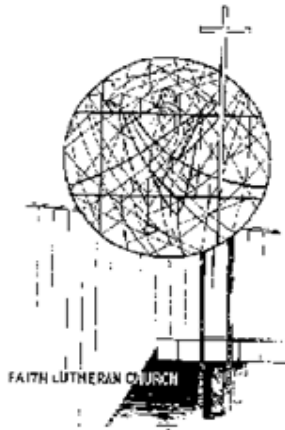


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



FOLLOWING FAITH

AUGUST 2017



WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SUMMER?

My two daughters, being preacher's kids, were pretty much in tune with the flow of the liturgical calendar of the church year. They understood that Advent was a preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, that Christmas was a season and not just a day, that Epiphany was the time when Jesus chose his disciples and taught them and performed miracles of healing, that Lent was a somber time leading up to the events of Holy Week with Palm Sunday, the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. They knew that Easter was the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and that Pentecost remembered the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples.

But then came the long and dragged out season of the Sundays after Pentecost when it seemed like Jesus didn't do anything and there were no celebrations in the life of Jesus. So, they asked me: "Dad, did Jesus go on vacation during the summer?"

The Sundays after Pentecost are colored in green because they represent the growth of the Church. Jesus gives words of instruction to us as his disciples because now we are the ones who are supposed to be doing something. It is now our job to share the Good News of Jesus with the world. Yet, it is true that summer is a quieter time for the Church of today. School is closed, so we close our Sunday Schools. Perhaps we include a week of Vacation Bible School just to keep the kids on their toes. Committees take the summer off because people are traveling and we all need a little break.

I was called to a church in the North Country that shut down for the month of August and insisted that I was supposed to take my vacation then. That was the first change I made in that congregation! For even though things may slow down, or be replaced with other types of activities, our worship of the Lord our God should never take a break. Jesus never goes on vacation from being our Lord and Savior. Are you traveling somewhere this summer? Jesus is going with you, you know. Go to worship there and bring back a bulletin to be able to share what happens in other congregations.



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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

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

The Rev. James Slater, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

**Fred Howard (President)
Evelyn Jarosz (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
Michele Howard/
Pam Perras (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)**

But more importantly, for Evangelical and Faith and for the congregations I have served in Stuyvesant

Falls and Valatie, there will be no summer break from the busyness of the Church. You (and they) have developed a pastoral description of expectations and completed a Ministry Site Profile in preparation for the call of a new pastor. A call committee will be busy interviewing a candidate, the councils will be working together to present a salary package, and eventually each congregation will meet in worship to experience a candidate's leadership and preaching style and vote on calling a pastor to serve your congregations into the future.

That's a busy summer! You've got a lot of work to do. Thank God, that Jesus doesn't go on vacation but will be there with you every step of the way to guide you by his Spirit in discerning the best possible choices for your future ministry.

*Alive in Christ,
Pastor Jim Slater*

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Prayers of hope and healing are needed for our brothers and sisters in faith Pastor Bill Hempel, Pastor Jennifer Wegter-McNelly, Ben Wager and Dave Cerrone as they continue, on their way to recovery and remission. May God's Love see them through their courageous journey back to good health.

COUNCIL SUMMARY

A meeting with Faith, Evangelical and Pastors Page and Slater was held to outline a schedule and strategy for advancing preparation of the Ministry Site Survey. This will be used by Synod to initiate the call process for a new pastor.

The Parish Council, which is comprised of 3 members plus the treasurer of both Faith and Evangelical, met on July 13th to review and update our joint agreement with Evangelical.

The annual Faith Audit report was completed and provided to Synod.

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

*Diana Rieker,
Secretary*



Not much to say about Sunday School this month! Hope everyone has had a relaxing and fun-filled summer so far. Currently, the plan is to have Sunday School begin on September 10th. Prior to that date, we hope to have a couple of meetings to decide on the curriculum and structure that will best fit the needs of our ever growing kids. We will make sure to keep you posted on our plans.

As always if you have any ideas, input, desire to volunteer, or are just interested in finding out more about the Sunday school please contact me at sarajohnmartin@gmail.com.

*Sara Martin,
Education Director*

OUR FAITH at WORK

For the month of August our mission will be in support of the Ebenezer Child Care Trust – Christian Orphanage in Zambia.

The Ebenezer Child Care Trust was founded in March 2001 and was initially a feeding program for street kids in the town of Livingston, Zambia. Today it has expanded into a school for orphans and rents out three homes where orphans are given the sense of a family they have lost. A housemother lives with the children and takes care of them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carol Perrott, Missions

BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY – POESTENKILL

We received a nice thank you letter for the support that Faith has provided for the community food pantry that is part of Evangelical Poestenkill's ministry. Donations of food and staples can be made at the box found in our Narthex. By donating, we too can share in a small way in this ministry that serves an important community need.

The joint Pastoral Discernment Committee, consisting of members from both of our Parish congregations, completed their work at a meeting at ELC-Poestenkill on June 13. The committee concluded that what each congregation wants and needs in a new Pastor is similar and compatible, which is important since we will be making this new call jointly. On June 20 Ruth Frazee, President ELCP, Pastor Slater, Pastor Jo Page, our Conference Dean, and I met to discuss our next steps in the call process.

A document called a Ministry Site Profile that describes our Parish – the two congregations – must be completed for Synod. Between the membership surveys and analysis conducted last year (CAT and COW) and the work of the Pastoral Discernment Committee, the background work for completing significant sections of the Profile is available. The Faith and ELCP councils now must work together on a revised Covenant Agreement that spells out how the Parish will share and support our new Pastor. In addition, there is information relating to community demographics, membership, attendance and budget that must be reported.

