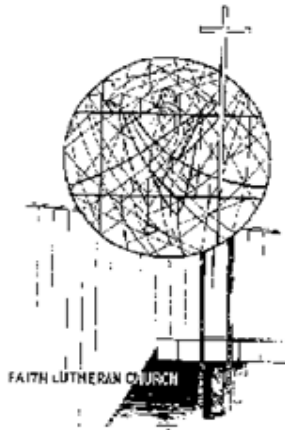


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

JANUARY 2018



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"Happy New Year!" is what many people shout as the clock moves from 11:59 PM on Dec. 31 to 12:00 AM on Jan. 01. The commencement of a new year feels like a fresh start to many. Resolutions are made. New tasks are undertaken. Plans and goals are set. It marks a time of a fresh start.

When you were baptized, you received not only a fresh start, you were crucified with Christ and raised to new life in Christ. You died and were re-born in the death and resurrection of Christ. You did not simply get a "fresh start" nor did you simply get a "get out of hell free" card, as if baptism was your ticket in a theological *Monopoly* game. You received a New Life.

While I wish everyone a "Happy New Year," I also know what a hollow and finite sentiment that is. Instead of "Happy New Year," I wish you a year of **Blessed Baptismal New Beginnings**. I pray that you might find new opportunities, each and every day, to live and grow in the Spirit, via the covenant of your Baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit, ONE GOD. Many days, finding those moments or opportunities may be very small, but I invite you, in 2018, to be actively intentional in living in the blessing and covenant of Holy Baptism that you have received.

Holy Baptism is God's gift to you and for you. It is God's Word, action and promise for you. It is God's binding covenant with you that you are God's child. The gift of faith in God is imparted to you so that you may grow in the love and knowledge of God, nurtured in you through parents, godparents, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and many other people of faith in your life that God provides for you. God provides the gift and covenant for you. God gives the gift and promise to you. God nurtures you in faith to live in your baptismal covenant.

You do not *earn* God's grace by living every day in your baptismal covenant. God's gift is costly, but it is free. **Living actively and daily in the promises of your baptismal covenant is a faithful response to God's love and mercy upon you, at work in your life.**



**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. Laretta Dietrich, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

**Fred Howard (President)
Jarosz (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
Michele Howard/
Pam Perras (Financial Secretaries)**

Council Members

**Doug Adamek (Education)
Errol Bull (Property)
Donna Gibson (Stewardship)
Rob Hayward
(Office Oversight/Admin)
Evelyn Jarosz (In Reach/Out Reach)
Sharon Morris (Worship)
Carol Perrott (Missions)
Pam Perras (In Reach/Out Reach)
Ben Wagar (Property)**

In Christ, through regular confession, repentance, and forgiveness, we receive a fresh, clean start in Christ our Savior. Some may do this daily, if not multiple times daily, in our prayers with God. Others may engage in this radical act only on Sunday mornings, during "Confession and Forgiveness" at the beginning of every time of worship. I say "radical" since this action of confession reminds us of our need for God and the gift God gives us in Christ our Lord. I say "radical" since the action of repentance asks God to forgive us and re-form us into persons who live **Christ-centered** lives. I say "radical" since God's actions for us are radical: God gave His Only Son for us, to die and pay the price for our Sin and our sins. We even state it in the Nicene Creed: "For us and for our salvation [Christ] came down from heaven. . . For our sake he was crucified, . . . suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures." If that is not radical action and radical love, I do not know what is. Emmanuel, God with us, laid down his life for you.

You have God's radical love upon you. The Holy Spirit of God is with you. **You have been marked with the cross of (+) Christ forever, and you are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world.** How do you embrace this commitment to live into **Blessed Baptismal New Beginnings**? I invite you to look at Luther's Small Catechism and the section on "The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (you may or should have a copy at home, but if not, look in the back of the red ELW hymnal at church, pp. 1164-65) and look up the order for Holy Baptism in the front of the hymnal. I invite you to study these things and read your Bible and find how God is calling **you** to live every day in **Blessed Baptismal New Beginnings**.

