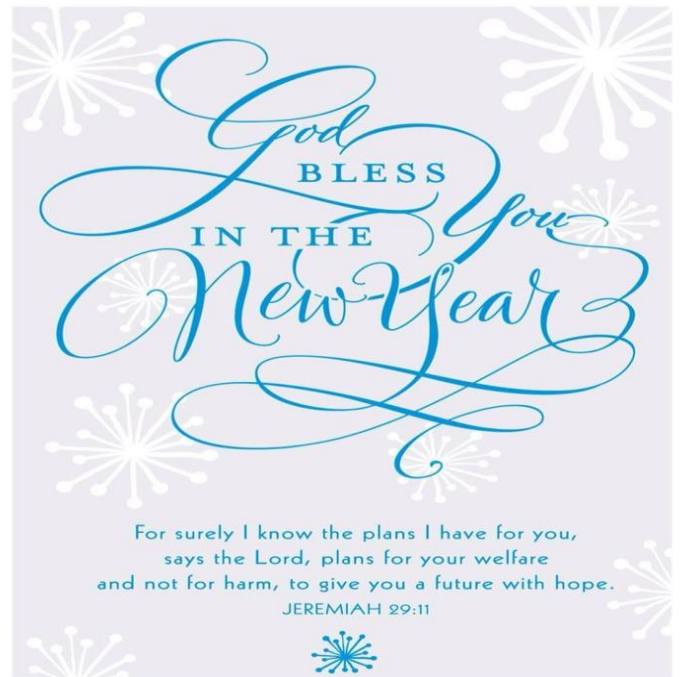


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
50 LEVERSEE ROAD  
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



# ***Following Faith***

***January 2018***





## WHY EPIPHANY IS SO IMPORTANT – a Lutheran Perspective

Twelfth Night is approaching. January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, and many Christians remember this day as the one where Gentiles, the Magi — the Wise Men — visited Jesus, following the ‘star in the East’. Their journey is likely to have taken several months, not 12 days, over difficult terrain.

The Epiphany of our Lord is the wonderful liturgical festival observed on January 6. It is the oldest of the Christmas festivals and originally the most important. Epiphany is also a season that lasts until the beginning of Lent and encompasses four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter.

The word epiphany comes from a Greek noun meaning “shining forth,” “manifestation,” or “revelation. The Epiphany of our Lord is the Christian festival that celebrates the many ways through signs, miracles, and preaching that Jesus revealed Himself to the world as Christ, God Incarnate, and King of kings.

Epiphany is one of the most important festivals of the liturgical year because it shows the church how God comes to His people. We are so full of sin and deserving of divine punishment that we cannot hope to approach God. Knowing that we cannot come to Him, God took the initiative and came to us by becoming one of us. The most holy and almighty God took on human flesh in order to reveal His salvation to the world. This is the mystery of the Epiphany of our Lord ...

In between the two Sundays that mark the Lord’s baptism and transfiguration, the church concentrates on several of the other incidents from Scripture that

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

[www.faithlutherantroy.com](http://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)**

show how Jesus manifested God’s love to the world through His ministry of preaching, miracles, and healings. What is common to each of these epiphanies is that in one way or another they make known the identity and mission of Jesus Christ: True Man and True God, born into this sinful world to be the Lord and Savior of all humanity. Therefore, we should remember what Epiphany means with regard to God’s love for us, manifested in Jesus Christ.

*Adapted from an Internet Article from St. Paul’s  
Lutheran Church, Kingsville, Maryland*

## EPIPHANY SEASON

The Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6) continues through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (Mar 5). The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter (Apr 21). We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season.

### **The Rev. Dr. William G. Hempel III**

The world lost a wonderful spiritual leader and Pastor on November 29 when Pastor Hempel died after a long and courageous struggle with cancer, and a great deal of suffering. Pastor Hempel became an ordained minister on December 29, 1965. Over the years, he served many communities and churches, most recently the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poestenkill and Faith Lutheran Church in Troy. A wonderful memorial service was held on December 15 at Evangelical Lutheran Church Poestenkill. The packed church was filled with congregants, clergy, family, and friends from the Albany Maritime Ministry which Pastor Hempel served so long and faithfully. Our own Bishop and the Missouri Synod Bishop participated in the service, showing how Pastor Hempel reached out to all during his long ministry. We extend our sympathy to his family and to all who mourn his passing. We were blessed by his ministry to our congregation and will miss him.

