

Following Faith

The Monthly Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

March 2013



Tuning Your Voice for the Season

I remember fondly, words uttered by my six year old, Austin, who was close by my side during an intense conversation with a close friend, "Dad! You're stepping on my words!" Obviously, this was his way of telling me I wasn't allowing him a chance to speak. He wanted his voice to be heard.

Recently, I read of another pastor who was quite busy, to the point that he had little time to converse or even eat at the dinner table. His young daughter, well aware of her dad's perceived lack of time said, "Dad, I really need to tell you something important...and I promise I will tell you very fast!" Realizing his oversight he said, "Honey, you can tell me whatever you need to tell me and you can say it as slowly as you like." He, too, said he would never forget her reply, "Then you will have to listen slowly!"

The word *infant* comes from the Latin *infans*, which means "without a voice." Indeed, one could make a case that from the time we are born, primary to our existence, is to find our voice... a voice that is recognized, a voice that is respected, a voice that is listened to.

Is it not interesting that the Epiphany season ends with the words, "This is my Son, listen to him!?" We hear these words proclaimed by the Father as Jesus is transfigured in glory before the disciples, following which, they make their journey to Jerusalem. What the Father was telling the disciples and anyone else who cares to listen, "If you want to know who you are and what to say, it is very simple... listen to Jesus." What we say and how we say it, depends on who we listen to. It's no secret. How we think and how we talk so often depends on those whose company we keep.

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)

As we enter this most sacred time of the year, journeying again toward the cross and resurrection, we are wise to listen to the Father's good counsel, "It's now time to listen." So listen *slowly* to our Lord, lest we miss a word of hope, forgiveness, and love. And having listened intently, surely we will discern to speak carefully and lightly, mindful not to step on the thoughts or words of others. In so listening to our Lord's voice, may we find our better voice! Blessing upon your journey.

Pastor Steve

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Sick and Recuperating: **Julia Cannon** continues as a resident of Eddy Nursing Home with very limited mobility. She is once again under Hospice Care. **Glen Peyser** is home following some corrective surgery on his collar bone from a previous injury. **Mark Lastrup** is home following some delicate surgery on his brain stem. He is recuperating very well and receiving physical therapy in his home. He should be out and about in no time. **Bob Gibson** has begun a schedule of chemotherapy and so far is doing quite well. **Bob St. John**, Eugene's father, is undergoing some physical rehabilitation at Heritage House following abdominal surgery.

Deaths: Word has been received that former member, **Gil Dehnkamp**, died recently where he lived in Ohio. **Cecelia Boomhower**, Joyce Duncan's mother, died at Van Rensselaer Manor on February 4 following a long illness.

FLOWERS FOR MARCH

- March 3:** To the Glory of God
- March 10:** In memory of Mark Turcotte
Given by Pat & Ron Turcotte
- March 17:** In memory of Everett and Eugene Boomhower
Given by Joyce & Bob Duncan
- March 24:** Palm Sunday
- March 31** Easter Plants

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible class meets each Sunday morning at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall. The group is currently studying Exodus. Come and join in the study of the Scriptures.

OFFICERS ELECTED

Church Officers were elected at the reorganization meeting held on February 4th. David Truland was elected as the new President of the Congregation. Re-elected to office were: Beth King -- Vice President, Diana Rieker – secretary, Barbara Boord – treasurer, and Fred Howard as Financial Secretary.

COUNCIL SUMMARY

New Council members Bev Lanteigne and Michael Moroskey were welcomed and provided with Faith's Constitution and Continuing Resolutions. Nominations and appointments to Council officer positions and committees were conducted. The Council re-affirmed that Council meetings be held the 1st Monday each month. Council members were installed in front of the congregation on February 10.

The Council discussed the annual Congregational meeting, including action items. Bob Gibson prepared a proposal for funding sources for the handicap accessible bathroom project. The Council accept this as a framework for project funding. A motion was made and accepted by the Council to award the bathroom project to Hoosick Valley Contractors. A Décor Committee was identified and will work to make decisions relating to color and design.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Monday March 4, 2013 at 7pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary

SOUPE BOWL SUNDAY



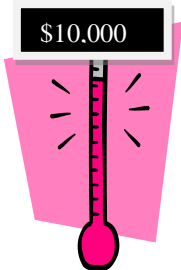
A total of \$130 was placed in the soup pot on Souper Bowl Day Sunday. This money will be given to our local soup kitchens. Thanks to all who contributed to this local mission as part of the National effort. The

website for the national drive reports "5 million dollars and still counting" in cash and food. One hundred percent of the funds raised go to local organization providing food for those in need.

