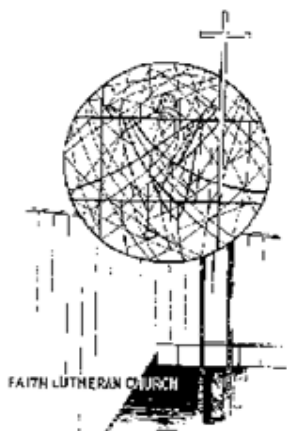


50 Leverage Road
Troy, New York 12180



Following Faith

FEBRUARY 2016

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The Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2016



The Lenten Invitation

Lent is coming! February 10th will soon be upon us. Lent are those days of being invited by God. "Come back to me, with all of your heart," our Lord beckons. "We will," we respond, but we aren't quite ready yet, our hearts are not prepared. We want to squirm, evade, avoid. Our souls not yet perfect. We are not ready for God to love us.

Ok, ok, I really will. Just a few things at work; and a little time in prayer. Let me clean my oven, tidy my closets. Sell my yoke of oxen. Check a field I have purchased....

Come back to me, with all of your heart.

It is an extraordinary invitation to each of us. God invites us to drop our defenses and realize that *our* standards of judging and loving are so very different from God's.

From the first day of Lent, the Ash Wednesday readings let God's be clear: "Return to me with your whole heart."

"A clean heart; create for me, O God," Psalm 51 offers. "Give me back the joy of your salvation." That is exactly what our loving God wants to give us, the joy of salvation.



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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Sunday morning worship: 10:30 A.M.
Sunday School: during worship

The Rev. William Hempel, 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 Rieker (Stewardship)
Donna VanZandt (Worship)

Lent begins in winter when days are cold and dark, perfect for hiding ourselves indoors, perfect for hiding from God. But our God is the parent of the Prodigal Child, waiting faithfully, eagerly looking for our return, night after night. There are no folded arms and stern judging stares, only the straining eyes of a parent eager for our return, longing to embrace us and rejoice in us.

Yet we spend so much time trying to think of *how* to return and what to say, how to begin the conversation. It's only when we finally appear, that we understand we don't have to say anything. We only have to show up.

So, what is it that stops us from this great reunion? What keeps us from accepting this invitation to something deeper? Aren't there things we should say first: "If God really knew about me..." It doesn't matter. None of it matters.

Come back to me, with all of your heart.

To accept this call is simple once we get beyond the fear. All we need say is, "I'm here. Where do I start?"- No explanations are necessary.

What's the next step? Take the first moments of our day, before we're out of bed to thank God for opening our hearts to it. We could remember throughout the day the invitation that has moved our hearts: *Come back to me, with all of your heart.* And we can rejoice along with God.

That is the invitation of each day of Lent. Today is the day to accept it.

Pastor Bill

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Prayers of healing and strength are extended to Larry Lansing during his current fight with cancer. Bob Duncan is recuperating from BLEPHAROPLASTY a surgery to correct drooping eyelids. Doctors felt the surgery was necessary to properly care for his eyes in the future.

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10th

This year Faith will host the afternoon service beginning at 4:00 P.M. For those who cannot make the earlier worship or simply prefer a later service, Evangelical of Poestenkill will host the 7:00 P.M. service. Both worship services will offer ashes and Holy Communion.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7th

Traditionally we collect monetary donations in a big soup pot at the back of the church on Super Bowl Sunday. 100% of donations are given to local food kitchens and pantries. In so doing we join thousands of churches across the nation in raising millions of dollars for the hungry. What a way to make this day a **SOUPER** Sunday!

COUNCIL SUMMARY

The preliminary Annual Budget which included a recommendation to add a budget line for Capital Improvements and carried forward to 2016 the same amounts for Pastoral Ministry and Music Director as approved in the 2015 budget was discussed and approved by the council for presentation to the congregation on January 24th at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The proposed budget, as presented; was subsequently passed at the 2016 Congregational Meeting. Also at the meeting 5 positions on the Church Council needed to be filled. The Nominating Committee presented the following Congregational Members willing to serve a 2 year term Dana Cerrone, Evelyn Jarosz, Pam Perras and Benjamin Wagar and for a 1 year term Donna Van Zandt. Council President David Truland asked the Congregation approved the casting of 1 vote to complete the election of the new Council members. The Congregation accepted these new Council Members.

