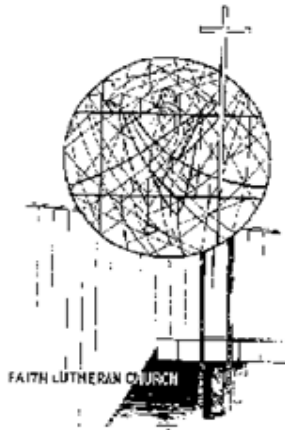


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

March 2019

The **SENTEN**
PRAYER

LORD JESUS
YOU CALL US TO REPENT AND TO BELIEVE
FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND
YOU TEACH US TO DO GOD'S WILL
YOU INVITE US TO FOLLOW YOU
ON THE WAY TO THE CROSS.

LORD,
RENEW IN US THE GRACE OF OUR BAPTISM
TRANSFORM OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS AND
DEEDS SO THAT WE MIGHT TURN AWAY
FROM SIN AND LIVE THE GOSPEL.

AMEN



LENT 2019

Lent is finally coming! March 6th 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.

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

**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**

Church Council Officers:

**Fred Howard (President)
Doug Adamek (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Evelyn Jarosz (Secretary)**

Council Members

**Doug Adamek (Education)
Rob Hayward (Office Administration)
Linda Hulihan
Evelyn Jarosz
Mike Moroskey (Property)
Sharon Morris (In Reach/Out Reach)
Diana Rieker (Missions),
(Stewardship)
Ben Wagar (Property)**

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.

Accepting 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 – Lent 2017

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 6th

This year Faith will host the combined evening service beginning at 7:00 P.M. A solemn service, as we begin our Lenten journey. The service will offer ashes and Holy Communion.

MARCH SCHEDULE AND COVERAGE

We look forward to seeing beloved, familiar faces in the Pulpit

March 3 Pastor Rahel Hahn (Transfiguration)

March 6 Pastor Rahel Hahn – Ash Wednesday

March 10 Pastor Andrew Nelson

March 17 Pastor Jim Hulihan

March 24 Pastor Rahel Hahn

March 31 Pastor Andrew Nelson

MARCH 31 – A SPECIAL DAY

March 31, 2019 is a special day for Pastor Andrew Nelson. It is the 5th anniversary of his Ordination! We will be celebrating this anniversary at coffee hour after service on March 31 and hope that you will be there to congratulate him and wish him well with his ministry going forward. Pastor Andrew

has been a blessing to our Congregations as one of two regular supply pastors during the past several months, and we wish him the best in the years to come.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Prayers are needed for Peter Edelman as he recovers from surgery and Janet Erickson who recently had Heart Surgery/ Also, please pray for Carol Karpiens Mother as she recovers from a health setback in her hip surgery recovery. Marty Hempel who has undergone testing to determine her medical needs. Helen Smuss (Karen Cordes Mother) who is under Hospice care, Tom Martin (John Martin's Brother) who has Leukemia, John Hostettler as he continues his recovery and Pr. Jennifer Wegter-McNelly who continues her courageous battle with Cancer.

Continued Prayers are requested, Paul Molesky and Larry Boord, who has returned home to continue his recovery from a severe leg infection, as they continue their health progress.

Congratulations are in order for Pastor Andrew Nelson as he celebrates his 5th Anniversary of his Ordination.

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



OUR FAITH at WORK

The featured mission for the month of March will be in support of the work of Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County.

Through our donations, Literacy Volunteers provide tutoring in Reading/Basic Literacy and in English as a Second Language to approximately 250 teens and

adults. One-to-One and Small Group Tutoring help individuals learn to read, to write, and to speak English, and to improve their math skills. Tutoring is free and confidential. Students and tutors work together for an average of 2 hours per week to meet students' goals.

Your continued support of the "Pull Tab" and "Box Top" missions is most appreciated. Both missions are receiving donations from the congregation each week. You will find the collection containers on the table in the Narthex.

The Bread of Life Food pantry is asking for the following items this month: Fruit juice (low sugar), canned fruit (in own juice), stew, hash or chili (canned), coffee (instant) baked beans (like Bush's), snacks and baking mixes, sugar, flour and cooking oil, jams or jellies. The following non-food items are always needed: laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, toothbrushes (adult), toothpaste, soap, shampoo and deodorant.

Diana Rieker, Missions

SERVING FAITH in MARCH

MAR. 3 RD	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Stephanie Wagar
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Carol Karpien Pat Brundige and Katie Bonnier
	Counters	Diane and Rich Anderson
	Coffee Hour	Sara and John Martin
ASH WEDNESDAY		
MAR. 6 TH	Altar	Janet Walsh and LouAnne Behrens
	Lay Assistant Ushers	To be Determined
	Counters	

MAR.10 TH	Altar	Janet Walsh and LouAnne Behrens
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Fred Howard B. Morgan, B. Speanburg and B. Stevens
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Dinner Club Committee
MAR.17 TH	Altar	Donna St. John and Sharon Morris
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Errol Bull Diana Rieker and Jim Peters
	Counters	LouAnne Behrens and Janet Walsh
	Coffee Hour	Heather and Errol Bull
MAR.24 TH	Altar	Donna St. John and Sharon Morris
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Donna Gibson Carol Perrott and Mike Moroskey
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Dana and Dave Cerrone
MAR.31 ST	Altar	Donna Gibson and Roberta Hayward
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Jarosz Roberta and Rob Hayward
	Counters	Pat Brundige and Joyce Duncan
	Coffee Hour	Michele and Fred Howard

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.

Worship Chairperson.

*Roberta Hayward, Altar Guild
Coffee Hour*



FLOWERS for MARCH

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| MAR. 3RD | To the Glory of God
Given by Nadeen Thompson |
| MAR. 10TH | To the Glory of God |
| MAR. 17TH | To the Glory of God |
| MAR. 24TH | To the Glory of God |
| MAR. 31ST | 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.



A request for all our bakery chefs; WELCA will be delivering St. Patrick's Day cookie treats to our special care church families. The ladies will be packing the cookies for distribution following service Sunday, March 10th.



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)

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 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 April newsletter is Monday: March 18th. Please email your articles to: barbboord@hotmail.com.



MARCH 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Rev. Rahel Hahn Council 9:45 AM TRANSFIGURATION	4 <i>CREATIVE THREADS</i> 10:30 AM	5	6 ASH WEDNESDAY Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	7 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	8	9 DINNER CLUB 6:30 PM
10 Rev. Andrew Nelson	11 <i>CREATIVE THREADS</i> 10:30 AM	12	13	14 Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	15	16
17 Rev. Jim Hulihan	18 NEWSLETTER Articles Due <i>CREATIVE THREADS</i> 10:30 AM	19 WELCA 10:00 AM	20 Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	21 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	22	23
24 Rev. Rahel Hahn	25 <i>CREATIVE THREADS</i> 10:30 AM	26	27	28 Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	29	30
31 Rev. Andrew Nelson 5 th Anniversary Celebration						