Happy New Year, People of God, and may each day call you into opportunities of **Blessed Baptismal New (Renewed) Beginnings in Christ**, your Lord and Savior.

Pastor Dietrich

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

In this season of Joy and Adoration please pause and remember our Brothers and Sisters in Faith who are still recovering. Rev. Hempel, Rev. Wegter-McNelly, Rev. Dietrich, Peter Edelman, Paul Molesky, Dave Cerrone and Larry Boord.

CHANGE OF DIRECTION

Caring Bridge Journal entry by Jennifer Wegter-McNelly — December 20, 2017

I hit another bump in the road this month. Though eight months of chemo and immunological treatment has made a lot of progress on the original cancer sites, a scan revealed a new cancer site in another location. That was not good news, but we were quickly introduced to new doctors who are connected to the original team at Dana Farber. I had a focused radiation treatment (SRS) a couple of weeks ago, with no significant side effects. The radiation oncologist was confident that it would be effective on the new site for the time being.

My treatment and schedule have changed with this news. I get a break from weekly chemotherapy (yay! Goodbye, toxic Taxol.) Instead, I'll continue the trial drug and the infusion of immunologicals once every three weeks. That means traveling to Boston two or three times a month for treatment and scans, a big improvement over the weekly trips of the last nine months. Some of the side effects has also eased with the treatment change. I continue to be incredibly grateful to the medical care I am getting and have no niggling doubts that I am not in the right place or working with the right doctors for me.

In other news of the season, Kirk, Keller, and I are taking advantage of me not serving a congregation right now to go visit relatives in Minnesota over the holidays. We'll spend Christmas and days following with my big extended family, see our friends Mary and Jane, and have a couple of days with Kirk's brother Todd, Julie, and Oma Diane. The grand finale will be my cousin Paige's New Year's Eve wedding to her sweetie Shane. It will be a busy and festive time with a bunch of people we care about before we fly home just in time for Kirk and Keller to drop back into school on January 2.

I always seem to end these updates with the same thought, but sometimes the truth is consistent. We remain very grateful for the many wonderful people in our lives; for love, support, and many moments of joy; for good books, gifts of hot dish, and thoughtful letters and cards; and for the therapy of Stress Baking, a lovely and buttery way to indulge Stress Eating.

Finally, here is a fun moment from Keller's [winter choir concert](#).

Peace, Jennifer

THE NEW YEAR

Happy New Year to all. This is the year when we will call our new Pastor. We look forward to moving forward in our journey together with a new shepherd.

Our annual meeting has been scheduled for January 28, 2018, immediately following morning worship service. We will have our usual Annual Report and election of officers. In addition, we will discuss our call status and review pertinent sections of our Ministry Site Profile submission and reflect on the commitments that our congregation is making as we move forward in this call process.

Fred Howard, President

COUNCIL SUMMARY

A preliminary 2018 budget was prepared and distributed to Council members for review. The Council discussed member terms expiring and candidates for the nominating committee. A nominating committee will identify candidates to replace outgoing Council members. The annual congregation meeting is scheduled for January 28th, 2018.

The Council discussed several topics regarding the Ministry Site Profile. This included a brainstorm of how the congregation can support and encourage the rostered leader during the 1st year, the choice of references listed for Faith and overall additions, edits or corrections.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday January 8th, 2018 at 7pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary

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.



Another wonderful Christmas has passed and it is time again for the first newsletter "article" of the new year! The annual Christmas program went off without a hitch. This year, the kids taught all of us about the true meaning of Christmas through pictures and words. Afterwards, a few families were able to help decorate the FLC Christmas tree, it looks awesome. Thank you again for all your support.

Operation Christmas Child was a smaller effort this year than previous years, but we still had several boxes collected to send to children in need. Next year the materials will be ordered and distributed a little earlier and we will see if we can beat our record of 43 boxes from a couple of years ago.

