



# ***Following Faith***

***December 2016***



## **JOY TO THE WORLD**

Consider the story of one young man. Sick and puny as a baby, he remained frail and delicate all his days. Later, as a pastor, his maladies were so severe that he could not serve his growing congregation. Instead he wrote them letters filled with hope and good cheer. Even though his body was frail his spirit soared. He complained once about the harsh and uncouth hymn texts of his day. Someone challenged him to write a better one. He did. He wrote over 600 hymns, mostly hymns of praise. When his health finally broke in 1748 he left one of the most remarkable collections of hymns that the world has ever known. His name was Isaac Watts. His contribution to the Christmas season! Probably the most sung of all the Christmas hymns, "Joy to the World; the Lord is come."

Could Isaac Watts have written so, if his life had been easy? I don't know. It is amazing, though, how often persons who have everything are spiritual zeroes, whereas those who struggle through life have souls with both depth and height. Our appreciation for the light is sharpened by the intensity of the darkness. Or as Watts put it, "No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground he comes to make his blessing flow... far as the curse is found... far as the curse is found."

**JOY TO THE WORLD**  
*Originally shared by Pastor Steve  
December 2014*

### **COUNCIL SUMMARY**

The Council discussed next steps with C.A.T. (Church Assessment Tool). Holy Cow will be presenting an analysis of the assessment results to the congregation on December 4<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a joint congregation meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>, where Holy Cow will present on the distinctiveness of Faith and Evangelical as identified from the assessment results. The assessment results from both congregations may impact the search for a new pastor and the pastor sharing arrangement between congregations. A preliminary draft of a timeline for the process of making a call for a new pastor was distributed and discussed.

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

[www.faithlutherantroy.com](http://www.faithlutherantroy.com)

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

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

#### **Church Council Officers:**

**Donna VanZandt (President)  
Sara Martin (Vice President)  
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)  
Diana Rieker (Secretary)  
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)**

#### **Council Members**

**Errol Bull (Property)  
Dana Cerrone (In Reach/Out Reach)  
Elizabeth King (In Reach/Out Reach)  
Evelyn Jarosz (Worship)  
Sara Martin (Education)  
Michael Moroskey (Property)  
Pam Perras (Stewardship)  
Carol Perrott (Missions)  
Ben Wagar (Property)**

Based on input from the Council, Fred Howard will redraft and distribute at the next Council meeting.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7pm.

***Diana Rieker, Secretary***



We are so excited about the upcoming Christmas events! Hopefully you all have December 11 marked on your calendars for the annual Sunday School Christmas Program. There will be pizza and snacks after church for our Christmas Party, it would be great to see everyone there.

The Sunday School children have also been invited to participate in the Christmas Caroling event on December 18 of this year. Anyone who is interested in attending, please let me know. We will be joining some choir members in travelling around to various nursing homes and other shut ins to entertain them with some awesome singing!

This year we collected 24 Operation Christmas Child boxes. It was a joy to drop them off and see all the boxes being loaded up to bring happiness and necessities to children in need all over the world.

The Sunday School schedule for the beginning of 2017 is in the process of being developed, please keep your eyes out for more information on this later in December.

Have a blessed Christmas!

***Sara Martin, Education Director***

## **OUR FAITH at WORK**

December's mission is the Albany Maritime Ministry. The 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.

The Albany Maritime Ministry was a favorite of Pastor Steve and is also dear to Pastor Bill.

Your continued support for this Ministry is greatly appreciated.

***Carol Perrott, Missions***



***C.A.T.***

Our C.A.T. has now been completed and a Vital Signs Report is now being produced. The results will be shared with us by Keli Rugenstein, who is a trained interpretive consultant. She will make this presentation in the Fellowship Hall on December 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at approximately 12:30/12:45. Light lunch items will be available.

On December 14<sup>th</sup> a joint session will be held with ELCP and Faith at which time Ms. Rugenstein will explain where the two churches are similar and/or different. This of course will help us to work together to reach our common goal in calling a shared Pastor.

