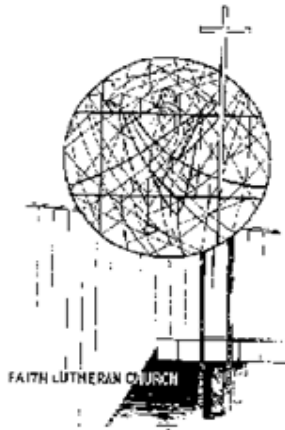


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

APRIL 2017



Dear Church

I hope this month brings resurrection for your spirit and heart, as well as some much-needed spring resurrection for our yards and gardens.

While the resurrection happened thousands of years ago, as people of faith, we watch and hope for resurrection happening around and within us all the time. One important reason that we come together regularly as a church community is to share both places we have seen evidence of God's ongoing resurrection power and places where we are hoping and praying for it.

Like the first disciples at the tomb, in the upper room, and on the road to Emmaus, it is important for us to both hear the Good News from others and to experience Jesus' presence for ourselves.

In that spirit, I encourage us all to share with each other our resurrection sightings, even ones that may seem small or subtle.

I pray that there will be resurrection

- For the earth and all its creatures
- Between people who are in conflict
- For our congregation and for the universal Church
- In places disfigured by war or poverty
- In my own heart.

What kinds of resurrection are you watching and waiting for? What kinds of resurrection have you seen?

May our Eastertide season be filled with stories and experiences of our living God.

*Peace in Christ
Pastor Jennifer*

**Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leversee Road
Troy, New York 12182
(518) 237- 4641**

www.faithlutherantroy.com

**Sunday morning worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: during worship**

**The Rev. Jennifer Wegter McNelly,
Pastor**

Church Council Officers
Fred Howard (President)
Evelyn Jarosz (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
**Pam Perras/Michele Howard
(Financial Secretaries)**

Council Members
Doug Adamek (Education)
Errol Bull (Property)
Donna Gibson (Stewardship)
Rob Hayward (Stewardship)
Evelyn Jarosz (In Reach/Out Reach)
Sharon Morris (Worship)
Carol Perrott (Missions)
Pam Perras (In Reach/Out Reach)
Ben Wagar (Property)

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Paul Molesky continues to struggle with pain and breathing problems. He is thankful for your prayers.

Please keep Rev. William Hempel, Dave Cerrone and Paul Haas in your prayers as they continue their treatment, therapy and recovery.

We give thanks for the life of beloved member Bert Benzinger who passed away on March 22nd. We hold his children, grandchildren, and friends in our prayers as they mourn. His family will be planning a memorial service at church. We will share that invitation when a date is set.

We celebrate the birth of Jackson Clements, son of Aubrey and John Clements congratulations to the happy family.



PALM SUNDAY: THE ECO-PALM PROJECT

This Palm Sunday, Faith will celebrate with palm branches that reflect our care for the environment and for economic opportunity for the poor.

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, accented by the jubilant waving of palm branches, is re-enacted each Palm Sunday in Christian congregations worldwide. Unfortunately for the communities where these palms are harvested, palm fronds do not always represent the same jubilation they do for us.



Production of eco-palms begins in forested areas of Mexico and Guatemala where workers, known as *xaterros* (sha-tare-rows), walk miles into the forest to harvest palm branches. Photo courtesy of Lutheran World Relief.

In 2007, Lutheran World Relief teamed up with the Presbyterian Church (USA), Catholic Relief Services, and the University of Minnesota to offer congregations the option of purchasing responsibly harvested Eco-Palm branches for Palm Sunday. The palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting in order to protect the local ecosystem. Read more online at www.ecopalms.org.

Why Eco-Palms?

In the typical palm trade:

- Large floral export firms encourage over-harvesting: they pay by volume for palms

and then throw away large amounts that aren't export quality.

- Over-harvesting damages forests where the palm plants thrive.
- Forests are depleted and palm-selling communities lose this important source of income.

How are Eco-Palms different?

