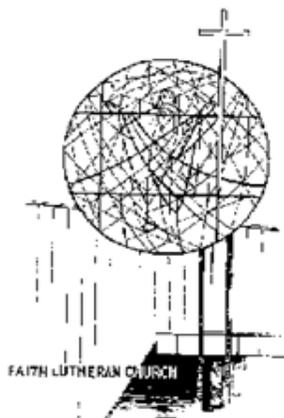


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

December 2015

Following Faith

**The Monthly Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church**

DECEMBER 2015

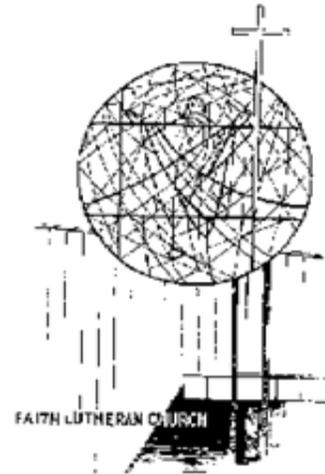


**Pastor Steve
Cordes**

Faith Lutheran Church has experienced a great loss with the passing of our pastor, Steve Cordes. Our prayers and thoughts remain with Karen, Austin and Steve's extended family.

We are all extremely grateful to everyone who has done "extra duty," first during Steve's hospital stay, and then following his passing. We are fortunate to have Pastor Bill Hempel providing pastoral services and leading worship. Pastor Hempel was chosen by Steve to be both his personal pastor and to fill in for him during his planned absence through the end of the year.

Let me share a few simple observations I've made about Steve over the years. He used to say that if he were no longer a pastor, he would want to model for others how a lay person could be a vital part of a congregation. He didn't like the part of the confession and absolution that singled him out as a called and ordained minister, and he always changed "your sins are forgiven" to "our sins are forgiven." One of Steve's favorite festivals was All Saints Day, and he always asked us to think about those who nurtured us in the faith.



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

**Sunday morning worship: 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: 9:15 a. m.
Sunday School: during worship**

The Rev. Stephen L. Cordes, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

**David Truland (President)
Sara Martin (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Joyce Duncan (Secretary)
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)**

Council Members

**Errol Bull (Property)
Joyce Duncan (In Reach/ Out Reach)
Bill Jarosz (Property)
Elizabeth King (In Reach/ Out Reach)
Sara Martin (Education)
Michael Moroskey (Property)
Carol Perrott (Missions)
Diana Reiker (Stewardship)
Donna VanZandt (Worship)**

I doubt there's anyone who spent time with Steve who wouldn't count him very high up on that particular list. In September's newsletter, Steve shared some of his thoughts regarding his recently diagnosed illness. His advice seems appropriate also for the current situation: "...so many have asked what you might do. First and foremost, I ask that you simply be yourself. Believe me, I know first-hand how difficult it can be to want to say the right word or do the right thing. Even pastors worry about such matters. Such concerns can make it difficult to say or do anything at all. Please, just be yourself. I plan to be myself, so you do the same. Be yourself, no more, no less. I promise; we'll do just fine." Steve said a lot more in that commentary. I invite you to revisit it. The newsletter is archived on the church's website.

I'll end with a prayer from our worship book: "Eternal God, your love is stronger than death, and your passion more fierce than the grave. We rejoice in the lives of those whom you have drawn into your eternal embrace. Keep us in joyful communion with them until we join the saints of every people and nation gathered before your throne in your ceaseless praise, through your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

David Truland, Council President

SERVICES for PASTOR CORDES

All services will be at Faith Lutheran.

Calling Hours:

Sunday November 29th 1:00 to 6:00 PM

Funeral Service:

Monday November 30th at 10:00 AM

A reception will be held at church immediately following the service on Monday.

The Family has not chosen a grave site at this point.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Sick and Recuperating:

Beverly Lanteigne has returned home after being hospitalized due to complications from her treatment for cancer. She would like to express her sincere appreciation for all the cards and well wishes. **Dr. Larry Lansing** is continuing to undergo chemotherapy. He is facing a lengthy treatment regimen. Initial signs are encouraging for his recovery. **Bob Hayward** is doing remarkably well after his knee surgery. **Mildred Lalanne** shows signs of improvement for circulatory related wounds thanks to continued treatment. **Nancy Johansen** is recuperating from extensive foot surgery. **Paul Molesky** is slowly showing progress after his hip surgery. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Deaths:

Joe Zepf passed into eternal rest on November 10th after a lengthy illness. Services were held at Faith.