SERVING FAITH

March 3	Altar	Merilyn Niles, Helen Inglis, Nadeen Thompson
	Lay Assistant	Fred Howard
	Ushers	Donna Truland, Mike Moroskey
	Counters	LouAnn Behrens, Janet Walsh
	Coffee Hour	Janet Walsh, Merilyn Niles
March 10	Altar	Merilyn Niles, Helen Inglis, Nadeen Thompson
	Lay Assistant	Bob Gibson
	Ushers	B. Morgan, B. Speanburg, B. Stevens
	Counters	Joyce Duncan, Carol Perrott
	Coffee Hour	Nadeen Thompson
March 17	Altar	LouAnn Behrens, Roberta Hayward, Pat Turcotte
	Lay Assistant	Donna Gibson
	Ushers	Diana Rieker, Jim Peters
	Counters	Polly & Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Irene Pagel, Carolyn Rouse
March 24	Altar	LouAnn Behrens, Roberta Hayward, Pat Turcotte
Palm Sunday	Lay Assistant	Carol Karpfen
	Ushers	Rikki Franklin, Cay Moss
	Counters	Michele & Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	Speanburg Family
March 28	Altar	Donna Gibson, Janet Walsh, Pam Perras
Maundy Thursday	Lay Assistant	Bill Maloney
	Ushers	Beth & Joe King
	Counters	Not needed
	Coffee Hour	None
March 31	Altar	Donna Gibson, Janet Walsh, Pam Perras
Easter	Lay Assistant	Rebecca Truland
	Ushers	Roberta & Rob Hayward
	Counters	Bob & Donna Gibson

CONGREGATIONAL FUND DRIVE ANNOUNCED



The Council approved a funding plan for the bathroom project at its meeting on February 4th. The plan includes using existing funds already raised for the Handicapped Accessible Bathroom (\$6,381), as well as a

portion of the funds in the Memorial Fund and the Mackenzie bequest. The projected gap between those funds and the \$40,000 authorized by the Congregation at its annual meeting on January 27th is \$10,000.

A Congregational Challenge Fund Drive will be announced in the near future. With a goal of ten thousand dollars, we will seek to raise this money through congregation sponsored events, such as the Brooks Barbeque mentioned at the Congregation meeting, and through individual gifts and pledges by members and friends of Faith Lutheran Church. Watch for more details.

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

The Council has accepted the proposal from Hoosick Valley Construction for our handicapped accessible bathroom and bathroom renovations. As of the time this article was written, work on this project is scheduled to begin on March 4th and be completed by March 28th. The lavatory behind the library (NW corner of the building) will be designated as the men's room while the men's room and handicapped accessible room are under construction. Additional details were reviewed by the property committee and council president at a meeting on February 10. Fred Howard was appointed as the designated single point of contact for owner/contractor communication as the job progresses.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Worship will be held at Faith on March 28, at 7:00 p.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Evangelical and Faith combined choir will offer an anthem. At the end of the service we will Strip the Altar, removing as many as possible of the symbols and decor of the worship area. This act is to depict the surrender of power that Christ offers up in order to sacrifice himself for the world.

Good Friday Worship will be held at Evangelical of Poestenkill, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. Evangelical and Faith combined choir will offer an anthem. This worship experience will be offered as a service of Tenebrae, a service of "shadows". This service will conclude with the sound of the "strepitus", a loud echo depicting the closing of the tomb. All leave in darkness and silence.

Easter Morning Special Coffee Hour will be provided **prior to worship**. Come to the Fellowship Hall between 9:30 and 10:15 to share Easter Greetings and enjoy some goodies provided by the Council. Any donations received for this special coffee hour will be applied to our project for the handicapped accessible bathroom.

Easter Morning Worship will be held at the usual Sunday worship time, 10:30 a.m. As always, there will be much singing and joyous celebration as we observe the Festival of the Resurrection. Following worship the Sunday School will hold its annual Easter egg hunt.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

WELCA continues the Bible study of the Gospel of Mark: "To Follow and To Serve". The March meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 10 AM at church.