- The palms are gathered and sold in a socially and environmentally just way.
- Harvesters are paid a fair price per palm based on quality, so they take fewer palms out of the forest, which protects important nature reserves.
- Community members sort, package and sell the palms themselves — not via middlemen — so more of the money paid for the palms stays with the people who worked the hardest to provide them.
- Because there is a steady market for the palms, locals are motivated to protect the forests (their source of income), ensuring harvests well into the future.
- Harvesting communities receive 5-6 times the normal payment per frond.

COUNCIL SUMMARY

The Council discussed the need to schedule additional Council workshops for deeper dives into topics such as the church by-laws and continuing resolutions. The 1st Council workshop will be held March 26th at 9:30am.

There was discussion regarding the need for an Office Oversight and Administration Committee that would be responsible for addressing technical requirements of the church. This will be revisited in the next Council meeting.

Conversations with members of Faith and Evangelical regarding the search for a new pastor will continue. Call Process Committee invited members have graciously accepted the role and provide a good representation of various groups in the church. Pastor Jennifer discussed goals of the committee along with a breakdown of steps in the call process.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday April 3rd, 2017 at 7pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary



Easter is quickly approaching – it seems too quickly! Due to everyone’s busy schedules, we have not had the time to plan and execute our regular Easter Fundraiser. Luckily, the Kid’s Council has raised enough money to go ahead with a charitable gift this Easter season even though we were unable to pull off an official fundraiser. More information about the charity of choice will be announced at an upcoming church service.

This year we have a couple of fun activities planned for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday that involve a special kind of palm, and a kid’s interactive story. As the kids are all growing up so quickly, we have decided to forgo the Easter Egg hunt this year as we have some other age appropriate activities planned. Besides, we may still have snow on the ground this Easter!

The educational classes for the group of children making their First Communion this June will be starting soon, as always, I will keep everyone posted on the progress.

Have a blessed Easter season, filled with joy and happiness!

Sara Martin, Education Director

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our mission for the month of April will be in support of Lutheran World Relief.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals and parish groups involved in international relief, development, advocacy and social responsibility. They are an international non-profit organization working to end poverty and injustice in some of the world’s most impoverished

communities. With partners in 35 countries, LWR seeks to promote sustainable development, improve health, strengthen communities, end conflict, build livelihoods and recovery from disasters

Carol Perrott, Missions

AD HOC TEAM PLAN for NEW PASTOR

The Councils of Faith and Evangelical churches have each identified an ad hoc team to pull together information needed to call a new called pastor. Drawing from the CAT survey and other information about Faith, the team will create a “Pastor Portrait” describing the particular experience, skills, and qualities needed by the congregation at this time. The team will present the Pastor Portrait for discussion and approval by the Council and then the Congregation. When both churches have approved their Pastor Portraits, the teams will get together again to work out a proposal about the nuts and bolts of sharing a pastor. That proposal will also be reviewed by the Council and then the Congregation. Pastor Jennifer will be coordinating the two teams. When this work is done – and we are hoping to move quickly and finish in a couple of months – the team will have completed their assignment. Our goal at point is that the churches will be ready to elect a Call Committee, complete the necessary paperwork, and talk with the Synod about a match for a called pastor.

The Ad Hoc Team is representative of our congregation's diverse past, and includes:

- Carol Karpfen
- Roberta Hayward
- Bill Jarosz
- Joyce Duncan
- Doug Adamek

Please hold them in your thoughts and prayers as they begin their work

FLOWERS for APRIL

- Apr. 2nd To the Glory of God
- Apr. 9th In memory of Bob Lynch
Given by Janet Walsh
- Apr. 16th To Our Risen Lord
- Apr. 23rd To the Glory of God
- Apr. 30th In the memory of her Mother
Given by Mary Maselli

SERVING FAITH in APRIL

Apr. 2 nd	Altar	Merilyn Niles and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Rich Anderson B. Morgan, B. Stevens, B Speanburg
	Counters	Michele and Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	Kathy Adamek
Apr. 9 th	Altar	Merilyn Niles and Pan Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Fred Howard Diana Rieker and Jim Peters
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Sara and John Martin
Apr. 13 th	Altar	Janet Walsh and Evelyn Jarosz
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Jarosz Donna and Dave Truland
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward

