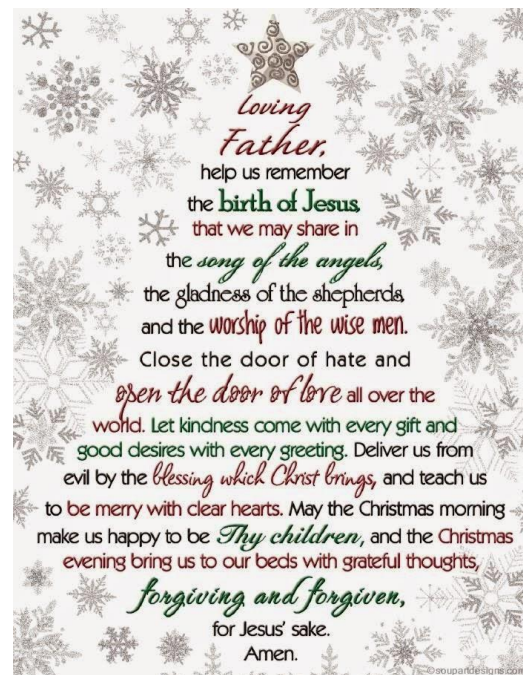


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

December 2019





Dear friends,

First of all, I want to say THANK YOU for your warm and wonderful welcome to me! It has been a joy to begin to get to know you, to worship with you on Sundays, and to think about the ways in which we are already serving and can continue to serve God and our neighbor.

We've moved together through this 'season of November' and now embark on a new season and a new year in the church – in ADVENT!

One of the ways that we mark the change of seasons outside our doors is with a bit of CHANGE! We do this in our clothing selections, our home décor, and our habits. Inside the church, we also mark the changes of church seasons. In Advent, we'll use a new, but very familiar liturgy – Setting 3. We'll honor an ancient tradition of a quieter, more reflective season and sing the kyrie, but not hear the Hymn of Praise for four weeks. We'll include a song and prayer while lighting the candles on the Advent wreath – a symbol of increasing light and life, even in this dark time of the year.

In our waiting and anticipation of Christ's coming at Christmas, our hymns for the Gathering, Hymn of the Day, and Sending will be Advent songs. But we'll hear or sing a couple Christmas carols during communion – giving a hint of what's to come!

I'm looking forward to this new season – to the watching and waiting – and the celebrating!

Many blessings,

Pastor Judy

**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**

Rev. Judith Converse, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

**Fred Howard (President)
Doug Adamek (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Evelyn Jarosz (Secretary)**

Council Members

**Doug Adamek (Education)
Mitch Cieminski
Rob Hayward (Office Administration)
Linda Hulihan
Evelyn Jarosz
Mike Moroskey (Property)
Sharon Morris (In Reach/Outreach)
Diana Rieker (Missions),
(Stewardship)
Ben Wagar (Property)**

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Prayers of comfort for Pam Perras and the entire Perras family on the death of Leo Perras on November 14. Leo had been suffering for an extended period of time and was being treated for lung cancer at the time of his death.

Prayers for healing encouragement, and comfort for Stephanie Wagar who continues with a course of chemotherapy. Please include Ben as well.

Prayers for Larry Boord who is in Schenectady Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing after a fall at home. Please include Barbara as well

Prayers of encouragement for Helen Inglis who is continuing to work hard at rehabilitation after suffering a stroke. Helen is now living in the Guilderland Atria, 300 Mill Rose Court, Slingerlands, NY 12159. She can receive cards there. She is also able to have visitors. We are pleased with Helen's progress!

Prayers of encouragement for Pastor Judy and the Councils of Faith and Evangelical as they lead our congregations into a new journey of Faith in our communities.



OUR FAITH at WORK

The featured mission for the month of December is in support of the Albany Maritime Ministry. The Albany Maritime Ministry is an ecumenical group of volunteers who offer a warm welcome and a variety of support services to seafarers that dock at the Seafarers Center in the Port of Albany. Most seafarers have been at sea for weeks or months. The Albany Maritime Ministry welcome seafarers, offer a clothing bank, help seafarers contact loved ones,

conduct a Christmas at sea program, provide bible and devotional materials, provide pastoral counseling and van transportation

The Bread of Life Food pantry is asking for the following items this month: Fruit juice (low sugar), canned fruit (in own juice), stew, hash or chili (canned), coffee (instant), baked beans (like Bushes), snacks & baking mixes, sugar, flour & cooking oil, cereal, jams or jellies, mayo, mustard and ketchup. The following non-food items are always needed: laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, toothbrushes (adult), toothpaste, soap, shampoo and deodorant

Diana Rieker, Missions



I want to start off by apologizing for the lack of communication about the kids in recent months. Things have certainly been hectic with all the Sunday School families, and since we were still in a state of unsurety about our next steps, there really wasn't much going on.

We are happy to have Pastor Judy on board and are looking forward to sitting down to talk to her about the future of the children's faith-based education. We are excited for the next steps as a church family and are hoping to plan some Christmas events for this year. In addition, we will be updating you on our "pig" collections soon. Hopefully, the next newsletter will be full of a lot of information and plans about the kid's and their activities!

Sara Martin
Education Director

CHOIR

After a summer break, the Choir will be starting up again in the near future. Stay tuned for an official start date.

All voices are welcomed. Generally, practices are held on Thursday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. Any questions??? Speak to Donna Van Zandt.

SERVING FAITH in DECEMBER

Dec.1	Altar	Roberta Hayward and LouAnn Behrens
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Carol Karpfen Mike Moroskey and Katie Bonnier
	Counters	Diane and Rich Anderson
	Coffee Hour	Fred and Michele Howard
Dec. 8	Altar	Roberta Hayward and JouAnn Behrens
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Fred Howard B. Morgan, B Stevens, B. Speanburg
	Counters	Donna Gibson and Linda Hulihan
	Coffee Hour	Dinner Club Committee
Dec.15	Altar	Polly Hayward and Evelyn Jarosz
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Errol Bull Diana Rieker and Jim Peters
	Counters	Pat Brundige and Joyce Duncan
	Coffee Hour	Sara and John Martin
Dec.22	Altar	Polly Hayward and Evelyn Jarosz
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Donna Gibson Carol Perrott and Ron Turcotte
	Counters	Michele and Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	Doug and Kathy Adamek

Dec.24	Altar	Donna Gibson and Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant Ushers	To be announced To be announced
	Counters	LouAnn Behrens and Janet Walsh
Dec.25	Altar	Donna Gibson and Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant Ushers	To be announced To be announced
	Counters	LouAnn Behrens and Janet Walsh
Dec.29	Altar	Sharon Morris and Polly Hayward
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Aaron Cordes Roberta and Rob Hayward
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Merilyn Niles and Janet Walsh

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.

**Worship Chairperson.
Roberta Hayward, Altar Guild
Coffee Hour**

CHRISTMAS BASKETS 2019

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

As in past years, 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. Together we can make it happen. We are ALSO posting a list of needed items in the narthex for anyone who would rather shop. This will make it much easier for us to organize and distribute. We will do it again at Christmas including clothes and some toys for 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 and Merry Christmas,

Lou Ann Behrens



FLOWERS for DECEMBER

- Dec. 1 To the Glory of God**
- Dec. 8 In Loving Memory of Harold Behrens Jr. Family**
- Dec. 15 To the Glory of God**
- Dec. 22 Poinsettias will adorn the altar in Memory of loved ones.**
- Dec. 24 Poinsettias will adorn the altar in Memory of loved ones**
- Dec. 25 Poinsettias will adorn the altar in Memory of loved ones**
- Dec. 29 To the Glory of God**

Flowers Calendar for 2020

The 2020 flower calendar has been posted on the bulletin board in the back of the Narthax. If you would like to place flowers on the Altar in 2020, please place the following information on the appropriate date. In memory or honor of _____ . Given by _____

The price of each bouquet continues to be \$19.00. Any questions and/or payment should be directed to Donna Van Zandt. Checks made payable to WELCA.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

On Sunday, December 8, the annual Christmas Concert will be held at 2:00 PM at Cornerstone Church in Lansingburgh. This annual event has a combined choir gathered from several area churches. Most of the members of Faith’s Choir participate. It’s a time when we can all remember and celebrate the Spiritual aspects of this most holy season. Admission is free, and there will be a free will offering that will support one of our community-based charities. A time of fellowship follows the program with refreshments and fellowship in the church hall. Mark your calendars – Cornerstone Community Church, 570 Third Avenue (corner of 3rd Ave. and 115th St.), Lansingburgh.

On Sunday, December 15, the Sunday School children plus some parents and choir members will go caroling and visit some of our shut-in members. The group will assemble at the church at 1:00 PM and leave from there.



JOINT PRAYER GROUP

Faith Lutheran and Evangelical Lutheran have a Joint Prayer Group that has been active since June 2016. There are approximately 12 of us that pray on a regular basis for our churches, for our new

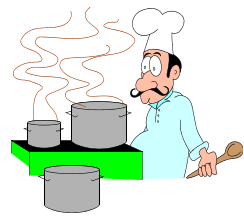
Pastor and for healing for our members and others in need of prayer.

Most of our group prays at home although several of us have been meeting together at Evangelical or Faith on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm to pray together.

Pray for spiritual revival in this area. Pray also for the churches in this area that are struggling and in need of pastors.

If you, a loved one, or someone you know would like to be included on the specific list for prayers, please let me know

Michele Howard, mcvh44@aol.com, (518) 753-4288, or in person on Sunday Morning



DINNER CLUB

Decembers Dinner Club will be on the 14th at 6:00PM with dinner served at 6:30PM. The annual Christmas celebration is planned with everyone bringing a grab bag gift of no more than \$10.00. Everyone is invited to join in on 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.

STEWARDSHIP

The Faith Promise Card for 2020 is included with this newsletter. Hard copies will also be available at the church. As we move forward with a new pastor and possible new programs, I am asking each of you to make a financial commitment to help underwrite our Ministries for the coming year. There are three contribution categories that you can pledge your support to. The first is **CURRENT EXPENSES** which is for support of church operations. As is the case in prior years, we commit a portion of our annual income to support of our Synod and of Lutheran Mission and outreach programs, so some of what is given under the **CURRENT EXPENSE**

category is forwarded to Synod. A second category is **BENEVOLENCES**. All of this money goes to Synod and Lutheran programs. The third category is **MISSIONS**. Missions offerings collected each month go to the Mission of the Month which we select each year (many of the missions stay the same from year to year). The amount collected in a given month is passed directly to the designated mission. You read about the missions that we are supporting in the newsletter.

God bless you as you consider your commitment for the coming year, and please do let us know how you plan to support Faith going forward in the new year.

Fred Howard,
Stewardship

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

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 church web site at:

www.faihlutheranchurchtroy.com any time and view the newsletter.

We will email you a copy if you send your email address directly to Barbara at:

barbboord@hotmail.com.

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

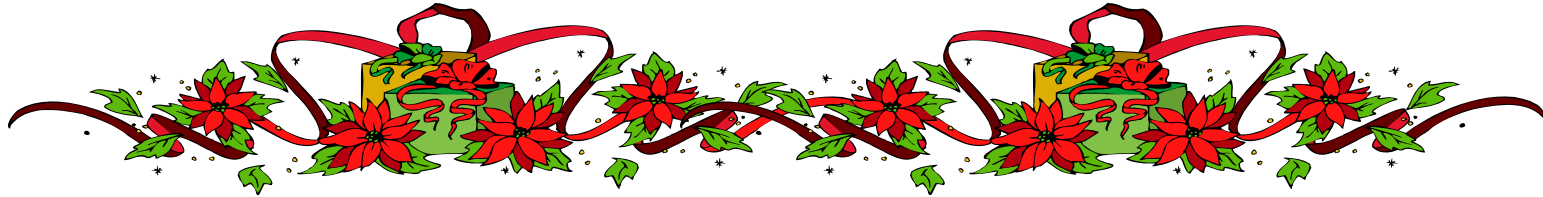
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletter item deadline for the January 2020 newsletter is Monday: December 17th. Please email your articles to: barbboord@hotmail.com.



DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2:00 PM Community Choir @ Cornerstone Community Church	<i>CREATIVE THREADS</i> 10:30 AM <i>COUNCIL</i> 7:00 PM		Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM			DINNER CLUB 6:00 PM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
CAROLING 1:00 PM WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL	<i>CREATIVE THREADS</i> 10:30 AM	NEWSLETTER Articles Due		Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	<i>CREATIVE THREADS</i> 10:30 AM	CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS			
29	30					
	<i>CREATIVE THREADS</i> 10:30 AM NEW YEARS EVE					



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 16, 2019. (If possible, please fill out a separate order form for each plant.)

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) at \$12.00 each in loving memory of or in honor of:

Given by: _____

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

**Please make checks payable to WELCA
Flowers**

FAITH PROMISE CARD FOR 2020

Remembering the material blessings that God has given to me, I plan to support the Ministries and Programs of Faith Lutheran Church in 2020 as follows:

Current Expenses \$ _____ Frequency (Circle one)
(These contributions support church operations at Faith Lutheran) per week/per month

Benevolences \$ _____ per week/per month
(A portion of the 8.5% of income forwarded to Synod for Lutheran programs)

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

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

Service:

Name: I want to help with the activities or committees listed below:

Address:

e-mail or phone

Please return this card with your offering or by mail by December 25th.