and then what DAY and TIME might be best for that target group, and which congregation will be the host site. If you are interested in more information or possibly serving in this capacity, please let Pr. Kate and/or a member of the PC know. (Steve K and Doug A are our chair and co-chair this year.)

Catechism! for the Already Confirmed



A STUDY CURRICULUM ON
CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH



The Catechism group has been working their through the ELCA Task Force on Studies for Civic Life and Faith's study curriculum on civic life and faith.

Join us in digging deeper into what it means to be a public church. Each session's discussion is guided by scripture, prayer, music, and a video.

Thursdays, 10-11am at Faith

April 13 Session 4: What are the objectives of democracy in the United States?

April 20 Session 5: What's faith-based living got to do with civic life?

April 27 Session 6: How do we go in peace to love and serve the Lord in civic life?

May be offered again at later dates depending on interest.

Holy Week



Our Holy Week observance begins with our Palm & Passion Sunday worship, and there are multiple opportunities “in house” and with our neighbors. Check out the Facebook pages and websites of other congregations for details with them.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 2 April Palm & Passion Sunday | 8:45am @Poestenkill
10:45am @Faith and Zoom |
| 6 April Maundy Thursday | 7:00pm @Faith and Zoom |
| 7 April Good Friday | 2:00pm @Gilead (stations of the cross)
7:00pm @Poestenkill (Passion reading of John) |
| 8 April Holy Saturday | 3:00pm @Poestenkill (mourning at the tomb) |
| 9 April Resurrection Sunday | 8:45am @Poestenkill
10:45am @Faith and Zoom |

Book Group



I like to read. I know several of you like to read. Anyone interested in forming a casual book group? I’m picking a book, anyone interested reads it, and then we meet to discuss over dinner out somewhere cheap and cheerful. Then we agree on the next book and a date maybe 4-5 weeks later, and repeat. Let Pr. Kate know if you are interested!

April Mission of the Month

The featured mission for the month of April will be in support of **Lutheran World Relief**. Lutheran World Relief, LWR, provides aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. LWR partner with communities to build and grow rural economies and work to break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you and God Bless! Katie Bonnier, Inreach/Outreach.

Quilt Ministry – FINALE FOR POLLY

The Creative Quilts group, this month, is featuring the last quilt pieced by Polly Hayward.

This colorful quilt will be a cheerful addition to anyone's bed. We're sure the recipient at St. Paul's Center will have many years of enjoyment using Polly's quilt.

Anyone interested in joining with the group to sew or socialize are most welcome. See Janet Walsh or Evelyn Jarosz for more information.

Evelyn Jarosz, Master Quilter



AMONG OUR PEOPLE

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, or by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if there is answer.

We ask that the Holy Spirit guide us all as we discern and move forward in the new year. We pray especially for individual guidance as we commit to our financial support for our church in 2023.

Continued prayers for Ron Karpian as he works with specialists to fully diagnose and treat effectively medical issues that he is facing. Include Carol in your prayers as well.

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

Prayers of supplication for people suffering in war torn counties. 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.

For Lutheran World Relief and other NGO's as they work to minister to those who are in impossible situations due to flooding, drought and all sorts of disasters both natural and man-made.

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

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Serving our April Sunday Programs

Lay Assistants

April 2 - Palm Sunday - Diana Rieker

April 6 - Maundy Thursday - Carol Karpian

April 9 - Easter Sunday - Evelyn Jarosz

April 16 - Bill Jarosz

April 23 - Rich Anderson

April 30 - Diane Dyer

May 7 - Errol Bull

May 14 - Fred Howard

- April 23 - In memory of Cynthia Crossen. Given by Mary Maselli and Kathy Vumbacco.

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, fill in the flower chart hanging on the Narthex Bulletin Board. Please fill in your name along with who the flowers are in memory or in honor of.

The cost continues to be \$19.00 per bouquet. Cash or check made out to WELCA is accepted. See Donna Van Zandt for questions and/or payment.

Coffee Hour Hosts

As listed on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

Flowers on the Altar for April

- April 16 - In memory of Robert Lynch. Given by Janet Walsh.

If you wish to contribute spring plants for our EASTER CELEBRATION, please complete the form found the last page of this newsletter and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than APRIL 3, 2023. The cost of each plant is \$13.00.

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the May, 2023 newsletter is Thursday, April 27, 2023. Please email your articles to: 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=ZVJDL3FxRjZSN2ZHHTTFIUGo3TVVmdz09>

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>

EASTER PLANTS

As our tradition continues, we will once again have a variety of spring plants adorning the Altar for Easter Sunday. If you would like to place a plant in loving memory or in honor of someone, please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than Monday, April 3, 2023.

The price for each plant this year is \$13.00.

I would like to purchase _____ Easter Plant(s) at \$13.00 each in loving

Memory or 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.

Checks payable to WELCA.

Thank you.