For 2018 we are hoping to start using a newly donated Smart TV and a newly purchased laptop to help bring our Sunday School into the technological "present". It will be a great addition to our program and we will keep you updated.

A happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to you all!

Sara Martin, Education Director

FLOWERS for JANUARY

January 7 th	In memory of Marilyn Howard Given by Michele and Fred Howard
January 14 th	To the Glory of God
January 21 st	To the Glory of God
January 28 th	In Memory of Bob Laustrop Given by Mom and Dad

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our mission for the month of January will be in support of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

The Regional Food Bank provides food assistance to over 1,000 charitable agencies serving the hungry and disadvantaged, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, youth programs, senior programs, and programs for the disabled.

Your thoughtful contributions will help feed the hungry and provide peace of mind to thousands of individuals and families who live in the shadow of hunger and food insecurity daily.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carol Perrott, Missions

SERVING FAITH in JANUARY

Jan. 7 th	Altar	Polly Hayward and Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Errol Bull Carol Perrott and Stephanie Wagar
	Counters	Pat Brundige and Joyce Duncan
	Coffee Hour	Carolyn Rouse and Donna Gibson
Jan. 14 th	Altar	LouAnn Behrens and Stephanie Wagar
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Rich Anderson Diana Rieker and Jim Peters
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Heather and Errol Bull

Jan. 21 st	Altar	LouAnn Behrens and Stephanie Wagar
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Aaron Cordes B. Morgan and B. Stevens
	Counters	Diane and Rich Anderson
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh and Merilyn Niles
Jan. 28 th	Altar	Sharon Morris and Evelyn Jarosz
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Fred Howard Errol and Ryland Bull
	Counters	LouAnn Behrens and Janet Walsh
	Coffee Hour	Sara and John Martin

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



December 2nd was the Christmas party for the women of the congregation. Once again, this year everyone brought a luscious dish to share with the group. It was hard to choose which was the "favorite" of the day! Following lunch, the ladies got busy packing and wrapping gifts for the Seafarer's Mission. This year there were 13 very full gift boxes wrapped and ready to be distributed at the Port of Albany. The ladies thanked Helen Inglis for coordinating this year's effort. Sunday, December 17th, the ladies were busy packing all the donated homemade cookies for our special care people. A great big thank you to the congregation for all the yummy cookies baked and given for this purpose.

The ladies will have their regular meeting January 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Sunday school room. The study on the Apostle Creed will continue. Everyone is most welcome to join with the ladies for study and fellowship.



DINNER CLUB

The annual Christmas party for Dinner Club was December 9th. The evening was celebrated with a delicious roast pork dinner served by the officers. Following dinner there was a rousing game of Christmas Trivia Pursuit and our annual singing of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Everyone was in "good" voice and it was agreed that this year's singing was one of our best efforts. The evening was topped off with the exchange of grab bag gifts. A good time was had by all!

January 13th will be our next dinner. This evening will be a potluck supper giving everyone a chance to bring a favorite dish to share. The committee for January is Helen Inglis, Ron and Carol Karpfen, Marilyn Niles and Pam Zeph. Cocktails are served at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Hope you can attend and join in the fellowship of the evening. It's easy just make a reservation with one of the committee members.



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!!!

We want to thank everyone who participated in any way for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food and gift collection. The need was GREAT THIS YEAR! HOWEVER, due to the very generous contributions of money, shopping, wrapping etc., we were able to fulfill the wishes of 3 families encompassing 8 children and 4 adults. A joint effort in the name of God makes all things possible.

God Bless You All,
Lou Ann Behrens
Pat Turcotte

BARBARA BOORD 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 her email address barbboord@hotmail.com.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The February newsletter deadline is Monday January 22nd. 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.

JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	HAPPY NEW YEAR			<i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>		
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 A.M. COUNCIL 7 P.M.		Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	<i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>		Dinner Club 6:00 PM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				<i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>		
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 A.M. Newsletter Items	WELCA 10:00 A.M.	Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	<i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>		
28	29	30	31			
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING	CREATIVE THREADS 10:30 A.M.					