Once these tasks have been completed, and approved by the two councils, we will have a special congregational meeting where the congregation will consider what is being proposed and take action on it. Our intent is to keep you posted on progress through the newsletter and to have an informational meeting the week before the actual congregational meeting to provide the opportunity for discussion prior to the actual voting on the measures.

***Fred Howard
President***

FLOWERS for AUGUST

- Aug. 6th To the Glory of God
- Aug. 13th To the Glory of God
- Aug. 20th In Memory of Bob Gibson
Given by Donna Gibson
- Aug. 27th In Memory of Margaret Speanburg
Given by Barbara Morgan

“BUILDING LIVING BRIDGES”

The theme of the 2017 Upstate New York Synod Assembly was “Building Living Bridges”. Assembly is a gathering of fellow Lutherans, for the purpose of worshiping together, conducting business of the synod and attending workshops to inspire our church representatives to share with you in the days and months ahead.

Thursday evening Dr. Joy Philip of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Ontario, Canada spoke on Accompaniment. Dr. Philip explained, that accompaniment is a model of mission that provides support partnership, solidarity and relational engagement. She used the example of accompaniment as a noun, in other words being passive and accompaniment as a verb, working on actively building a bridge on how best to help our neighbors. Dr. Philip didn't say it was going to be an easy or quick process.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA addressed the assembly Friday morning. He spoke on Hebrews 10:23-25 and Matthew 15. He challenged us to listen for the need in our communities, act upon that need and engage ourselves to take a risk and enact a plan to address the need.

The third speaker was Bishop John Macholz. He spoke on how the Synod is “Grounded in Jesus”, “Growing in Witness”, “Giving in Bounty”, and “Graced for the World”. Bishop Macholz encouraged us to become involved in our communities. He expressed the need to think outside the box, take a risk and reach out, in order to sustain ourselves.

Sprinkled throughout the weekend there were reports from the Hunger Action Mission, Seafarers, and the Can Tab missions. The Hunger Action team set a goal of collecting \$50,000.00 for 2017. The team was very pleased to announce Saturday morning that the goal was met during the weekend.

Faith Lutheran Church gave a donation of \$506.00 towards this goal. The Seafarers had an exhibit at conference with literature explaining their mission and a table of the many hats to be donated to the Seafarers. This year to date, 500 knitted hats have been donated to the Seafarers. Over the last few years Faith Lutheran Church has been collecting pull tabs from cans. This year's collection of tabs from Faith Lutheran Church was brought to conference to be combined with donations from other churches in the Synod. The "collection" committee reported this year's collection seemed to have surpassed last year's collection. This is the fifth year the Synod of the Northeast has been collecting the can pull tabs. Each year the proceeds are donated towards a mission. The first year the Ronald MacDonald House was the recipient. The second year's donations went to West Seneca Cherish the Children campaign. Year three was donated to the ELCA youth clean water campaign. The Lutheran Camp Scholarship received the donation in 2016. This year's donation is yet to be determined.

Pastor Scott Hannon informed the conference attendees of a youth gathering in Houston, Texas in June of 2018. This is an event where thousands of Lutheran youth will meet and worship together. The theme for the week is "This Changes Everything".

There were so many choices of workshops it was difficult to decide which to attend. The time allotted for the workshops was limited which made picking and choosing a hard choice. In the end four workshops were chosen. The workshops attended were: (1) Cross Generational Engagement, (2) Homelessness, (3) We Are All Global Missionaries Acting Locally and (4) Question and Answer session with Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman.

The weekend conference with 300 Lutherans reminded the representatives that we are a strong, mission involved church of which Faith Lutheran Church is very much a part.

Donna Gibson and Evelyn Jarosz represented Faith Lutheran at this year's convention. A big thanks to Evelyn for sharing the experience with us.

SERVING FAITH in AUGUST

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Aug. 6 th | Altar | Karen Cordes and Donna St. John |
| | Lay Assistant Ushers | Bill Jarosz Donna and Dave Truland |
| | Counters | Michele and Fred Howard |
| | Coffee Hour | In Summer Recess |
| Aug. 13 th | Altar | Karen Cordes and Donna St. John |
| | Lay Assistant Ushers | Bill Maloney Errol and Ryland Bull |
| | Counters | Donna Gibson and Linda Hulihan |
| | Coffee Hour | In Summer Recess |
| Aug. 20 th | Altar | LouAnne Behrens and Pam Perras |
| | Lay Assistant Ushers | Pat Turcotte Barbara Boord and Ron Turcotte |
| | Counters | Evelyn and Bill Jarosz |
| | Coffee Hour | In Summer Recess |
| Aug. 27 th | Altar | LouAnne Behrens and Pam Perras |
| | Lay Assistant Ushers | Dave Truland Pat Brundige and Katie Bonnier |
| | Counters | Rich and Diane Anderson |
| | Coffee Hour | In Summer Recess |

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

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. at Evangelical during the month of August.

Please consider being a part of the group? We would appreciate your presence with us even on an occasional basis. Your presence would be most welcome.

Please contact Michele Howard with any questions or for directions.



DINNER CLUB

DINNER CLUB IS IN RECESS FOR AUGUST

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.faithlutherantroy.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 September newsletter deadline is Monday August 21st.

Anyone with items of interest or submissions for Among Our People please email your articles to:

barbboord@hotmail.com or call (518) 982-1250.

AUGUST 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | Home Bureau 1:00 to 3:00 PM | | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 AM | | Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM | | | |
| | COUNCIL 7 PM | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| | CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 AM | WELCA | | Home Bureau 1:00 to 3:00 PM | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| | CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 AM | | Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM | | | |
| | Newsletter Items | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| | CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 AM | | | | | |
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