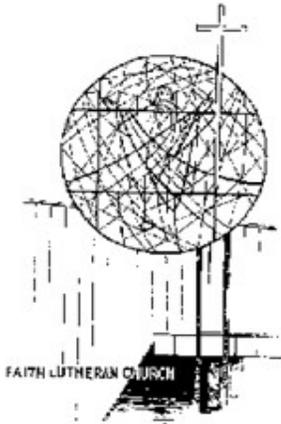


Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

JUNE 2023

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6.*

Faith Lutheran Church

50 Leverage Road
 Troy, New York 12182
 (518) 237 4641

Pastor Kate Drefke

drefkekate@gmail.com

(518) 279 6127 (Voice and Text)

(Observes Sabbath 9:00 PM Thursday thru Friday)

(In an emergency call the number above)

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Gospel and Sermon Recordings <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>

Sunday Morning Worship

In Person and Zoom

10:45 AM at Faith

Church Council Officers**(Committee Assignments)****Council Members**

Bill Jarosz, President (Property)

Sara Martin, Vice President (Education)

Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)

Roberta Hayward (Interim), Treasurer

Linda Houlihan, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek (Inreach/outreach, Missions, Property)

Katie Bonnier (Inreach/Outreach, Missions)

Errol Bull, (Property)

Evelyn Jarosz (Stewardship)

Vacant (Office Administration)

Partnership Council – Roberta Hayward, Bill Jarosz, Doug Adamek, and Donna Van Zandt
 Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

Want to Speak with Pastor?

See phone/text/email contact information above and let her know that you want to speak with her.

Pastor's Desk...

I served on church council in my mid-twenties. I was the youngest person by twenty years, a transplant from another state, single, no kids, and had a Masters degree in a tri-county area that barely got people through high school. The oldest person on council was almost exactly forty years my senior, had grown up in the congregation, married for forty-plus years, a mother and grandmother. Every month she came into council screeching, “Where are the young people?! Why aren’t there any young people?!” She (nor anyone else) ever asked me about why I, a young, single, educated adult from another place, was there. She never shared with me traditions of the congregation but was always quick to tell me when I had done

something “wrong.” I never felt like I really belonged or was welcome in my congregation.

Think for a moment about church. What does it mean to BE the Church, the Body of Christ? Recall various pieces of scripture when Jesus talks about his mission. (For a refresher or a look ahead and our readings for June and early July, check out Matthew 10, the Mission Discourse. Or review the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7.) How we read and understand these passages, the teachings of Jesus, even how we understand the law and prophets, the stories of Jewish scripture that Jesus would have known and lived by, frames how we present ourselves as Christians to the world. Do you hear “just as you did for the least of these you did for me” as instruction for seeing Jesus in your neighbors, to be aware of and tend to the interconnectedness of all humanity? Do read you read Jesus’ admonitions against divorce and think, “well, that was just a different time. Marriage and divorce are different now” while also rejecting the marriage of two men? How do we invite people to join us in hearing and *living* the Gospel we so love?

One of my absolute favorite TV shows is *Somebody Somewhere*. Both its first and current second season talk about church. Going to church. What is church. The point of church. Being accepted (or rejected) by church. In a recent episode, the best friend, who has been openly struggling with his place in church, says to the “main” character, “I think the whole point is that church is where you go when you’re confused. And you don’t have to do anything. Just show up. Come to church.”

I can name and have forgotten too many times when I have just shown up to church because ... what else? I only served a year on council. I quit my term two years early for the surface reasons of having moved and all those attendant things. But really, it was because I didn’t belong. I wasn’t welcome in my confusion, nor cared for in my lows (or highs) of life. I wasn’t included in the traditions of the congregation; I would never be looked to for the future.

This summer, I invite and encourage you to think about the times and places you have felt “at home” or welcome in your confusion, safe to grieve in life’s lows, and celebrated in life’s highs. When have you “just shown up.” Talk to the “young people” in your life about the same. Where is the church in your lives? Where are you in the life of the church?

Christ’s Peace,

Pr. Kate Drefke

What is the pastor reading?

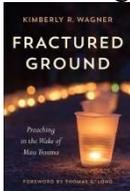
Religion and Spirituality



Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto (2022), Tricia Hersey.

Tricia Hersey opens her manifesto on the spiritual importance of resting by telling us that rest saved her life. Her nap ministry- which is about much much much much more than mere napping- has four tenants: 1. Rest is a form of resistance because it disrupts and pushes back against capitalism and white supremacy. 2. Our bodies are sites of liberation. 3. Naps provide a portal to imagine, invent, and heal. 4. Our DreamSpace has been stolen and we want it back We will reclaim it via rest. Her book is laid out in four parts (Rest! Dream! Resist! and Imagine!). I read this for continuing education and then preached on it (<https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/gVZv8U6b6zb>) if you want to know more before reading it yourself.

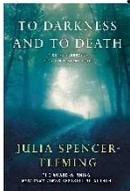
Preaching



Fractured Ground: Preaching in the Wake of Mass Trauma (2023), Kimberly R. Wagner.