Please make every effort to join us for these important meetings.

## FLOWERS for DECEMBER

Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	In memory of Harold Behrens, Jr. Given by the Behrens Family
Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	To the Glory of God
Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Poinsettias
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Poinsettias

## FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2017

The new flower calendar for 2017 has been posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the Altar in memory of or in honor of someone please place the appropriate information on the calendar. We are fortunate that the cost once again remains the same. \$19.00 per bouquet. If you have any questions, speak with Donna Van Zandt.



The women of the ELCA met and held their Thank offering program Tuesday, November 15th. At this meeting the ladies approved the donation of \$50.00 to the Thanksgiving baskets and \$50.00 to the Christmas baskets. The pot luck Christmas luncheon will be held Dec. 3rd at 12 noon. Immediately after lunch will be a Christmas program coordinated by Joyce Duncan, Pat Turcotte, and Stephanie Wagar. Following lunch containers of homemade cookies will be packed for distribution to our special care members. At the same time the Maritime Christmas boxes will be filled and readied to be delivered.

## CHOIR REHERSAL

Choir rehearsals have resumed and are generally held every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. for about an hour. No formal training is required. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to come and enjoy singing our praises to the Lord.

## SERVING FAITH in DECEMBER

Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Altar	Donna St. John and Marilyn Niles
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Dave Truland Bill Speanburg and Mike Moroskey
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Errol and Heather Bull
Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Altar	LouAnn Behrens and Polly Hayward
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Rich Andersen Donna and Dave Truland
	Counters	Linda Hulihan and Donna Gibson
	Coffee Hour	Rikki Franklin
Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Altar	LouAnn Behrens and Polly Hayward
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Errol Bull Barbara Boord and Ron Turcotte
	Counters	Fred and Michele Howard
	Coffee Hour	Carolyn Rouse and Donna Gibson
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Joyce Duncan
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Fred Howard Rikki Franklin and Ron Moss
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour

Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Joyce Duncan
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Donna Gibson Errol and Ryland Bull
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour

*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*

### **BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER GROUP**

During Advent; there will be a Bible Study on Tuesdays at Poestenkill. 2:00 p.m. start.

Prior to the Bible Study, the Prayer Group will meet at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Michele Howard for any additional information.

### **THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS BASKETS 2016.**

As we begin our preparation for Thanksgiving and the Christmas season, let us thank God for all his gracious gifts and pray for those who struggle through this difficult financial time.

As in years past, we will be collecting donations to help families during the Holidays. Donation envelopes will be available in the back of the church if you choose to donate through our church offering, OR, we are happy to accept them personally. No amount is too small; together we can make a difference. Your donation will provide Thanksgiving dinner and a bounty of additional food items to a few local families. Then we do it again for Christmas, and top it off with clothes and toys for the children.

Pat Turcotte and I welcome anyone wishing to help with shopping or distribution of the food and gifts, so please touch base with one of us if you would like to help out.

Thank you,

Lou Ann Behrens

### **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

2017 Stewardship Campaign is underway. Collection envelopes for 2017 are ready for pick up in the church Narthex. We will be using the Promise cards again this year and they are also available at the church. Please consider filling out your intentions for next year of time, talents and treasure. The Promise cards are used for preparing the annual budget and will be very important this year as we prepare to call for a permanent pastor. Cards may be dropped in the collection plate or mailed back to the church. We will be collecting them through December 25th. - Stewardship Committee



### **DINNER CLUB**

Dinner Club will host their annual Christmas party December 10th. Everyone is invited to attend. Cocktails start at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be prepared and served by Marilyn Niles, Janet Walsh, Donna Gibson and Evelyn and Bill Jarosz. Make your reservations with anyone on the committee. The entertainment is the exchange of a \$10.00 grab bag gift and of course we'll have our annual rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas!

### **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY**

As you know our food donations are sent to the Food Pantry overseen at our sister church in Poestenkill. Recently we were informed that they

are accepting health care items as well as the regular non-perishable food items. This includes such items paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, bath/shower soap, etc. Any and all donated items are greatly appreciated. Leave your donations in the box located in the Narthex at Faith. Thank you.

