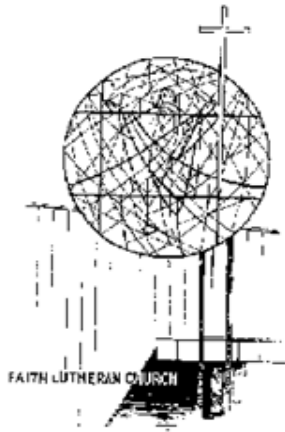


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

November 2016



Dear Church,

We are coming up on one of my very favorite holidays and it isn't even part of the church calendar: Thanksgiving.

I love it for all the traditional smells and the flavors: My husband Kirk bakes pumpkin pies. I bake pecan pies. Our son Keller makes Pico de Gallo.

(Yes, I realize that last one is not traditional in most families. But one of our dear friends, with whom we often spend Thanksgiving and who is like family, is a native Texan. She and her husband often made this fresh salsa to snack on while we made the rest of the meal. In Keller's mind, it is as essential to the day as the turkey and he has been learning the art of chopping the tomatoes, onions, jalapeño peppers, cilantro, and balancing the fresh lime juice and salt.)

Even more than the food, I love Thanksgiving for the people.

As a child, it always meant a big table of extended family, laughing and telling stories.

As a young person, it often meant celebrating far from home with people new in my life, like one year in Northern Ireland where a kind hostess looked all around Belfast to locate a turkey.

After I married, we celebrated in many different places with a variety of people. Sometimes these were grand parties and a few times they have quiet and been a bit lonely.

But each year, Thanksgiving makes me aware of the people in my life:

I think of my family, spread around the country, and how much they mean to me.

I think of the people who have become like family, dear friends who are a special blessing in our lives.

I think of the people around me who may need friendship and hospitality that year, and consider who I might invite to the table in my home or to a sea of tables in the church hall.

Though it is not a specifically Christian holiday, I love Thanksgiving because it grounds me in gratitude and grace. I know it means that for a lot of people and reconnects us to God in a deep and powerful way.

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

**Sunday morning worship: 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: 9:15 a. m.
Sunday School: during worship**

The Rev. Jennifer Wegter-McNelly, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

**Donna VanZandt (President)
Sara Martin (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)**

Council Members

**Errol Bull (Property)
Dana Cerrone (In Reach/Out Reach)
Elizabeth King (In Reach/Out Reach)
Evelyn Jarosz (Worship)
Sara Martin (Education)
Michael Moroskey (Property)
Pam Perras (Stewardship)
Carol Perrott (Missions)
Ben Wagar (Property)**

This particular year, I have found something new to love about Thanksgiving:

I love what Thanksgiving means to us as an American people.

That last sentence feels a little odd for me to write, especially to a church. I have long been committed to a Christianity that doesn't muddle up our identity with nationalism. I try hard not to respect that within a congregation, we express our values in a variety of political parties. I am keenly aware of the troubling history of people claiming the United States as "a Christian nation" as justification for discriminating against people of other faiths or no faith, or as justification for acts of war against other nations.

COUNCIL SUMMARY

As people of God who are also people in the United States, Thanksgiving can be a reminder to us of the better values that we share as a country. In this very divisive and cynical election year, I find myself turning with fresh appreciation to what Thanksgiving means to many Americans:

- We remember that people of diverse races, creeds, and cultures can come together with mutual respect and genuine hospitality.
- We remember that freedom means life, *liberty, and the opportunity for happiness*, not at the expense of one another, but in cooperation with one another.
- We remember our principled, hopeful sense that our identity as a people is not about greed, individualism, or exploitation but that abundance is based on caring for the needs of all through generosity and good stewardship.

This November, I hope that we can dwell more in what is best about us as a people – as families, communities, and a nation – as we celebrate a season of Thanksgiving. May our gratitude, hospitality, and love for those different from us express our deepest Christian commitments as we come alongside neighbors of other faiths or no faith in particular. In a rather dark season in America, may our shared witness be a light.

***Peace in Christ,
Pastor Jennifer***

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Dave Cerrone continues therapy to work on his recovery. Jim Slocum, LouAnn Behrens brother passed away in October as did Linda Mallinson. Linda was a former director and member of Our Saviors Lutheran.

