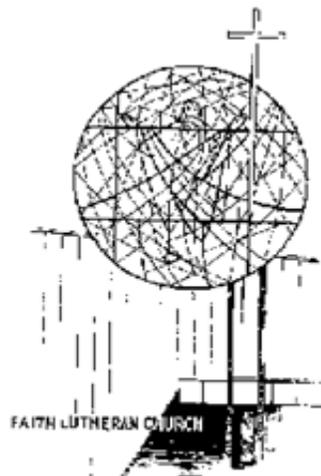


Following Faith

The Monthly Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

December 2012



A Gift of the Same

Several years ago a woman in California took into her home over Christmas a family evacuated from a severely flooded area. Since she had six children of her own and a comparatively small house, a friend asked her why she felt it was up to her to assume this responsibility.

This woman explained that at the end of World War II, a family in her home town in Germany was left destitute. On Christmas Eve the mother of this family said to her children, "We are not able to have much for Christmas this year, so I have just one present for all. Now I will go get it." She returned with a little orphan girl and announced, "Here is your present."

This generous California mother went on to tell how the children in this family welcomed the little child with affection. She grew up as a full member of that family-- as their sister. Then she added..... "I was the Christmas gift."

"We love because God first loved us." (I John 3:19)
Christmas is a time to experience God's Love first. And as they say, "The rest is commentary." That commentary is not just for a season but for a lifetime. Just ask the German woman from California. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Steve

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage 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. Stephen L. Cordes, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

Robert Gibson (President)
Beth King (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)

Council Members

Errol Bull (Property)
Joyce Duncan (InReach/OutReach)
Bill Jarosz (Property)
Beth King (OutReach/InReach)
Sara Martin (Education)
Carolyn Rouse (History)
David Truland (Missions)
Donna VanZandt (Worship)
Stephanie Wagar (Stewardship)

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Sick and Recuperating: **Julia Cannon** continues as a resident of Eddy Nursing Home with very limited mobility. **Glen Peyser** continues to heal from a not so recent motorcycle accident. Ribs and collar bone are taking their own sweet time while trying to mend. **Gladys Zepf** continues to receive physical therapy for her hip and wrist at Van Rensselaer Manor following a fall at home. **Nadeen Thompson** is well on the mend following her recent knee replacement. **Maxwell Thomas** is home after spending several weeks in Albany Medical following his birth. Born a bit premature, he is now up to 5 lbs. 2 oz. and doing quite well. **Burt Benziger** has completed some radiation treatment on his right ear and is currently doing quite well. **Burt and Dottie** have returned to Florida for the winter months.

Moving: **Ethel Lennak** has moved to Hawthorne Ridge Assisted Living in East Greenbush. **Mary Frazer** will be moving to an apartment in Glens Falls as of December 1 in order to be closer to family.

COUNCIL SUMMARY

A presentation was made regarding window repair estimates from Quality Glass. Council members received a description of the work to be performed and a cost estimate breakdown. The Council decided to spread out payments to Quality Glass over a period of time to ease the burden.

Barbara Boord, Faith treasurer, identified service charges applied to our accounts by First Niagara. A motion was made and approved to authorize closing the Faith Lutheran Church account at First Niagara Bank and the establishment of a new account at Hudson River Community Credit Union.

The following Council member terms are expiring at the end of 2012: Barbara Boord, Errol Bull, Bob Gibson, Sarah Martin, Stephanie Wagar and Carolyn Rouse. Carolyn and Sarah are eligible for another term, if elected. The Council is in the process of asking congregation members to serve on the Nominating Committee for the upcoming year.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday December 3, 2012 at 7 pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary

SERVING FAITH

Dec. 2	Altar	Karen Cordes, Helen Inglis, Marilyn Niles
	Lay Assistant	Carol Karpien
	Ushers	Mike Morosky, Donna Truland
	Counters	Irene Pagel, Carolyn Rouse
	Coffee Hour	Donna & Bob Gibson
Dec. 9	Altar	Karen Cordes, Helen Inglis, Marilyn Niles
	Lay Assistant	Bill Maloney
	Ushers	Rikki Franklin, Cay Moss
	Counters	Evelyn & Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Sara & John Martin
Dec. 16	Altar	Donna St. John, Sally Davis, Polly Hayward
	Lay Assistant	Rebecca Truland
	Ushers	Roberta & Rob Hayward
	Counters	Janet Walsh, Mildred Lalanne
	Coffee Hour	Rikki Franklin
Dec. 23	Altar	Donna St. John, Sally Davis, Polly Hayward
	Lay Assistant	Pat Turcotte
	Ushers	Beth & Joe King
	Counters	Joyce Duncan, Carol Perrott
	Coffee Hour	Donna & Gene St. John
Dec. 24	Altar	Evelyn Jarosz, Roberta Hayward, Joyce Duncan
Christmas Eve	Lay Assistant	Richard Anderson
	Ushers	Pauline Lupo, Nadeen Thompson
	Counters	Michele & Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	No coffee hour
Dec. 25	Altar	Evelyn Jarosz, Roberta Hayward, Joyce Duncan
Christmas Day	Lay Assistant	Donna Gibson
	Ushers	Irene Pagel, Carol Perrott
	Counters	Donna & Bob Gibson
	Coffee Hour	No coffee hour
Dec. 30	Altar	Nadeen Thompson, Janet Walsh, Kay Young
	Lay Assistant	Bob Gibson
	Ushers	Ron Moss, Bill Speanburg
	Counters	Carolyn Rouse, Irene Pagel
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh, Marilyn Niles

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

- December 2:** In Memory of Harold Behrens
Given by the Behrens Family
- December 9** In Memory of Bob Young
Given by Kay Young
- December 16** To the Glory of God
- December 23** In honor of the birth of our Lord,
Jesus Christ
- December 30** To the Glory of God

STEWARDSHIP

We're in the midst of our pledge drive for 2013. Last year we had an excellent response of 29 people who were kind enough to think about how much they might be able to share with Faith. If you haven't received your pledge card form, use the one at the end of this newsletter. Your pledge is helpful, as we are trying to arrive at budget estimates for next year and your pledge is a way for us to estimate anticipated giving. Please, I hope everyone understands that your pledge represents a symbol of your love of your church and faith. We're all thankful and appreciative of everyone's help. With that said, let's all have a beautiful holiday season and enjoy what God has given us.