Not a hard guess as to why I thought this was an important read. The first part, about and defining trauma, was a bit tough to get through because I kept remembering the various mass trauma experiences being talked about- 9/11, Parkland, Newtown, Hurricane Katrina, among others. The title, *Fractured Ground*, comes from Wagner’s understanding of our narratives becoming “fractured” in the wake of a traumatic event. E.g.: we the narrative of our lives may cease to be cohesive and feel disjointed- like dumping out a box of old snapshots.

Novel/ Mystery



To Darkness and to Death (2012), Julia Spencer-Fleming.

This is the fourth in Spencer-Fleming’s Clare Furgusson Russ van Alstyne series. Clare is a new Episcopal priest in the upstate New York town of Millers Kill, and Russ is the police chief. My father-in-law bought it for me because he thought I’d like the characters and their... romantic tension. In this novel, told over the course of a day, a woman has gone missing, another beat close to death and initially confused for the missing woman. Desperate men try to work out how to get away with murder, not lose the family business, and Clare tries to prepare for a visit from the bishop without her longings for Russ getting found out and resulting in discipline. I finished it and immediately looked up the first three in the series.

Vacation Bible School!



Poestenkill is hosting a VBS July 10-13, 5:30-7pm.

Our theme is “Water Stories” looking at Creation, Moses, baptism, and calming waters, and it comes from Illustrated Ministries’ “An Illustrated Earth” curriculum. We’re including water science into the lessons because science is one of the gifts God has given us for caring for Earth.

Student registration (pre-k through 5/6 grade) is available here: <https://forms.gle/ubFCMaa33pUeyzo56>

Helper registration (adults and high schoolers) is available here: <https://forms.gle/F4eBjtWz9PEiwt127>

Ask Pr. Kate, Laura Grooten, or Sue Decker for more information!

----- End of From Pastor’s Desk -----

May 9, 2023 Council Meeting Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 by President Bill Jarosz

- II. Pastor Kate began the meeting with prayer.
- III. Approval of Agenda as written
- IV. Secretary’s Report
Approved with corrections
- V. Treasurer’s Report
The Treasurer’s report was approved.
- VI. Financial Secretary’s Report
Accepted
- VII. President’s Report
 - Sunday’s current setting and music is different, but it is working.
 - We are receiving positive responses regarding the improvement of our sound system since the repairs have occurred.
- VIII. Pastor’s Report
 - Next week (May 15 - 17) Pastor will be working on her continuing education.
 - If there is a need for a Pastor, please contact Pastor Loyal.
 - Pastor will be taking 3 vacation Sundays. June 25, July 2, and July 30.
- IX. Committee Reports -
 - Finance Committee -
Rob H. will be sending a letter to SYNOD requesting that our funds be returned to us for future investment. Two signatures will be needed.
 - Stewardship -
How can we get back to automatic deductions/online banking? Either by Vanco, or through someone’s personnel bank? Congregants need to be informed of this. Roberta will help. Cerrone’s will help with Vanco.
 - Property -
- Fire extinguishers have been inspected.

- One or two lights will be replaced in the hallway.
- Leo (our organ/sound system technician) will be cleaning/continuing to work On the sound system, etc. Estimated cost is \$2,400.00
- Worship -
 - We are currently learning Setting One.
 - Our next worship meeting will be May 9th at 4:00 p.m.
- Partnership
 - The next meeting will be this Fall.

X. Old Business

- Cleaning the building - A work in progress. Donna V.Z. has started on one of the balcony closets.
- Investments - mentioned earlier in the meeting minutes.
- Smart Goals - Sara M. will take on this project soon.
- Church Treasurer - We are still in need of someone to take Roberta's Position. Dave C. and Roberta will be speaking soon.

XI. New Business

- Website - We are looking to move forward with this. Payment is a concern. as well as some formats.
We may need a credit card.
We need to be able to update on our own.
Discussion continued.
Pastor Kate will contact the Company and work on an agreement.
Motion to approve moving forward
- Joseph's House
As part of our new goals, Donna V.Z. suggested that we revisit working with Joseph's House. Let's work with ELCP in collecting underwear for the residents. All sizes for men, women, and children are needed. This collection will continue through-out the summer. Perhaps, eventually we could also get back to providing meals for the House, as well.
- There will be a shared outdoor service and picnic for Faith and Gilead congregants. This service will be held at Gilead on July 9th beginning at 10:00 a.m. More details to follow.

XII. Joys and Concerns

- Linda and Jim H. are celebrating their 48th anniversary on May 10th. Congratulations!!!
- Katie B. will be undergoing some knee surgery soon.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn following the Lord's

----- End of Council Meeting Highlights -----

June Mission of the Month

We will be supporting the Bread of Life Food Pantry for the June 2023 Mission. It is located next to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poestenkill. This Food Pantry is a nonprofit organization helping families supplement their food needs. Our Church has been supporting the food pantry with food donations left in the

collection box in the Narthex. A list of most needed items follows and is on the donation box. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are accepted as well to purchase other perishable items.

April 2023 Mission collection was \$190.00 in Support of Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you and God Bless!