Nadeen Thompson is saying farewell to her Faith community to begin a new journey in life with her family in Wisconsin. We want to wish her well and send our best wishes. Gods Speed as she was a true blessing to our church. For anyone wishing to keep in touch her new address is:

Nadeen Thompson
1729 Tallgrass Ln
Plymouth, Wi 53073

The Council discussed the C.A.T. (Church Assessment Tool), including the number of assessments submitted electronically versus paper submissions. Monday, October 10 was the last day to submit the assessment. The paper submissions will be sent to Holy Cow to be data entered for confidentiality. Dates were discussed for Holy Cow to make a presentation of the assessment results to the congregation. The purpose of C.A.T. is to anonymously collect information on areas of church satisfaction/dissatisfaction, areas of importance and priorities for the church. The assessment results from both congregations may impact the search for a new pastor and the pastor sharing arrangement between congregations.

The Council continued discussing the problem with the lawn tractor motor and the possibility for obtaining a replacement motor.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday November 7th, 2016 at 7pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary



Sunday School has been proceeding nicely so far this year. We have had good attendance, and the teaching teams have been stepping up to the plate to handle all the open dates. We would like to officially welcome Rikki Franklin to our teaching group, she has added a lot to the program by working with the younger kids.

Pastor Jennifer and the Sunday School families met after church on October 23rd to discuss various items of note, including the planned schedule, the Christmas program, formation of an acolyte program, camp/retreats, confirmation and first communion. A lot was accomplished and many decisions were made. The annual Christmas Sunday School program will be held on December 11th. First communion is scheduled for June 4th. Please make sure to mark those dates on your calendar. Also, in the near future, look for some of

our older students serving as acolytes during the church service.

Finally, Michele and Fred Howard have been working hard on developing binders with the church service information for the children. The children will be using the binders when they come in to church service each week. This is a great idea and we can't wait to start using them. In addition, the Howards have been busy selecting holiday items for the kids, taking over where our good friend Irene left off.

Thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at church soon!

Sara Martin, Education Director

HELP WANTED

Have you ever been an acolyte?

Maybe you remember helping out in church as a kid?

Do you enjoy working with the littlest part of our congregation?

Do you have lots of good stories to share?

If so, a "job" with the Sunday School might be right for you.

Seeking:

Fun, energetic, caring people to help out with anything that you think you can add to our program.

- **teaching assistance**
- **acolyte training**
- **worship assistant training**
- **general support of the program**

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our mission for the month of November will be in support of Joseph's House and Shelter located in downtown Troy. Joseph's House is an essential part of our community. They are there to shelter, feed and help find assistance for those in need. Joseph's House and Shelter serves nearly 800 homeless adults, children and families each year. Our contributions help make that possible.

Your continued support is appreciated.

Carol Perrott, Missions



C.A.T.

Our C.A.T. has now been completed and a Vital Signs Report is now being produced. The results will be shared with us by Keli Rugenstein, who is a trained interpretive consultant. She will make this presentation in the Fellowship Hall on December 4th beginning at approximately 12:30/12:45. Light lunch items will be available.

On December 14th a joint session will be held with ELCP and Faith at which time Ms. Rugenstein will explain where the two churches are similar and/or different. This of course will help us to work together to reach our common goal in calling a shared Pastor.

Please make every effort to join us for these important meetings.

FLOWERS for NOVEMBER

Nov. 6th In memory of Arthur and Hedwig Ude.
Given by Barbara Morgan and Brenda Stevens.

Nov. 13th In memory of Donna Brombacher and Dick Walsh.
Given by Janet Walsh.

Nov. 20th In memory of Tim Dorsey.
Given by Bob and Joyce Duncan.

In memory of Pastor Steve Cordes.
Given by the Cerrone Family.

Nov. 27th In memory of Kenneth and Ruth Ross.
Given by Pam and Leo Perras.

CHOIR REHERSAL

Choir rehearsals have resumed and are generally held every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. for about an hour. No formal training is required. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to come and enjoy singing our praises to the Lord.



The October Bible study focused on Trust and Obedience.

WELCA is collecting children's hats and mittens which will be distributed to local charities. Also, the collection of items for Christmas boxes for the Maritime Museum in Albany has begun. Items needed include: Men's hats, mittens and gloves, socks, ball point pens or pencils, writing pad, hard candy, nuts, toiletries (toothbrushes have been provided). The goal is to provide 12 boxes to the Maritime Museum.