## VERY GOOD NEWS

Journal entry by Jennifer Wegter-McNelly

Hi Family and Friends,

Kirk and I went to visit my radiation oncologist to follow up on a small lesion (5 millimeters) that has appeared in my brain on recent MRI's. The medical oncologist that I regularly see referred me back over to the radiation oncologist because as a medical oncologist who specializes in treating breast cancer, he is not as familiar with brain cancer and wanted a second opinion about whether the lesion is a cancer tumor or necrotic tissue (that the radiation caused).

Dr. Doyle, the radiation oncologist, said that 5 mm is too small to be able to tell what it is made of. He will follow up with my Boston radiologist, but for

now it will just be monitored every month or so with continued MRIs. The big news is that the leptomeningeal disease (LMD, the cancer of the whole lining of the brain) is not detectable on the two MRIs from this fall. It isn't gone forever; it will come back at some point. But for the moment this is Great News!

Kirk and I were confused at first because when I first got the LMD diagnosis we were told that most people who have the radiation and continuing chemo I am on live for either a very short time, or for 3 to 9 months more. For me, 9 months is January 2019. So, January has been looming in my mind. But I have been wondering to myself "It's month 6,7,8 but I don't feel like I'm dying." My medical oncologist has agreed that I am on a clinical plateau – no progression of symptoms or blood work changes. Now the radiation oncologist says that there is no swelling or detectable cancer in the brain lining.

So, we asked Dr. Doyle today, "We were told that virtually all the patients with LMD die in 3 to 9 months. What does it mean that you can't see it anymore?" He said that I am part of the 1% who live longer. "Well, what happens to the 1%?" He said no one keeps track because there are so few of them. We were stunned.

Now I have the gift of more time. So, we were happy-stunned as it sank in. The new prognosis is that when the cancer becomes acute again, I will have about 3 to 6 months of going downhill before I die. But no one knows when that will be. And it's not happening yet. I may go buy a 2019 calendar to celebrate...except I'm still cheap so I'll wait until after New Year's to buy a calendar. We'll go out to dinner.

Thanks to all of you who have encouraged, prayed for, and written to me. It's great to get to plan on being here a little longer.

Love to everybody.  
Jennifer

## AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Prayers are needed for Peter Edelman as he undergoes surgery this month. Also, please pray for Helen Smuss (Karen Cordes Mother) who is under Hospice care, Tom Martin (John Martin's Brother) who has Leukemia, John Hostettler (Dana Cerrone's relative) as he continues his journey to recovery and Pr. Jennifer Wegter-McNelly who continues her courageous battle with Cancer.

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

Please keep Michael Moroskey and his family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of his Brother. Pray for Marty Hempel as she mourns the loss of Pr. Hempel and for her own health issues.

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

Prayers of encouragement and for success of the joint Call Committee of Faith and Evangelical during their diligent search for a permanent Pastor.

improves the lives of hungry people throughout the capital region.

We continue to collect the "pull tabs" and the "box top" labels for education. The collection containers are on the table in the Narthex. New tabs and labels are received each week – keep up the good works.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry is so thankful to each and every one who places a food item in their box in the Narthex. The families receiving the donations are most grateful. We'll never know how many lives we've touched with our support of the food pantry. Look on the box for this month's list of most needed items.

*Evelyn Jarosz, Missions*



As I sit here writing this newsletter article I am looking at all of our Christmas decorations, our tree with the special homemade ornaments, our nativity set with the "characters" placed lovingly by the kids and all of the other special things that make Christmas what it is. However, one of my favorite things about Christmas is the ability to give back to others. This year the Sunday School kids worked hard on making decorations for the shut ins that we visited and tags for the Christmas gifts the ladies were giving out. In addition, the kids all came together with some of their adult friends to go Christmas caroling to those who needed some holiday cheer. It was a great and rewarding experience and we even got some delicious homebaked cookies!

The kids and their families also enjoyed a special lunch and church decorating party on December 16. The tree and nativity set look great. Thanks to the adults that helped out and to the St. John's for providing us an awesome lunch!



## OUR FAITH at WORK

Our featured 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 many charitable agencies serving the hungry and disadvantaged, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, youth programs, senior programs and programs for the disabled. Many of our neighbors continue to struggle with hunger and food insecurity despite an improving economy.