A sewing day to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief will be held on Saturday, April 20, 10 AM at church. Work stations will be set up for an assembly line. Any donations of cotton fabric or batting would be appreciated. There will be cutting, sewing, layering and tying the quilts to be done. Come and help for however long you can.

Thank you to all who made cookies for the Valentine's Day delivery to the shut-ins. They are enjoyed and appreciated.



It seems hard to believe, but Easter is almost upon us. As always, Easter time is a very busy time for everyone involved in the Church, including the Sunday School. Once again, we will be having an Easter activity for the kids on Easter Sunday. Since Easter is so early this year, our activity will be dependent on the weather, and we may have to keep things indoors! The Sunday School will also

be doing a fundraiser this year for the March of Dimes for our Easter project. During the month of March, the students will be passing out empty plastic Easter eggs to the congregation for members to collect dimes in and then return to the students for counting and donation to our cause.

Our new procedure of having 2 separate classes with 2 separate teachers for the age groups seems to be working out well and although we have a great core group of teachers, I am always looking for more volunteers. Please think about how you could contribute to our children's learning.

If you have any questions or would like to help out in any way, please let me know (s.martin@hvcc.edu, or 222-8566).

Have a joyous Easter season!

Sara Martin
Education Director



DINNER CLUB

The February gathering of the Dinner Club was the annual dinner out, held at Revolution Hall in downtown Troy. What a delightful evening with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in their huge bar area followed by dinner in the dining area. Delicious food, good service, great company and good fellowship—what more can you ask for on a chilly February night? The evening was made even more special by having a number of "first timers" who attended. A great time was had by all.

The new officers were installed:

Presidents: LouAnn Behrens, Nadeen Thompson
Secretaries: Michele & Fred Howard
Treasurers: Polly & Bob Hayward

The March dinner will be at church on Saturday, March 9 at 6:30 for social hour with dinner at 7pm. The hosts for the evening are: Helen Inglis, Marilyn Niles, Sally Davis, LouAnn Behrens, June Goyette, Pastor Steve, and Michele & Fred Howard. Please make your reservation with one of these folks.



OUR FAITH AT WORK

Mission contributions for the month of March will be in support of Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County. Literacy Volunteers aids the 30,000 teens and adults in Rensselaer County who can't complete a job application, write a letter to a child's school or read the directions on medicine bottles.

Adult Education programs help people learn the language skills necessary to obtain or retain a job, get a promotion, read to their children and achieve success and self-sufficiency for themselves and their children. Your monetary donation to Literacy volunteers can make a real difference.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, there are tutoring and non-tutoring opportunities available. For information on becoming a volunteer call 274-8526, Monday through Thursday, 9AM to 4PM.

You can also discover more about Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County at their website, <http://www.lvorc.org/>

David Truland, Missions Chair

EVENTS FOR MARCH

Mon	March 4	Council @ 7 pm
Thurs	March 7	Choir rehearsal @ 7 pm
Sat.	March 9	Dinner Club @ 6:30 pm
Sun	March 10	9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Sunday School
Thurs	March 14	Choir rehearsal
Sun	March 17	9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Sunday School
Tues	March 19	WELCA @ 10 am
Thurs	March 21	Choir rehearsal @ 7 pm
Sunday	March 24	9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & Sunday School
Thurs	March 28	Holy Thursday Service at Faith at 7 pm
Fri	March 29	Good Friday Service at Poestenkill at 7 pm
Easter Sunday	March 31	9:30 – 10:15 Pre-service Special Easter Coffee Hour 10:30 EASTER WORSHIP Service Children's Easter Egg Hunt after the service

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The April newsletter deadline is **Sunday, March 17**. Please place your articles in the box in the Church office by Sunday, or email them to DSGLVA@aol.com by Monday morning.

PS: The editors appreciated everyone's cooperation with the early deadline for the March Newsletter.



EASTER PLANTS

Once again we will have a variety of spring plants adorning the Altar for Easter Sunday. If you would like to place a plant in loving memory of or in honor of someone please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than March 24th.

I would like to purchase _____ Easter Plant(s) at \$10.25 each in loving memory of or in honor of

Given by _____

My plant(s) may be given to the sick or shut ins. ____ Yes ____ No

If possible please fill out a separate order form for each plant purchased.

Make check payable to WELCA