Katie Bonnier, Inreach/Outreach.

Joseph's House

As part of a goal for Faith's Church Council we are working in conjunction with our sister church, ELCP. During the summer months Faith will be accepting donations of underwear for the people at Joseph's House in Troy. Underwear for men, women, and children (along with sports bras for women) have been requested. (socks are not needed at this time) Donations may be placed in the back of the church to be delivered this Fall. If you are unable to purchase the underwear but would like to make a monetary donation, that is acceptable as well. Make sure to label your donation for this cause. If you have a donation, but are unable to get it to Faith, let me know. I'll be happy to come and pick-up your donation.

Whatever you can donate, will be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Blessings to All,
Donna Van Zandt

Additional Worship?

The idea of an additional worship opportunity, particularly on a weeknight, has been talked about on and off at both congregations since I began as your pastor, if not before. At March's Joint Council Retreat this was talked about in more depth, and then again at Partnership Council (PC). The decision for moving forward with this idea from PC is that we would like a couple of people from each congregation to come together to create a working group exploring this in more detail. With a goal of offering a third worship service starting in the fall, the work group will be tasked with identifying WHO we most want to reach out to (e.g.: families with young children, working adults who might have work on Sunday mornings, etc.), and then what DAY and TIME might be best for that target group, and which congregation will be the host site. If you are interested in more information or possibly serving in this capacity, please let Pr. Kate and/or a member of the PC know. (Steve Keller – ELCP and Doug Adamek - FLC are our chair and co-chair this year.)



If you have any thoughts on this, please share them with a Doug Adamek, another council member, or me

Pastor Kate

Serving our May Sunday Programs

Lay Assistants

June 4 - Evelyn Jarosz
June 11 - Bill Jarosz
June 18 - Diane Dyer
June 25 - Rich Anderson

July 2 - Errol Bull

Flowers on the Altar for June

June 18 - In loving memory of Kevin Morgan.
Given by Barbara Morgan

June 25 - In loving memory of Paul Lynch. Given
by Janet Walsh.

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, fill
in the flower chart hanging on the Narthex Bulletin
Board. Please fill in your name along with who the
flowers are in memory or in honor of.

The cost continues to be \$19.00 per bouquet. Cash
or check made out to WELCA is accepted. See
Donna Van Zandt for questions and/or payment

Coffee Hour Hosts

Coffee hour is held in the multi-purpose room between 10:15 and 10:45 each Sunday through June.
A host is needed for each week! If you can host, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

June 4 – Fred and Michele
June 11 – Coffee Only
June 18 – Coffee Only
June 25 - Jim Peters

Quilt Ministry - North Wind Birds

This quilt made from different scraps of blues was constructed by Evelyn Jarosz. The quilt is named after a specific block - The North Wind Birds. There are hundreds of blocks with individual names. A quilter often takes a known name block and piece it into a whole quilt.

The North Wind Birds quilt is one of many being donated to St. Paul's Center.



Quilt Ministry – Mother’s Day (Correction!)

Due to an editorial goof up, the image of the May Quilt was left out of the emailed version of the newsletter. Too good to miss, it is reprised here!

Apologies to Diana Rieker and all the Quilters.



AMONG OUR PEOPLE

If you have a special Joy or Concern that you would like to have included in this section, please email your item to: farmerf169@aol.com, or by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if there is no answer.

We ask that the Holy Spirit guide us all as we discern and move forward. We pray especially for individual guidance as we commit to personal participation in planning for our future.

Prayers for healing for Alan and Carol Fike as they deal with repeated hospitalizations. Also, for Sara Martin and her sister who plan and share in their parents’ care.

Jill and Ed Gresens’ daughter Amanda (37) had a heart attack on Saturday. She is currently in ICU. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Prayers for healing for Prayers for healing for Katie Bonier as she recovers from ACL surgery on her knee.

Continued prayers for Ron Karpien and Carol as they work through Ron’s medical issues.

Continued prayers for Larry Lansing, suffering from chronic conditions. We ask for continued healing and a return to better health.

Prayers of supplication for people suffering in war torn counties. Where there is starvation nourishment; where there is persecution, shelter and clothing for refugees; and where there is open warfare, negotiations leading to peaceful settlement of the issues are leading to the terror of destructive violence.

Prayers for renewal of our Congregations as we work to move into a new journey of faith, service and outreach in our communities.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the July, 2023 newsletter is Monday, June 26, 2023. Please email your articles to: farmerf169@aol.com. If you would like a special joy or concern shared, you can also contact him by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if he is unable to answer.

Online

“Like” Faith on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FLCTroy/> and keep up with what’s happening.

Can’t make it in on Sunday morning for worship? Join us on Zoom!

Zoom Meeting ID: 83772454374 Password: 049977 Dial-In: 646-558-8656

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83772454374?pwd=ZVJDL3FwRjZSN2ZHTTFlUGo3TVVmdz09>

Miss worship altogether, but still want that Gospel lesson and sermon? Pr. Kate posts audio recordings of her sermons online each week at <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>