Our support helps make the Regional Food Bank a better and stronger organization that every day

I know that the kids look forward to Christmas every year, just like we do, and I think that we are passing on the true meaning of Christmas to them by teaching them about giving of themselves. The Faith Lutheran Sunday school families wish all of you a blessed and happy Christmas. We will see you in 2019 with a picture show of all our recent activities.

*Peace and Joy,  
Sara Martin  
Education Director*



The annual Christmas pot luck luncheon was held December 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a wonderful array of casseroles to choose from (such good cooks). We all agreed it's our favorite lunch of the year. The program was a bible reading of the birth of our Savior and the Christian symbols represented in the Christmas carol The Twelve Days of Christmas. Following the program Christmas cookies were packed so they were ready to be sent to the Shut-ins.

The next meeting for WELCA will be in the New Year January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

### CREATIVE THREADS

The ladies of the Monday sewing group, Creative Threads, would like to thank everyone who participated in the raffle of the Millie's Garden Quilt. December 2<sup>nd</sup> the winning tickets were drawn at coffee hour following service. The winner of the quilt was Carolyn Speanburg, Bill Jarosz had the lucky ticket for the Christmas table runner and Sandy Allen is now the proud owner of the microwave bowl hot pads. The proceeds from the raffle were dispersed as follows: Shriner's Children's Hospital received \$150.00 – The Kid's

Council received \$100.00 and Creative Threads \$129.00 minus expenses.

Creative Threads are delivering thirteen single bed quilts this December to St. Paul's Center for their program of giving a new quilt to everyone who stays at the center. Creative Threads is always looking for new members interested in helping with this mission. We meet weekly each Monday for three to four hours. Want to join? Contact any member: Donna Gibson, Ruth Goerold, Polly Hayward, Roberta Hayward, Evelyn Jarosz, Merilyn Niles or Janet Walsh.

### JANUARY SCHEDULE AND COVERAGE

January 6 - Pastor Andrew Nelson – Epiphany  
 January 13 - Pastor Andrew Nelson – Second Sunday of Epiphany  
 January 20 - Pastor Rahel Hahn – Third Sunday of Epiphany  
 January 27 - Pastor Andrew Nelson – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

### SERVING FAITH in JANUARY

JAN. 6 <sup>TH</sup>	Altar	Janet Walsh and LouAnn Behrens
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Mitch Cieminski Diana Rieker and Jim Peters
	Counters	Donna Gibson and Linda Hulihan
	Coffee Hour	Not Available
JAN. 13 <sup>TH</sup>	Altar	Donna St. John and Sharon Morris
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Errol Bull Carol Perrott and Mike Moroskey
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Not Available

JAN. 20 <sup>TH</sup>	Altar	Donna St. John and Sharon Morris
	Lay Assistant	Bill Jarosz
	Ushers	Roberta And Rob Hayward
	Counters	Pat Brundige and Joyce Duncan
	Coffee Hour	Not Available
JAN. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Altar	Polly Hayward and Donna Gibson
	Lay Assistant	Bill Maloney
	Ushers	Barb Boord and Stephanie Wagar
	Counters	LouAnn Behrens and Janet Walsh
	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 JANUARY

Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>In Memory of Marilynn Howard Given by Fred and Michele Howard</b>
Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bohatec Given by Barbara and Larry Boord</b>
Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>To the Glory of God</b>
Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>To the Glory of God</b>

**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)

## COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FOR 2019

We are looking for members who are willing to serve on our Council in 2019. 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 elections at 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, please speak to Donna Gibson or Sharon Morris who are chairing the nominating committee this year. Thanks for considering!

## **2019 Pledge Cards**

The Pledge Cards for 2019 were included with the December newsletter and are available in the Narthex. If you have not done so already, please complete your card and mail it in or place it in the collection plate on any Sunday. Thanks to all who have already done this!

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The newsletter item deadline for the February newsletter is Monday January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please email your articles to: [barbboord@hotmail.com](mailto:barbboord@hotmail.com).

## **BOTTLE CAP COLLECTION**

Please post in the Faith newsletter that I am now collecting plastic bottle caps (water bottles, soda bottles, laundry detergent) and the pill bottles. I am donating these to Harmony Hills school in Cohoes.

Thank you,  
Kathy Adamek

## **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](http://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](mailto:barbboord@hotmail.com).

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

