

Following Faith

The Monthly Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2013



LIVING UP TO YOUR NAME

I once read of a pastor who became acquainted with a Nigerian woman who was a physician at a great teaching hospital. Introducing herself with an American name, the pastor continued the conversation by inquiring as to her African name. She immediately gave it to him. The name was several syllables long with a musical sound to it.

"What does the name mean?" asked the pastor.

She answered, "It means 'Child who takes the anger away.'"

When asked why she was given this name, she said, "My parents had been forbidden by their parents to marry. But they loved each other so much that they defied the family opinions and married anyway. For several years they were ostracized from both their families. Then my mother became pregnant with me. And when the grandparents held me in their arms for the first time, the walls of hostility came down. I became the one who swept the anger away. And that's the name my mother and father gave me."

We read in the Gospels how the Son of God was to be named Jesus, for it means "the one who will save". Jesus lived up to his name in every way. When we hold him in our hearts, we, too, get to experience "the one who saves us". Thus we get a new name as well, "Christian," and we too get to live up to our name as "one who has been saved". That cannot help but show itself with true joy and peace.

May this Christmas bring you much joy and peace as you hold Jesus in your heart and continue to live up to your name!

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:

David Truland (President)
Beth King (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)

Council Members

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

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Sick and Recuperating: **Gunther Pagel** has recuperated from pneumonia and a broken hand, however continues to be plagued by dizzy spells.

Mark Lastrup continues his physical therapy sessions at Sunny View Rehabilitation in Schenectady. **Mildred Lalanne** continues a slow battle back, enduring substantial pain in her neck.

Added to the list, she now has trouble walking with a weakened knee. **Doug Kurick** has received some injections for pain in his back. This treatment has helped him to get back on his feet to a limited degree, however he looks for continued improvement. **Steve Lansing** recently had successful surgery involving brain implants which is helping greatly to reduce symptoms from his Parkinson's Disease.

Baptism: Sophia Susan Rubino, born July 16, 2013, was baptized November 10, 2013. Sophia is the daughter of Andrew and Kim Rubino. Her godparents are Michael Mac Farland and Heather Crawford. Sophia is the great grand daughter of Pastor Kean and Marjorie Hilton. Blessings to Sophia!

COUNCIL SUMMARY

The Council began preparations of the upcoming 2014 budget. Treasurer, Barbara Boord, will prepare a preliminary budget to be reviewed and adjusted by Council members. The following Council member's terms are expiring at the end of 2013: Beth King and Diana Rieker. A Nominating Committee will be formed to nominate new Council members as replacements. The Annual Congregation meeting is scheduled to be held on January 19th 2014.

After much research and discussion, the Council has decided to discontinue the idea of holding a Giffy's barbecue fundraiser. The primary reason is the high number of dinners that need to be sold in order for the fundraiser to be successful. The Council began discussing the idea of holding a dinner event prepared entirely by the church, such as a pork dinner.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday December 2nd, 2013 at 7pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please arrange to trade dates with another assistant. Thank you in advance

SERVING FAITH

Dec. 1	Altar	Donna St. John, Polly Hayward
	Lay Assistant	Aaron Cordes
	Ushers	Beth & Joe King
	Counters	Donna & Bob Gibson
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh & Marilyn Niles
Dec. 8	Altar	Donna St. John, Polly Hayward
	Lay Assistant	Donna Gibson
	Ushers	Pauline Lupo, Nadeen Thompson
	Counters	Irene Pagel, Carolyn Rouse
	Coffee Hour	Nadeen Thompson
Dec. 15	Altar	Evelyn Jarosz, Joyce Duncan
	Lay Assistant	Pat Turcotte
	Ushers	Irene Pagel, Carol Perrott
	Counters	Evelyn & Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Irene Pagel, Carolyn Rouse
Dec. 22	Altar	Evelyn Jarosz, Joyce Duncan
	Lay Assistant	Carol Karpien
	Ushers	Ron Moss, Bill Speadburg
	Counters	LouAnn Behrens, Janet Walsh
	Coffee Hour	Speanburg Family
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	Altar	Nadeen Thompson, Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant	Fred Howard
	Ushers	Mike Moroskey,
	Counters	Michele & Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	No coffee hour
Dec. 25 Christmas Day	Altar	Nadeen Thompson, Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant	Rebecca Truland
	Ushers	The Truland Family
	Counters	Michele & Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	No coffee hour
Dec. 29	Altar	Pam Perras, LouAnn Behrens
	Lay Assistant	Bill Maloney
	Ushers	B. Morgan, B. Speanburg, B. Stevens
	Counters	Polly & Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Tracie Maloney

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

- Dec. 1:** In memory of Bob Young
Given by Kay and Family
- Dec 8:** In memory of Harold A. Behrens
Given by the Behrens Family
- Dec. 15:** To the Glory of God
- Dec. 22:** In honor of the Birth of our Lord
- Dec. 29:** To the Glory of God

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2014

If anyone would like to place flowers on the Altar during 2014, the new calendar is hanging on the bulletin board at the back of the Narthex. You may place flowers on the altar in memory of loved ones or in honor of anyone you wish. Please sign up on the appropriate date by indicating 1) who the flowers are in memory/honor of and 2) given by whom. The cost for a bouquet of flowers will stay the same at \$19.00 per bouquet. Should you have any questions please contact Donna Van Zandt.

THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS BASKETS

This year we are helping two local families with the burden of the holidays. We have already delivered a bounty of food for thanksgiving and now set our sights on Christmas. Your donations will provide gifts, clothing, and food for local families found struggling in these hard times. Our best gift to them is reminding them they are not alone; someone cares; God.

LouAnn Behrens and I are happy to accept your donation in person, or you may choose to place your envelope in the church offering. Collection envelopes are located in the back of the church. No amount is too small or too large. Together we can make a difference. Also, anyone wishing to help with the shopping or distribution of the food and gifts please touch base with one of us; we welcome the help.

Donna St. John

Matthew 25; 34-40

34 Then the King will say to those at his right hand. "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and

you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." 37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? 38 And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? 39 And when did we see the sick or in prison and visit thee?" 40 And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

SPECIAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Get out your calendar and mark it with the following special activities:

Saturday Dec. 7 All women are invited to attend the WELCA Christmas Luncheon at noon in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday Dec. 7 – Members of local choirs, including 9 from Faith, will present their Christmas concert – "Lead me Back to Bethlehem" – at 7pm at Cornerstone Community Church, 3rd Ave at 115th St. in Lansingburgh

Friday, Dec 13 All are invited to the Sunday School Christmas party at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, Dec. 14 All are invited to the Dinner Club Christmas Party. See article below for details

Sunday, Dec. 15 Our morning worship service will feature our Sunday School children who will be performing a short nativity play, complete with "costumes".

Sunday, Dec. 15 -- Following worship, help is needed to put up and decorate the Christmas Tree.

Sunday, Dec. 22. Share the spirit of Christmas with some of our shut-ins as we go Christmas Caroling. All carolers are asked to meet at Van Rensselaer Manor at 2:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm.

Wednesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Service at 10:30

Sunday, January 19 The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following worship



Christmas time is always such a wonderful time of year for our Sunday School students. This year we will be celebrating with our annual Christmas Party and Christmas Program. The party will be held on Friday, December 13th at 6pm at the church. All are invited. There will be snacks, pizza, soda and activities. The program is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th during the church service. The children will be performing a short nativity play, complete with “costumes”. Email reminders and additional information about the two events will be sent out soon.

Our holiday fundraiser for this year was Operation Christmas Child. This year we collected 32 boxes for distribution to needy children throughout the world. Thank you to all who contributed to this worthy fundraiser.

Envelopes for Sunday School children to use for weekly offerings will be distributed during the month of December, if you have a child in Sunday School, please remember to pick up a box.

Finally, if you are one of the many that uses Facebook, please don't forget to “like” our page, Faith Lutheran Sunday School. Pictures, event details and other information are posted there.

If you are interested in attending the Christmas party, please email me at s.martin@hvcc.edu or call me at 765-0129.

Sara Martin
Education Director



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

In November the annual Thankoffering program was held and the Tough Questions portion of the Mark Bible study was completed. In January we will begin the Rising Expectations lesson. Tags for gifts for the residents of Good Samaritan Home were distributed. The items need to be returned to church by Saturday, December 7. Many thanks to all who help us make Christmas a little merrier for these seniors.

The annual Christmas luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 7 at noon at the church. Bring a dish to share. Marilyn will lead the program for the day and we will pack cookies for the shut-ins and gather the gifts for the Good Samaritan home. All women are welcome—please join us for yummy food, worship and fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who has helped out with cookies for the shut-ins. They are definitely looked forward to by the folks who receive them.

We began crocheting or knitting Prayer Blocks. These will have either a prayer or Bible attached and be given to the sick and shut-ins. These blocks are squares 8 – 10 inches in size, either solid color or with a simple pattern. This is just another way for us to keep in touch with members who aren't able to be at church and offer them a comforting item they may use during prayer or meditation time.

We look forward to seeing many of you on December 7.

DINNER CLUB



November Dinner Club guests enjoyed an Italian dinner served by the committee of Bob & Polly Hayward, Pauline Lupo, Bev Lanteigne, Gene & Donna St. John, and Nadeen Thompson. Following dinner

Nadeen challenged everyone's brain with some games—with prizes for the winners. Fun evening!

The December meeting on Saturday, December 14 is the annual Christmas party. Bring a gift for the grab bag with a \$10 limit. The Officers will be the hosts for the evening. Come and join in the fun and fellowship for this holiday celebration. Make your reservations with Nadeen Thompson, LouAnn Behrens, Fred & Michele Howard or Bob & Polly Hayward by Wednesday, December 11. This always is a really fun evening. Hope you can join us.



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.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

As part of his requirements to become an Eagle Scout, Dakota Franklin has undertaken a project to create a "Memorial Garden" located on the rear of the church property. This meditation area will be dedicated to his grandma, Catherine (Cay) Moss and will include an area for Memorial Garden Bricks that can be purchased with inscriptions in honor or memory of people or events. A form for purchasing a memorial brick is at the end of this newsletter. For more information, contact Dakota.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The **January** newsletter deadline is **Sunday, December 22**. Please place your articles in the box in the Church office by Sunday Dec. 22, or email them to DSGLVA@aol.com by Monday morning

