

Following Faith

The Monthly Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2014



JUST A REMINDER

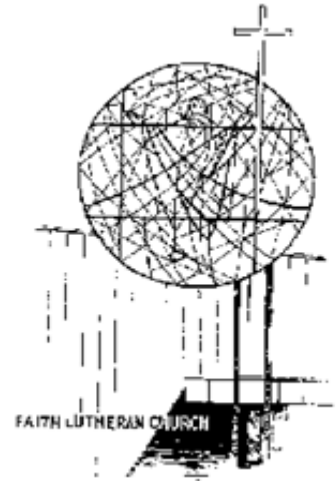
You probably have heard the name John Wooden. Wooden was the legendary college basketball coach who led UCLA to national prominence. Wooden was immensely successful as a college coach, posting ten national championships and setting numerous, numerous records in college basketball. Interestingly, Wooden never spoke about winning. He only spoke about elevating one's game, being prepared, and making the most of each day. If one could improve themselves for the day, he/she had won. His philosophy was simple. Begin with yourself, and the rest will take care of itself.

Known to maintain his composure in all circumstances, a reporter once asked him how he managed to keep his cool under such great pressure while coaching in the heat of a game. Instantly, Wooden simply reached into his pocket and took out a wooden cross.

When the pressure is on I hold this cross in my hand," he explained. "Not as a good luck charm. I just hold it there to remind me that there is something more important than basketball."

Interesting how certain symbols have a way of putting perspective back into our lives. How assuring it is that certain reminders can calm us and help us to think clearly and act mindfully. John Wooden is a wonderful reminder of reminders. There is One Thing that is more important than everything else. In the end, it's the only thing that matters. Because with it, there is no end! Just a reminder.

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: **Nadeen Thompson** has improved greatly following a bout with double pneumonia back in early December. In the meantime, **Russ Laustrup** and **Leo Parras** have taken their turn with pneumonia. They are both on the mend as well. **David Cerrone** slipped on the ice and as a result broke the lower part of his leg. He has had recent surgery and is currently anticipating a cast. **Mildred Lalanne** continues to deal with the pain stemming from her neck, though perhaps some slight improvement. **Doug Kurick** continues to contend with back pain and leg weakness, which combined, impedes his mobility.

Death: **Mark Laustrup** died unexpectedly in his home **January 5**. Mark had been suffering from a tumor in his brain stem for which he had had multiple surgeries. Over the past year he had undergone extensive physical therapy. Mark battled his disease courageously and maintained his dignity throughout. He managed to keep his usual good sense of humor, kept us all laughing and always comfortable in his presence. Mark left many, many friends, an extremely close family, including his parents, brother and sisters, his two children, Jason and Sara, and grandchildren, Kamryn and Charlie. Mark was a lifelong member of Faith and its predecessor church, Our Savior's. Mark recently celebrated his 61st birthday. He will be greatly missed. We extend our Christian sympathy to his family and friends.

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR AND KAREN

Please accept our deep felt gratitude for the generous Christmas gift given by the congregation at this time of the year! You have extended much support and wonderful kindness throughout our time together. It is an honor to be a part of this ministry! We are grateful.

Pastor Steve and Karen

FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 2: In Honor of Rebecca's Birthday
Given by the Truland Family

Feb. 9: To the Glory of God

Feb. 16: To the Glory of God

Feb. 23: To the Glory of God

SERVING FAITH

Feb 2	Altar	Pat Turcotte, Donna Gibson
	Lay Assistant	Donna Gibson
	Ushers	Pauline Lupo, Nadeen Thompson
	Counters	Joyce Duncan, Carol Perrott
	Coffee Hour	Donna & Gene St. John
Feb. 9	Altar	Karen Cordes, Marilyn Niles
	Lay Assistant	Fred Howard
	Ushers	Irene Pagel, Carol Perrott
	Counters	Polly & Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh, Marilyn Niles
Feb. 16	Altar	Karen Cordes, Marilyn Niles
	Lay Assistant	Carol Karpien
	Ushers	Ron Moss, Bill Speanburg
	Counters	Donna & Bob Gibson
	Coffee Hour	Nadeen Thompson
Feb 23	Altar	Donna St. John, Evelyn Jarosz
	Lay Assistant	Bill Maloney
	Ushers	Donna Truland, Mike Moroskey
	Counters	Michele & Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	Irene Pagel, Carolyn Rouse

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

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 2nd !

Traditionally we collect donations in a big soup pot at the back of the church. 100% of donations will then be given to local food kitchens and pantries. In so doing we will join with thousands of churches across the nation in raising millions of dollars for the hungry. What a way to make this day a **SOUPER** Sunday !



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 19 following worship and brunch. Thanks to everyone who brought food.