Collecting cookies for shut-ins will be done again this year.

Please have your gifts and cookies to church by noon on Saturday, December 3rd so that the boxes and cookies can be packed after the annual Christmas Luncheon (pot luck) program which will be held on at Noon on that Saturday.

WELCA gifts to the Quilting Group \$20.00 (for supplies), Upstate New York WELCA \$100.00 and Faith \$100.00 (for ongoing or Carillon repairs) were distributed.

The next meeting of WELCA will be held at church on Tuesday November 19th starting at 10:00 AM for the Thank Offering Program. All women are invited to attend.

PRAYER GROUP NEWS

Faith Lutheran Church and Evangelical/Poestenkill Prayer Group members meet regularly on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome. For further details, contact Michele Howard at 518-4288.

SERVING FAITH in NOVEMBER

Nov. 6 th	Altar	Janet Walsh and Meryl Niles
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Jarosz Pat Brundige and Ron Turcotte
	Counters	Rich and Diane Anderson
	Coffee Hour	Eugene and Donna St, John

Nov. 13 th	Altar	Janet Walsh and Meryl Niles
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Carol Karpien B Morgan, B Speanburg, B Stevens
	Counters	Bill and Evelyn Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Rikki Franklin
Nov. 20 th	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Pat Turcotte Carol Perrott and Stephanie Wagar
	Counters	LouAnn Behrens and Janet Walsh
	Coffee Hour	Sara and John Martin
Nov. 27 th	Altar	Roberta Hayward and Donna St. John
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Maloney Diana Rieker and Jim Peters
	Counters	Pat Brundige and Joyce Duncan
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh and Meryl Niles

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

SAND LAKE CENTER for the ARTS MATINEE THEATER PLAYERS

Join Matinee Theater Players at Sand Lake Center for the Arts (SLCA) as they present an afternoon of seven short plays and Sweet Treats! Our own Jim Houlihan will be performing. One performance

only, Tuesday, November 15th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00. Reservations can be made at www.slca-ctp.org or call 674-2007. SLCA is located at 2880 NY 43, Averill Park.



ALL SAINTS SERVICE, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

This year, we will be celebrating All Saints during our Sunday service with a solemn reading of names and tolling of a bell for those dear to us who have died. If you would like to add a name to the list feel free to mail a note to the church office, email Pastor Jennifer at jenniferwm@verizon.net, or leave a message on the church answering machine.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

As you know our food donations are sent to the Food Pantry overseen at our sister church in Poestenkill. Recently we were informed that they are accepting health care items as well as the regular non-perishable food items. This includes such items paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, bath/shower soap, etc. Any and all donated items are greatly appreciated. Leave your donations in the box located in the Narthex at Faith. Thank you.



DINNER CLUB

The October committee members for Dinner Club served a wonderful dinner of lasagna. Club members bid a fond farewell to Nadeen Thompson as she prepares to move to Wisconsin.

The committee members for the November 12th dinner are Polly and Bob Hayward, Michele and Fred Howard and Stephanie and Ben Wagar. Be sure to let the committee know you're coming and join an evening of fellowship, food and fun. All are welcome. Cocktails start at 6:00 pm and dinner is served at 6:30 pm.

PULL TAB COLLECTIONS

Cole Franklin will now be collecting the pull tabs once saved and given to Bob Hayward. Bags of tabs can be left in the kitchen at church.

BARBARA BOORD ACTING NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COORDINATOR

Hard copies of the Newsletter are 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. At your request, we will be happy to send you a copy via the USPS.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

The December newsletter article deadline is Monday November 21st.

Please email 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.

***LET US GIVE THANKS FOR FAMILY,
FRIENDS AND GODS MANY
BLESSINGS.***

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	4	5
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
6	7 COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 PM	8 ELECTION DAY Be sure to Vote!	9 Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	10 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	11 VETERANS DAY	12 DINNER CLUB 6:00 PM
13	14	15 WELCA 10:00 AM	16	17 <i>Choir 7:00 PM</i>	18	19
				Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
20	21 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	22	23 Speigle Elders 10:30AM- 2:30PM	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	25	26
27	28	29	30			