In profound sadness and disbelief I must tell you that **Pastor Stephen Cordes** died quite suddenly on November 20th at Brigham and Womens Hospital in Boston after surgery for esophageal cancer. Please remember the families of these dearly departed during their time of sorrow.

COUNCIL SUMMARY

2016 Envelopes are here and will be available soon along with pledge cards .If you do not get envelopes and want them contact Diana Reiker or Fred Howard.

Property committee has been very busy repairing the shed (which looks great), installing gutters over the office and Pastors

window and winterizing the lawn tractor. And we have obtained a new leaf blower.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2016 in the fellowship hall immediately following service. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar. The council looks forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Anyone with questions or concerns please contact any Council Member.

Our next scheduled council meetings are December 7, 2015 and January 4, 2016.

Joyce Duncan, Secretary



Just a reminder to everyone, the filled Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes are due at church by Sunday, November 22nd.

Empty boxes are available at the church. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Sara Martin, Education Director

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our mission for the month of December will be in support of Albany Maritime Ministry.

The Albany Maritime Ministry is an ecumenical group of volunteers who offer a warm welcome to seafarers that dock at the Seafarers Center in the Port of Albany.

Most seafarers they greet have been at sea for weeks or months. They face many challenges, such as isolation, separation from family, hard labor and sometimes human rights violations. Relief and support is given by:

Welcoming them on their ships.

Addressing their spiritual, family and material needs.

Offering special programs such as Christmas-at-Sea.

Advocating for their rights.

Collaborating with agencies worldwide.

Your continued support for this Ministry is greatly appreciated.

Carol Perrott, Missions

CHOIR REHERSAL

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

SERVING FAITH in DECEMBER

Dec 6 th	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Stephanie Wagar
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Jarosz
	Counters	Errol Bull and Ryland Bull LouAnn Behrens and Janet Walsh
	Coffee Hour	Gene and Donna St. John
Dec 13 th	Altar	Joyce Duncan and Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Carol Karpien
	Counters	Barb Boord and Irene Pagel Joyce Duncan and Carol Perrott
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh and Marilyn Niles
Dec 20 th	Altar	Joyce Duncan and Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Maloney
	Counters	Roberta and Rob Hayward Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Nadeen Thompson

Dec 24 th	Altar	Donna Gibson and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Fred Howard
	Counters	Pat Brundige and Nadeen Tompson Fred and Michele Howard
Dec 25 th	Altar	Donna Gibson and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	The Truland Family
	Counters	
Dec 27 th	Altar	Evelyn Jarosz and Donna St. John
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Errol Bull
	Counters	Beth and Joe King Donna Gibson and Linda Hulihan
	Coffee Hour	Irene Pagel and Carolyn Rouse

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.

*Donna Van Zandt, Worship Chairperson.
Schedule for Altar Guild by Pam Perras
Schedule for Coffee Hour by Heather Bull*

FLOWERS for DECEMBER

December 6th In memory of Harold Behrens
Given by The Behrens Family.

December 13th To the Glory of God

December 20st To the Glory of God

December 27th To the Glory of God

FLOWER CHART 2016

The 2016 flower chart has been hung in the back of the Narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the Altar during 2016 please write next to the appropriate date to whom you are placing the flowers on the altar for and by whom. The price will remain the same at \$19.00 per bouquet. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Donna Van Zandt



WELCA will hold their annual Christmas potluck luncheon and program at 12 noon on Saturday, December 5th at church. We will pack the gifts for the Maritime Ministry as well as the Christmas cookies. As usual we are asking for donations of cookies for this project.

Help delivering the cookies would be appreciated so the recipient also receives a visit as well as a tin of cookies. Speak to Marilyn Niles if you can help out in this way.

Items needed for the Maritime Ministry include: hats, gloves, work socks, writing pads and pens or pencils and a stamped envelope or two.

Please deliver cookies and gift items to the church before Saturday December 5th.