Elected for a two-year term to Council were Errol Bull and Carol Perrott. Joyce Duncan Bill Jarosz, David Truland and Donna VanZandt were re-elected for a two-year term. Officers will be elected at the next Council meeting. Watch next month's newsletter to learn the results.

Many thanks are extended to Beth King and Diana Rieker for their service on Council. Both served as officers and are retiring after two consecutive terms.

The proposed budget of \$165,000 was approved.



JANUARY

As usual, this year's Sunday School Christmas events were a great success. The Christmas Party was well attended and we had a lot of fun eating, talking and playing a rousing game of hide and go seek. Thank you to all who brought food or drink to make the party special! We also rehearsed the Sunday School Christmas program at the party. It was our first attempt at a "mini" Nativity program. Everyone was so excited to wear their masks and perform the show for the entire congregation on that Sunday. Mother Nature threw a curveball our way and sent a lot of snow the night before, but all the actors and actresses made it to the play and the show went on. Our audience was small, but very impressed by the kids and their efforts. There may be a video or 2 around if anyone who missed it is interested in watching.

The children all received giving envelopes for next year and thoroughly enjoyed the new curriculum (Holy Moly) that we have been using for the first half of this year. After a rest from the Christmas activities, we will get back to planning the rest of the year for 2014. We can look forward to Easter and end of the school year events.

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

FEBRUARY

Unlike most months, I don't have a lot to say for this month. Things have quieted down after the busy Christmas season and the kids are getting used to coming back to regular old Sunday School. We continued this year with the new Holy Moly curriculum and will most likely finish out the year with this curriculum. Since Easter is so late this year, we haven't even started to think about our plans as of yet.

Don't forget to "like" us if you are on Facebook. I hope to post some Christmas pictures and videos later this month.

Happy New Year!

Sara Martin
Education Director



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

The Women of the ELCA met on Tuesday January 21 for the regular meeting. "Rising Expectations" session of the Bible study of Mark was begun, looking at expectations that were forming as Jesus was entering Jerusalem for his final weeks on earth. The session will be completed in February.

As is our custom, we will pack cookies to be delivered to the shut-ins for Valentine's Day. The packing will be done on Sunday, February 9 following worship. Anyone who can contribute a batch of cookies for this project may leave them in the kitchen by the morning of the 9th. Many thanks for all who use their baking skills to help with sharing God's love in this special way.

Kay reported that \$135 was sent to the Churchwide Organization for our Thankoffering in November. We are again planning to prepare Saturday lunch and dinner in April for the residents at Joseph's House but are waiting confirmation of the exact date.

Evelyn Jarosz and Marilyn Niles will be co-coordinators of the group for the coming year. Kay Young will continue as Treasurer and Donna Gibson as Recording Secretary.

Mark your calendar now for our annual picnic supper which will be at Evelyn's on Tuesday June 17 at 5:30 pm. All ladies are welcome to join us. The February meeting will be held at church on **Tuesday, February 18 at 10:00 AM**. Come join us and study more about Jesus' final days.

OUR FAITH AT WORK

Our mission offerings for the month of February will be in support of the work of Jeff and Sissie D'Jernes and Wycliffe Bible Translators.



Their work translates the Bible into the language used by the Arop-Lokep people of Papua, New Guinea. The task is complex because the translation cannot go directly from English to their language. The translators must immerse themselves into the culture in order to render a comprehensible translation.

Jeff and Sissie D'Jernes have been working in New Guinea for many years and depend on the support they receive from congregations like ours to continue their work. Your continued contributions are greatly appreciated.



DINNER CLUB

January Dinner Club enjoyed Shepherd's Pie and a variety of snacks prior to dinner. Thank you committee: Janet Walsh, Helen Inglis, Barb & Larry Boord, Donna VanZandt, Stephanie Wagar, and Joyce Duncan.

Following dinner the group was challenged with a LARGE Word Search on Winter while some of the group played Yahtzee. A good time was had by all.

The February meeting will be the annual dinner out at Salty's Pub in Halfmoon. This is the Installation Banquet for the organization.

NEW KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Thanks to a donation from Russ and Elinor Lastrup for the kitchen assistance provided for a reception held following Mark's funeral, two new coffee makers and a complete set of kitchen knives were purchased for the kitchen. The coffee makers will be labeled "Regular" and "Decaf" and make 40 cups each. People won't have to wait in line for the next pot of coffee on Sunday morning. And just think of it—the right knife for what you need to cut will be available and there are two different sizes of kitchen shears too! Thanks Bev Lanteigne for your great shopping and special thanks to Russ and Elinor for your generous contribution.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The **March** newsletter deadline is **Sunday, February 16**. Please place your articles in the box in the Church office by Sunday Feb. 16, or email them to DSGLVA@aol.com by Monday morning