Stephanie Wagar Stewardship Chair



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Six of our members enjoyed the Hudson-Mohawk Conference Assembly on November 3 at St. Timothy's in North Greenbush. The Bible Study, "God, Me and a Cup of Tea" focused on many of the "-ities" in the Bible (example: ability) The program about the Suffragists who worked long and hard to secure the right to vote for women was eye-opening and very informative. Each woman present shared her feeling about voting and all promised to become educated on the issues so she could exercise her right to cast an informed ballot. After a delicious luncheon the day closed with worship.

At the regular meeting the annual Thankoffering was received during the WELCA Thankoffering dedication, let by Merilyn.

Thank you to all who stayed for coffee hour on the 18th to wish Mary Frazer well in her new home in Glens Falls. We certainly will miss her. Best wishes to Mary.

The December meeting will be the annual Advent / Christmas luncheon at 12 noon on Saturday, December 15. Bring a dish to share and come join us for food and fellowship. Merilyn is planning the program.

Following the program we will pack cookies for the shut-ins and inventory the gifts for the residents at the Good Samaritan Home in Delmar. Contributions of Christmas cookies will be gratefully received.



The holidays are one of the most anticipated times of year for our school children. There are parties and food and toys and stories about the Baby Jesus. Many children do not have the opportunities that our children have, but this year, the Sunday School has made a difference for some of those children. Through the Operation Christmas Child program, the students collected a total of 37 boxes of toys, school supplies, toiletries and treats for children in need. Thank you so much for taking the time to fill your boxes full of joy for these children.

On another positive note, the Sunday School student body has continued to grow the past two months. Last week we had 16 students attending Sunday School to learn about the Word of God. This is a record number for the past 2 years, it is very exciting, let's keep it up!

Some scheduling reminders as Christmas approaches:

- Saturday, December 15th at 4:30 pm – Christmas Party at the Church
- Sunday, December 16th during the church service – Sunday School Christmas Program
- Sunday, December 23rd – No Sunday School, Christmas Weekend
- Sunday, December 30th – No Sunday School, New Year's Weekend

If you would like to be added to the Sunday School mailing list, you can contact me at 222-8566 or at s.martin@hvcc.edu.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Sara Martin, Education Committee Chair



DINNER CLUB

November's meeting was alive with "Quackers" guiding the hunter to the target. A Thanksgiving Word Search was also included. A pork dinner with all the trimmings preceded the fun time.

The annual Christmas party is Saturday, December 8 at 6:30pm. The officers are the hosts and will be happy to take your reservation. Call Danna & Gene St. John, LouAnn Behrens, Nadeen Thompson or Michele & Fred Howard to reserve. Bring a \$10 grab bag gift suitable for either a man or woman.



OUR FAITH AT WORK

Our Mission Offerings for the month of December will be in support of Lutheran World Relief.

Lutheran World Relief is an international non-profit organization which works to end poverty and injustice in some of the world's most impoverished communities. Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of the ELCA in conjunction with individuals and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy and social responsibility.

With partners in 35 countries, Lutheran World Relief seeks to promote sustainable development, improve health, strengthen communities, end conflict, build livelihoods and help communities recover from disasters.

Thank you for your continued support.

David Truland, Missions Chair

HELPING OTHERS

Keegan Gilbert, an eight year old member of our Sunday School, held a bake sale on Sunday, November 12, 2012 to help victims of hurricane Sandy and the snow storm that followed. With some baking help from his mother and a willing congregation who bought lots of goodies, Keegan will be giving the Red Cross a check for \$360. This donation includes \$104 from his own piggy bank! His mother, Melissa, is very proud of Keegan and we are too!

CAROLS OF CARING – Dec. 9, 6 pm

Come to the Community Christmas Concert by members of several local churches, including Faith. This is the twenty-third season for this community church group. The concert will be at 6 pm on Sunday, December 9 at Cornerstone Community Church at the corner of 3rd Ave & 115th streets in Lansingburgh. A free will offering will benefit New York & New Jersey families impacted by hurricane Sandy, and the Troy Area United Ministries Furniture Program. Please come and support this special chorus and worthy charities.

DECEMBER 16th – A SPECIAL DAY

That Sunday will be a day chock full of activities with something for everyone.

- ✓ During the worship service, our Sunday School students will do a presentation for us.
- ✓ Immediately following worship, we will put up the Christmas tree. Help is needed to retrieve the decorations from storage, assemble the tree and decorate it with lights and chrismons.
- ✓ Join us later in the afternoon to go caroling to some of our shut-ins and to present them with cookies and a poinsettia. All carolers are asked to meet at Van Rensselaer Manor at 2:30 pm. A covered dish supper will be held at the Gibson's after caroling.

SAVE THE DATE

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2013 following the worship service.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The January newsletter deadline is Sunday, January 20, 2013. Please place your articles in the box in the Church office by Sunday, or email them to DSGLVA@aol.com by Monday morning.