Apr. 16 th	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Stephanie Wagar
	Lay Assistant Ushers Counters	Carol Karpien Errol and Ryan Bull Rich and Diane Anderson
EASTER BRUNCH Council		
Apr. 23 rd	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Stephanie Wagar
	Lay Assistant Ushers Counters	Donna Gibson Barbara Boord and Ron Turcotte Pat Brundige and Joyce Duncan
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh and Merilyn Niles
Apr. 30 th	Altar	Donna St. John and LouAnn Behrens
	Lay Assistant Ushers Counters	Pat Turcotte Rikki Franklin and Ron Moss Donna Gibson and Linda Hulihan
	Coffee Hour	Heather and Errol Bull

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.

*Sharon Morris, Worship Chairperson.
Schedule for Altar Guild by Pam Perras
Schedule for Coffee Hour by Heather Bull*

EASTER BRUNCH

You're invited to attend an Easter brunch Sunday, April 16th beginning at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The brunch is sponsored by your church council. We're hoping to see you all there.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir rehearsals are generally held every Thursday at 7:00 PM for about an hour. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to come and enjoy singing our praises to the Lord.



Women of the ELCA met at church for our monthly meeting. The Women of the Bible continues as our study, this month focusing on Ruth. We decided to restart the card ministry--mailing greeting cards to the sick and shut-ins. We also discussed the Cradle Roll that we had some years back and will see if we can reinstitute this as well.

Don't forget June 3 for our Quilt-In! We will be making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and can use any donations of cotton fabric and thread and batting. We will begin at 10 AM and go till mid-afternoon, or as long as you can. Even if you aren't a quilter you can still help with this project. Fabric needs to be pressed, measured and cut to the appropriate size, layered and tied. There will be a job for everyone, bring a bag lunch--we will have coffee, tea and dessert. If memory serves (and I'm not sure it does) we completed six quilts the last time we did this a couple of years ago. Lets' aim for 8 this year.



DINNER CLUB

Dinner club met at church in March and enjoyed a Soup Smorgasbord--four different homemade soups. Yummy, hard to decide which was best. All were great thanks to the hosts: Helen Inglis, Bill and Evelyn Jarosz, Merylyn Niles and Pam Zeph. Make your own sundaes for dessert completed the menu.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, entertainment consisted of singing a variety of Irish songs. It took

a few songs to get in the groove, but we managed to do better and better. Thanks to Michele Howard for accompaniment and Fred for leading the singing. We sounded OK by the time we got to Irish Eyes are Smilin'. A fun evening for all.

The April meeting is on Saturday, April 8th at 6 PM for hors d'oeuvres with dinner served at 6:30. Hosts will be Joyce and Bob Duncan, Michele and Fred Howard and Sharon and John Morris. Hope you can join us.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Office Assistant(s) with word processing, filing, and scanning skills.

Tech savvy persons interested in being part of a committee to study and propose updates to our office systems.

If you are interested in helping on either of these, please let Fred Howard or any council member know.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COORDINATOR

Barbara Boord is coordinating the Newsletter efforts. Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at church for pick up when you are present.

You may go to the church web site at:
www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com any time and view the newsletter.

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 May newsletter deadline is Monday April 24th. Please email your articles or Among our People news to: barbboord@hotmail.com. Or call (518) 982-1250

April 2017

HALLELUJAH



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 COUNCIL 7:00 PM	4	5	6 CHOIR 7:00 PM	7	8 DINNER CLUB 6:00 PM
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
9 PALM SUNDAY	10	11	12	13 CHOIR 7:00 PM	14	15
			Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM			
16 EASTER	17 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	18 WELCA 10:00 AM	19	20 CHOIR 7:00 PM	21	22
BRUNCH 9:30 AM				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
23	24	25	26	27 CHOIR 7:00 PM	28	29
			Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM			
30						



EASTER PLANTS

Once again 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 no later than April 10th.

I would like to purchase _____Easter Plant(s) at \$11.00 each in loving memory or in honor

Of _____

Given by _____

My plant(s) may be given to the sick or shut ins. _____ Yes _____ No

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

Make check payable to WELCA.

Thank You