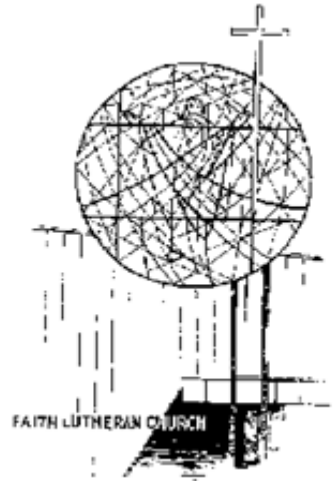


Following Faith

The Monthly Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

January 2013



Just Stay in the Race

The story is told about the noted director of biblical epics, Cecil B. DeMille. When they began working on the movie Ben Hur, DeMille talked to Charlton Heston--the star of the movie--about the all-important chariot race at the end. He decided Heston should actually learn to drive the chariot himself, rather than just using a stunt double. Heston agreed to take chariot-driving lessons to make the movie as authentic as possible.

Learning to drive a chariot with horses four abreast, however, was no small matter. After extensive work and days of practice, Heston returned to the movie set and reported to DeMille.

"I think I can drive the chariot all right, Cecil," said Heston, "but I'm not at all sure I can actually win the race."

Smiling slightly, DeMille said, "Heston, you just stay in the race, and I'll make sure you win."

Those are the words of God to everyone through a time of tumultuous change: "You just stay in the race, and I'll make sure you win." Look for God's hand. If you cannot see it in the event itself, look for it in the aftermath when you are putting your life back together. God's hand is sure because Jesus is sure. He remains the beginning and the end and His promise is for all times, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." He will see us through.

A Blessed New Year to everyone. And don't forget... Stay in the race!

Pastor Steve

Faith Lutheran Church
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Troy, New York 12182
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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. **Pat Turcotte** paid a visit to Albany Medical in order to have a stint put into one of her heart arteries and restore blood flow. She is home and feeling much better. **Glen Peyser** continues to heal from his not so recent motorcycle accident. He now awaits additional surgery for his collar bone in order to encourage further mending. **Gladys Zepf** has graduated from her physical therapy at Van Rensselaer Manor, but will now continue as a resident there. **Maxwell Thomas** is home after spending several weeks in Albany Medical following his birth. He is gaining weight normally and growing beautifully.

Baptized: Hailie Marie Weir, born December 7, 2011, daughter of Meghan and Richard Weir, was baptized on November 24. Her godparents are Lea Samol and Wesley Speanburg. Welcome into the Family of God Hailie!

Moved: **Ethel Lennek** has moved to Hawthorne Ridge Assisted Living in East Greenbush and will be in Florida for several months beginning January 6. **Mary Frazer** has moved to an apartment in Glens Falls as of December 1 in order to be closer to family. We will still enjoy Mary's presence at Faith, however due to the distance away, just not quite as frequently. We wish Ethel and Mary well in their new dwellings!

FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

January 6: To the Glory of God
January 13 To the Glory of God
January 20 In memory of Fredrick Heilman
 Given by Ann Marie Heilman
January 27 In memory of Ruth Ann,
 Given by Helen Inglis

NEW FLOWER CHART

The new calendar chart for altar flowers is now posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the Altar please put the information on the flower chart for the date you wish. The cost is only \$19 per bouquet. Money (or checks made out to WELCA) should be given to Donna Van Zandt.

COUNCIL SUMMARY

The Council began review of the 2013 proposed expenditure budget. The Treasurer, Barbara Boord, discussed the basis for the 2013 proposed budget. The Council made additional recommendations and updates.

A letter was received from the Troy Assessor's office offering Faith the option to merge the three contiguous properties on the assessment role. The Council discussed the option and decided there did not appear to be a benefit to the church in doing this.

The possibility of holding a Brooks Barbecue fundraising event is being researched. Information on how to organize this event and the commitment required by Faith was obtained. There is a 250 dinner minimum per event, which the Council felt was reasonable. The Council was very interested and will pursue this idea further.

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

Diana Reiker, Secretary

SERVING FAITH

Jan 6	Altar	Nadeen Thompson, Janet Walsh, Kay Young
	Lay Assistant	Aaron Cordes
	Ushers	Diana Reiker, Jim Peters
	Counters	Evelyn & Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Nadeen Thompson
Jan. 13	Altar	Pat Turcotte, Pam Perras, Pat Brundige
	Lay Assistant	Fred Howard
	Ushers	Donna Truland, Mike Moroskey
	Counters	Janet Walsh & TBD
	Coffee Hour	Speanburg Family
Jan. 20	Altar	Pat Turcotte, Pam Perras, Pat Brundige
	Lay Assistant	Carol Karpian
	Ushers	B. Morgan, B. Speanburg, B. Stevens
	Counters	Joyce Duncan, Carol Perrott
	Coffee Hour	Tracie Maloney
Jan. 27	Altar	Lou Ann Behrens, Donna St. John, Sally Davis
	Lay Assistant	Bill Maloney
	Ushers	Rikki Franklin, Cay Moss
	Counters	Polly & Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Heather & Errol Bull

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can increase your stewardship to our church by volunteering as a Lay Assistant, Usher, or Counter. We could really use a few more people to help in one or more of these roles. 'Training' is available. See Donna Van Zandt for more information or to volunteer. Please consider serving our congregation in one of these roles.