We are also collecting hats and mittens for children. These will be distributed through the schools.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS for 2015

This year we are helping 2 local families with their Holidays. We have already delivered a bounty of food for Thanksgiving and now set our sights on Christmas. Your donations will provide gifts, clothing and food for families struggling in these hard times. Our best gift to them is, reminding them that they are not alone; someone cares; God. Pat Turcotte and I are happy to accept your donation in person, OR you may choose to place your envelope (provided in the back of church) in the church offering plate. Please let us know if you are able to help with shopping or distribution. Help is always welcome and most appreciated.

***Thank you,
LouAnn Behrens***



DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club for December will be on the 12th at 6:00 PM with dinner served at 6:30 PM. An annual Christmas celebration is continued with everyone bringing a grab bag gift. Decembers dinner is always an evening of merriment and good fellowship. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. Please let the club Officers' know if you can attend. Hope to see you there and don't forget to bring your best Christmas singing voice.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

As of January 2016, the Property Committee will have two vacancies. We are seeking interested individuals to join the committee for a 2 or 4 year term. Please see current Property Committee members if interested in participating and contributing to the Church's well-being.

Errol Bull

JOIN A WINNING TEAM The Eddy Visiting Nurse Association Care Team

The Eddy Faith in Action Care Team Program was formed 11 years ago from Faith – based communities in this area. It is a great fit for those with busy life styles.

What is a Care Team?

Quite simply, it's a team of 1-7 caring individuals who provide practical and helpful

non-medical support and friendship to someone in your community.

Care Team members provide transportation to appointments, run errands, prepare a meal, bake a special treat, make phone calls, and home visits.

Care Teams celebrate birthdays and make holidays brighter for someone with little or no family support.

Teams are needed for young and middle aged adults in your area with MS, Parkinson's, Huntington's, Chorea, HIV/AIDs, as well as other disabilities.

Also, we have senior citizens who would love a home visit or enjoy getting out for lunch, shopping, or attend a community event.

The great thing about joining a Care Team is that you pick the kind of help you want to give and do it at a time that fits your schedule.

If interested contact JOAN at 386-3631 or Joan.laviolette@sphp.com

We would love to put your congregation on our register today.

NEWSLETTER

Barbara Boord is coordinating the Newsletter efforts. Hard copies of the Newsletter will be available at church for pick up when you are present. You may go to the web site at:

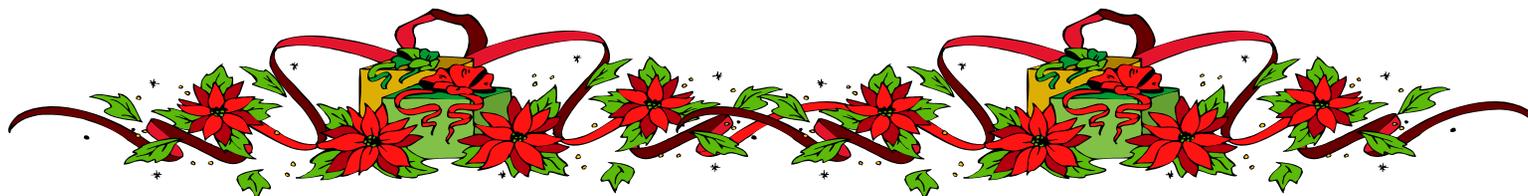
www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com any time and see the newsletter.

We will email you a copy if you send your email address directly to Barbara at her email address. barbboord@hotmail.com

At your request, we will be happy to send you a copy via the USPS.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The January 2016 newsletter deadline is Monday December 21st. Please email your articles to barbboord@hotmail.com by Monday morning.



POINSETTIAS

Once again we will have poinsettias adorning the Altar for Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in loving memory of or in honor of someone, please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt by December 15, 2015. (If possible please fill out a separate order form for each plant.)

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) at \$10.50 each in loving memory of or in honor of:

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Home Bureau 2:00 – 4:00 PM	4	5
6	7 Council Meeting 7:00 PM	8	9 Speigle Elders 10:00AM – 2:00PM	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	11	12 Dinner Club 6:30 PM
13	14	15	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Home Bureau 2:00 – 4:00 PM	18	19
20	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22	23 Speigle Elders 10:00AM – 2:00PM	24 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Service	26
27	28	29	30	31 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM		