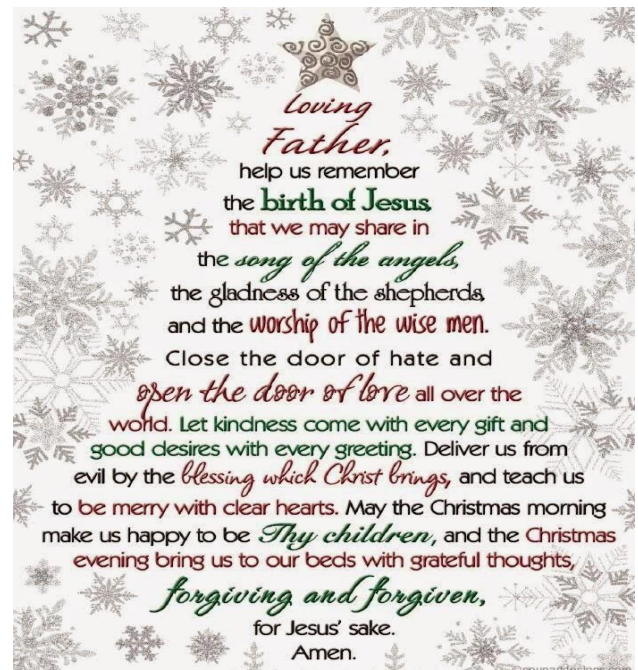


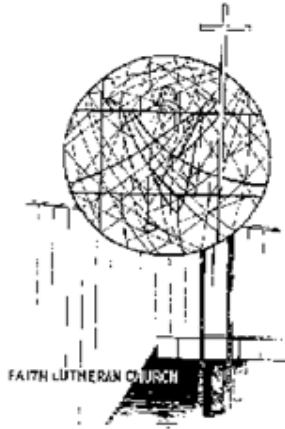
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

December 2018





Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent!

In this Advent season, we anticipate and acknowledge the presence of the light that no darkness can overcome, Jesus Christ.

The church sets aside Advent as a short season of preparation and waiting, of longing – not so much for Christmas season, but more so for the redemption of all things. What are you waiting and preparing for this December? Try placing your focus on the Lord Jesus' soon return this Advent, rather than on gifts, greens and grinchies. Advent is traditionally a time of self-examination and repentance, as we study the teachings of John the Baptist and remember the run-up to Jesus' first coming. From the crucible of repentance emerges God's forgiveness, which enables our joy. We can then enter more fully into the Advent season by taking time to identify the things that keep us from loving of God and loving people. Then we can enter into the quiet calm of a clear conscience, and reconciled relationships.

A wise man once suggested that early in Advent season each year, we make a list of everything we can think of, from which we would like to be set free.

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

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

Church Council Officers:

**Fred Howard (President)
Evelyn Jarosz (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Donna Gibson (Secretary)**

Council Members

**Doug Adamek (Education)
Donna Gibson (Stewardship)
Rob Hayward
(Office Oversight/Admin)
Linda Hulihan
Evelyn Jarosz (In Reach/Out Reach)
(Missions)
Mike Moroskey (Property)
Sharon Morris (In Reach/Out Reach)
Ben Wagar (Property)**

It may be a bad habit, a vice, doubt, disappointment or anything that prevents us from living in the Christmas spirit of love, joy, and peace. Whatever it may be, confess it, and commit it to the only one who frees us forever – the Lord Jesus, who died for our sins. Receive God's forgiveness and then wait with hope, confident that God is near. Our Immanuel is coming soon!

Adapted from an Internet Message

DECEMBER SCHEDULE AND COVERAGE

We have Pastoral coverage scheduled through December. We look forward to seeing beloved, familiar faces in the Pulpit

- December 2 - Pastor John Knarvik – First Sunday of Advent
- December 9 - Pastor Rahel Hahn – Second Sunday of Advent
- December 16 - Pastor Jim Hulihan – Third Sunday of Advent
- December 23 - Pastor Rahel Hahn – Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24 at 7:00 PM - Pastor Jim Hulihan Christmas Eve
- December 30 - Pastor Rahel Hahn

There will be no Christmas day service this year.



OUR FAITH at WORK

The featured mission for the month of December will be in support of the 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; the Albany Maritime Ministry reaches out to them with help and support.

A few of their programs are:

- Welcoming them on their ships
- A clothing Bank
- Help seafarers contact loved ones
- Christmas at sea program
- Outreach with bible and devotional materials
- Offer Pastoral Counseling
- Provide transportation and van service

Your continued support for this Ministry is greatly appreciated.

The Pill Bottle mission has been such a success necessitating many more shipments than anticipated. In order to catch up with your generous donations the mission will be temporarily suspended ending December 16th.

The latest list of items needed for the Bread of Life Food Pantry is as follows. Fruit juice (low sugar), canned fruit, apple sauce, stuffing & gravy mix, coffee (instant & ground), soups & spaghetti sauce, snacks & puddings,

sugar & cooking oil, canned vegetables, condiments, laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, tooth paste, soap, shampoo and deodorant.

Donations of Pull Tabs have almost filled a five-gallon pail. Keep up the good work!

Please don't forget the Box Tops. Our school will benefit from the equipment the collection of the box tops will provide.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Please pray for John Hostettler as he continues his journey to recovery. Prayers are needed for Peter Edelman as he deals with cancer.

Kathy Adamek continues to recover from her surgery and is currently undergoing Physical Therapy. Prayers for healing are appreciated.

Evelyn Jarosz recently had the opportunity to visit with Rev. Jennifer Wegter McNelly. They are working on a project together. Pastor Jennifer seemed to be in good spirits at the time of Evelyn's visit. Please continue your prayers for her.

Pastor Jennifer just posted a new update to Caring Bridge.com if anyone is interested.

Rev. Bill Hempel continues his courageous fight with cancer. Your prayers of support and strength are greatly appreciated.

Continued Prayers are requested, Paul Molesky and Larry Boord as they continue their health journeys.

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FOR 2019

We are looking for members who are willing to serve on our Council this coming year. Term of office is 2 years and members are elected at large at our annual congregational meeting. Election of Officers and committee appointments take place at the Council Organizational meeting after our Annual meeting.

If you are willing to accept nomination and are willing to serve this coming year as the future of faith will be determined, let me or someone on this year's council know. Thanks for considering!

Fred Howard
farmerf169@aol.com
 518 421 4576



Operation Christmas Child boxes are all packed and ready to go! We delivered 34 boxes to the drop off location last week and they will be starting their journey to a child in need. If you selected the online option to track your shoebox as many of the Sunday School children did, keep us posted about where it ends up. The Sunday School will keep you all updated on the trip our boxes took around the world!

Although our plans for Christmas are still up in the air, we are planning to make some gifts for the members of our congregation that can't make it in to church, and potentially go Christmas caroling. We are also hoping to help decorate the church.

Merry CHRISTmas!!!

Sara Martin
 Education Director



The monthly meeting of WELCA was held Tuesday, November 20th. At this gathering the Thank Offering was collected to be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

The December 1st annual Christmas luncheon was discussed, and the program planned. Following the luncheon, the home baked Christmas cookies will be packed for distribution for our "Special Care" church family members.

December 16th is the last Sunday that the gift boxes for the Seafarer's Maritime Mission will be collected. Boxes can be placed on the table with the collection containers for the "Pull Tabs" and the "Box Tops for Education". We're anticipating having a number of boxes to deliver to the Port of Albany in time for Christmas.

Our next meeting will be January 15th at 10:00 a.m. Won't you set aside the morning and join us?

SERVING FAITH in DECEMBER

Dec. 2 nd	Altar	Stephanie Wagar and Donna Gibson
	Lay Assistant	Rich Anderson
	Ushers	Carol Perrott and Mike Moroskey
	Counters	LouAnn Behrens and Janet Walsh
	Coffee Hour	Not Available
Dec. 9 th	Altar	Stephanie Wagar and Donna Gibson
	Lay Assistant	Aaron Cordes
	Ushers	Diana Rieker and Jim Peters
	Counters	Pat Brundige and Joyce Duncan
	Coffee Hour	Not Available

Dec. 16 th	Altar	Karen Cordes and Roberta Hayward
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Donna Gibson Barb Boord and Stephanie Wagar
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Not Available
Dec. 23 rd	Altar	Karen Cordes and Roberta Hayward
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Donna Gibson Errol And Ryland Bull
	Counters	Fred and Michele Howard
	Coffee Hour	Not Available
Dec. 24 th	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Evelyn Jarosz
	Lay Assistant Ushers	To Be Determined
	Counters	
	Coffee Hour	Not Available
Nov. 30 th	Altar	Janet Walsh and LouAnn Behrens
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Fred Howard B. Morgan, B. Speanburg and B. Stevens
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Not Available

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.
Roberta Hayward, Altar Guild*

Heather Bull, Coffee Hour

FLOWERS for DECEMBER

Dec. 2nd	To the Glory of God
Dec. 9th	To the Glory of God
Dec. 16th	Poinsettias
Dec. 23rd	Poinsettias
Dec. 25th	Poinsettias
Dec. 30th	To the Glory of God

A new flower chart for 2019 has been hung in the Narthex. If you would like to place a bouquet of flowers on the Altar in honor of or in memory of someone during the year, please place your name and who will be remembered with these flowers on the appropriate line. Bouquets continue to be \$19.00 each.

Should you have any questions, see Donna Van Zandt

CHOIR

To all congregants who enjoy singing to the Lord. Faiths' Choir is about to begin again. If you would like to join the choir this year, we would love to have you! Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m.



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

Most of our group pray at home although several of us have been meeting on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.

Please contact Michele Howard for further information. (518-753-4288)

CHRISTMAS BASKETS 2018

As we begin our preparation for the Christmas, 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 a difference.

Your donation will provide Christmas Dinner as well as additional food items for a few local families as well as 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.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT CORNERSTONE

Each year Cornerstone Community Church of Lansingburg hosts a Christmas Concert. It is a wonderful musical event, including some narration, with a 30+ member choir coming from several Lansingburg area churches including Faith Lutheran. ***And it came to pass, Emmanuel*** is the theme of this year's program. It is scheduled for 3:00 PM, Sunday, December 9. A free will offering is taken that will go to support ministries aiding the victims of various natural disasters which have taken place this past year. The program is followed by a social hour with refreshments. You are invited, and we hope that you will be able to attend!

VISION MISSION TO HONDURAS

The First Presbyterian Church of Chili (near Rochester) will be missioning to rural Honduras mid-March 2019. The issue at hand in the community is lack of vision care with reports of children dropping out of school because they cannot read the board nor their books. Their needs are listed as: a mobile Autorefractor and Phoropter, lenses, glasses, eye patches and lensometer.

If anyone would like to donate any of these items, there will be a box stationed in the Narthex.

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.faithlutheranchurchtroy.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 November newsletter is Monday December 17th. Please email your articles to: barbboord@hotmail.com.

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
2 Rev. John Knarvik	3 <i>Council 7 PM</i>	4 ELECTION DAY	5	6 Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	7	8 DINNER CLUB 6:30 PM
9 Rev. Rahel Hahn	10	11	12 Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	13 Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	14	15
16 Rev. Jim Hulihan	17	18	19	20 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	21	22
23 Rev. Rahel Hahn	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service</i> Rev. Jim Hulihan	25 CHRISTMAS	26 Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	27 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	28	29
30 Rev. Rahel Hahn	31 New Year's Eve					