MANY THANKS

December 16th was indeed a busy day at Faith. During worship, sixteen of our Sunday School children delivered a Christmas message and sang *Away in a Manger* to the delight of the congregation. Coffee hour included an expanded array of food that was enjoyed by a room full of people. Next came decorating the sanctuary and putting up our Christmas tree. Many hands helped make the project fun. While this was going on, several others worked on the exterior wall behind the balcony where more rotting wood was found. Then at 2:30, a group of twelve carolers visited some of our shut-ins to deliver a poinsettia, cookies, and sing a few Christmas carols. The carolers concluded the evening with a covered dish supper at the Gibson's.

Thanks to everyone who was a part of this very busy and rewarding day.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Twenty women plus Pastor Steve enjoyed the annual Christmas luncheon. WELCA presented Pastor a gift of appreciation. Everyone helped wrap packages for the Christmas families, packed cookies for the shut-ins, and inventoried the gifts for the residents at Good Samaritan Home. Many, many, many thanks to all who helped out with these projects. We hope to add some joy to the Christmas season for all these folks.

The January meeting will be our first of the new schedule. The meeting will be the third Tuesday of the month at 10 am. **Thus the January meeting will be Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 10 am at church.** Join us as we continue the Bible study of Mark.



This holiday season was certainly a joyous one for the Sunday School families. The Christmas Party was a lot of fun and food. The kids made some crafts, ate some snacks and hung out with their friends. The next day was the Christmas program during the church service. This was a wonderful and touching program, with all the kids participating, truly precious. It is truly a blessing, especially in light of recent events, to see all our children and to hold them close to our hearts! Thank you so much to everyone that has helped out this holiday season with all of our activities.

Envelopes were distributed to all the Sunday School students for 2013. This will give them the opportunity to learn about the importance of sharing and giving.

Our program has continued to grow throughout this year, and we hope it continues to grow in 2013. 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 Happy New Year!

Sara Martin, Education Director



DINNER CLUB

A festive setting greeted attendees at the December meeting – everything in gold and silver with lots of snowflakes. It was a Winter Wonderland. All enjoyed the delicious meal and the annual rendition of the *Twelve Days of Christmas*. Movements accompanied some of the verses. Plenty of thievery occurred during the gift exchange, but eventually everyone ended up with a package. A most enjoyable evening.

The January meeting will be on Saturday, January 12 at 6:30 pm. This will be a covered dish supper. Please make your reservations with Bev Lanteigne, Carol Karpien or Arlene Hunziger. Come join us and try everyone's specialty.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 27, 2013** following the worship service. The agenda for this meeting will include election of Council members for 2013, review and approval of an Expenditure Budget for 2013 and presentations of annual reports from our committees and organizations.

A copy of the proposed expenditure budget will be available by January 20th. A printed copy of annual reports will be distributed at the meeting. All committees and church organizations should submit their written reports by January 11th. Send or give your reports to Pastor or Bob Gibson (send reports electronically to rjgibson518h@verizon.net).

EVENTS for JANUARY

Jan 3	7 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Jan 6	9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Worship & Sunday School Coffee Hour after worship
Jan 7	7 pm	Council Meeting
Jan 10	7 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Jan 12	6:30 pm	Dinner Club
Jan 13	9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
	10:30	Worship & Sunday School Coffee Hour after worship
Jan 15	10 am	WELCA Meeting
Jan 17	7 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Jan 20	9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Worship & Sunday School Coffee Hour after worship
Jan 24	7 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Jan 27	9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	11:45	Coffee Hour and CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



OUR FAITH AT WORK

Our Mission contributions for the month of January will once again be in support of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

The Regional Food Bank has been helping to feed the poor and hungry in our communities since 1982. It is the only organization of its kind in northeastern New York. The Food Bank collects large donations of food from the food industry and distributes it to charitable agencies serving hungry and disadvantaged people in 23 counties. The Food Bank provides over 25 million pounds of food a year to 1,000 agencies.

In 2011, the Regional Food Bank distributed 1,530,332 pounds of food in Rensselaer County alone. You can learn more about our January mission at <http://regionalfoodbank.net/>.

David Truland, Missions Chair

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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