A motion was presented and passed to allow up to \$9,000 of Memorial Funds to be used for Repairs to the Roof Cross.

The next scheduled Council Meeting is February 1, 2016.

Officers and Committee Members for 2016 will be elected at the February meeting.

The Council wishes to thank the members who have completed their terms for their fine service and wish a warm welcome to the newly elected members.

Council will hold its' next meeting on March 7, 2016 questions or concerns can be discussed with any Council Member.

Joyce Duncan, Secretary



Not much news to report for this month. We are back to Sunday School for the new year and will be starting a “new” curriculum. We will be going back to the Spark curriculum which we have used in the past. This set of worksheets and activities seems to fit best with our needs.

During February there will be Sunday School on the 7th , 21st and 28th.

Hope to see all the kids there!

Sara Martin, Education Director

FLOWERS for FEBRUARY

February 7th To the Glory of God

February 14th To the Glory of God

February 21st To the Glory of God

February 28th To the Glory of God

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our mission for the month of February will be in support of the important work of Jeff and Sissie D’Jernes as Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The D’Jernes have been working in Papua New Guinea for many years and count on the support they receive from congregations like ours to continue their work.

Among other things, Jeff and Sissie work to translate the Bible into the language used by the Arop-Lokep people of Papua New Guinea.

Jeff and Sissie are also a voice to the Arop-Lokep people on issues of AIDS awareness, linguistic vitality, physical environment, education, matters of faith, and other topics crucial to better preparing them for the encroaching western world and global influences.

Quarterly journals from Jeff and Sissie can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carol Perrott, Missions

SERVING FAITH in FEBRUARY

Feb. 7 th	Altar	Karen Cordes and Nadeen Thompson
	Lay Assistant	Fred Howard
	Ushers	Diana Rieker and Jim Peters
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Gene & Donna St. John
Feb. 14 th	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant	Bill Jarosz
	Ushers	Ron Moss and Bill Speanberg
	Counters	Michele and Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh & Marilyn Niles
Feb. 21 st	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant	Carol Karpier
	Ushers	Donna Truland and Mike Moroskey
	Counters	Donna Gibson and Linda Houlihan
	Coffee Hour	Nadeen Thompson
Feb. 28 th	Altar	Joyce Duncan and Stephanie Wagar
	Lay Assistant	Bill Maloney
	Ushers	Errol Bull and Ryland Bull
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
	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

WANTED

The church is always in need of more volunteers. It would be appreciated if you would consider helping on any one of the various committees/groups that we have. Worship Assistants, Ushers, Counters, Altar Guild, Coffee Hour, and the Choir to name a few. 'The more the merrier' as they say. If interested in joining or helping with any of the fore mentioned, please speak with Donna Van Zandt. You will be pleasantly surprised how easy it is!

Thank you.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

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



WELCA did not meet in January due to the frigid weather, and members being away or sick. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th at 10:00 AM at the church.

Valentine's Day is approaching and we will be packing valentine cookies for the shut-ins on

Sunday, February 7th following worship. As usual we will be happy to receive contributions of cookies for this project. Thank you for your assistance.

We are also collecting soap for Lutheran World Relief. LWR accepts new bars of soap (any brand) in the original wrapping. All sizes are accepted; however bath bars (4 - 5 oz.) are preferred. Your contributions are gratefully appreciated.



DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club's Annual Dinner will be held on February 13th in the fellowship hall starting at 6:00 PM with Hor dourves. A delicious dinner and dessert will follow at 6:30 PM. Cost for this most enjoyable feast is \$12.00 per person. Anyone interested in attending would be truly welcome to enjoy this fine evening of good food and fellowship. Bob and Polly Hayward or any of the other officers of the dinner club would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in attending.

BARBARA BOORD NEWSLETTER EDITOR/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 web site at:
www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com any time and see the newsletter there.

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 March newsletter deadline is Monday February 23rd. Please email your articles to barbboord@hotmail.com.

Assistance with the compiling and distribution of the Newsletter is always appreciated. Anyone that can give some time to this joint effort is encouraged to contact me at the above e-mail address.

February 2016



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	5	6
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
7 SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY	8	9	10 Ash Wednesday	11 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	12	13 Dinner Club 6:00 PM
			Speigle Elders 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM			
14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16 WELCA Meeting 10:00 AM	17	18 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	19	20
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	26	27
			Speigle Elders 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM			
28	29					