## **BARBARA BOORD ACTING NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COORDINATOR**

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](http://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. At your request, we will be happy to send you a copy via the USPS.

## **NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE**

**The January newsletter article deadline is Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please email articles to:**  
[barbboord@hotmail.com](mailto:barbboord@hotmail.com).

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Cookies for the Shut Ins and gifts for the Maritime Ministry are due. (no later than 9:30 a.m.)

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - A Christmas concert held at Cornerstone Church in Lansingburgh. Faith Choir members will be participating. The first song will be sung in memory of Bob Gibson. 7:00 p.m.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** - The results of C.A.T. will be presented at 12:30 p.m. following the church service and a light lunch.

**December 5<sup>th</sup>** - Our regular Council Meeting beginning at 7:00.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** - The Sunday School program will be presented during the service.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** - A time to remember Pastor Steve Cordes. 1:00 - 3:00 at Evangelical in Poestenkill.

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** - A joint presentation for both Faith and Evangelical congregants "Sharing the commonalities between the two churches" along with areas that may need to be addressed. 6:30 p.m. Tamarac High School Library.

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Caroling to our Shut Ins. 2:00 p.m.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** - Our Christmas Eve service beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Day Church service. 10:30 a.m.

**January 22, 2017** - Our Annual Congregational Meeting following the worship service.



## FAITH PROMISE CARD FOR 2017

Remembering the material blessings that God has given to me, I plan to support the Ministries  
And Programs of Faith Lutheran Church in 2017 as follows

Current Expenses                    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per    week/month  
(These contributions support church operations at Faith Lutheran)

Benevolences                        \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per    week/month  
(A portion of the 9% of income forwarded to Synod for Lutheran Programs)

Missions                                \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per    week/month  
(These contributions are paid directly to the designated Mission of the month)

Service                                 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per    week/month  
(I feel called to offer my presence and energy in the following way)

Name                                    \_\_\_\_\_

Address                                \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail or phone                    \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this card with your offering or by mail by December 25<sup>th</sup>.

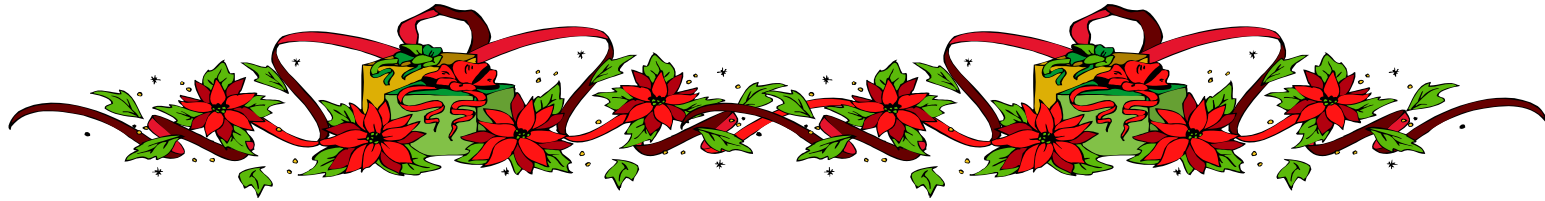
Remember if your financial circumstances change during the year your giving can be adjusted accordingly.

# December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Home Bureau 2:00 – 4:00 PM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> WELCA Luncheon <b>12:00 P.M.</b>
<b>4</b> C.A.T. Presentation	<b>5</b> Council Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Speigle Elders 10:00AM – 2:00PM	<b>8</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Dinner Club <b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>11</b> Sunday School Presentation	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> JOINT C.A.T. Presentation <b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>15</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Home Bureau 2:00 – 4:00 PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Caroling <b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>19</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Speigle Elders 10:00AM – 2:00PM	<b>22</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service <b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>25</b> Christmas Service <b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>





## **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 12, 2016. (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:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My plant(s) may be given to the sick or shut-ins. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please make checks payable to WELCA**