

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
50 LEVERSEE ROAD  
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



# ***Following Faith***

## ***SEPTEMBER 2020***

### **ELCA Prayer for Times of Public Health Concern: COVID-19/Coronavirus**

God, our peace, and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Dear friends,

Ah, Fall!

Although it is still August – and as I write this the afternoon temperatures will rise into the 80's – I am starting to notice, without even consulting my calendar, that we're heading into the Fall.

And I love the Fall! I love the cooler mornings, the crispness of the air, and the colors that transform the trees. I love the change from one season to the next which cause changes in how we do things.

For all the many years when I needed to pay attention to school calendars, the Fall brought change in another way. Leaving behind the ease and relaxed feel of summer, the school year brought schedules, routines, and patterns – things that I also enjoy!

This Fall – this turn of the season – this school year is going to be different. The corona virus pandemic has altered what we can plan for and do in the months ahead. And we will continue to adapt and change as we move into this new season.

But we know that God is always faithful – and the coolness, crispness, and colorfulness will give testimony to that! As we sang recently: 'naught changeth thee!' (Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, ELW 834)

Thanks be to God!  
Pastor Judy

**Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, New York 12182  
(518) 237-4641**

[www.faithlutherantroy.com](http://www.faithlutherantroy.com)

**Sunday morning virtual worship: 10:00 a.m.**

**Rev. Judith Converse, Pastor  
(Stewardship)**

**Church Council Officers:**

**Diana Rieker (President)  
Bill Jarosz (Vice President)  
Carol Karpfen (Secretary)  
Roberta Hayward (Treasurer)  
Rich Anderson (Financial Secretary)**

**Council Members**

**Errol Bull (Property)  
Fred Howard (Special Projects)  
Linda Hulihan (Stewardship)  
Bill Jarosz (Property)  
Sara Martin (Education)  
Carol Perrott (Inreach/Outreach)  
Donna St. John (Missions)**

**R. Hayward, F. Howard, B. Jarosz,  
and C. Karpfen (Partnership Council)**

**Barbara Boord, Newsletter Editor**

**ELECTRONIC SERVICES WILL CONTINUE  
TO BE HELD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION AS  
WELL AS SERVICE MATERIALS WILL BE  
SENT BY EMAIL AND BY US MAIL.**

## Coronavirus Thoughts

When we first closed our church doors in mid-March due to the coronavirus, I believed that it would be for just a few weeks. There was talk of being together again in our beautiful sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Now we know that this virus and the sometimes-deadly disease that it causes are not going away. We can only hope to slow its spread, AND we are going to be doing things differently for an awfully long time.

At the May Faith Lutheran Church Council meeting – held virtually using Zoom - I shared a recent letter from our Bishop. In it he has recommended that we not reopen our buildings until we can do so safely. Additionally, there are a large number of questions that the leadership of the congregation will need to answer and make plans for once we do decide to invite people ‘back to church.’”

Some of those questions revolve around the building: cleaning and safe movement. Some of those questions deal with our worship service: seating, masks, singing, and the practices involved in distributing the elements of Holy Communion. There are additional questions about funerals and other group events.

In short, we have a LOT to think about, talk about, and plan for. I request your prayers for our church leaders more than ever during these upcoming months as we try to discern what is safest and best for our family of faith.

Finally, remember that if there is a particular hymn that you’d like to sing/ hear on Sunday morning during our worship service, please let me (978) 808 6780 or [judyconverse@gmail.com](mailto:judyconverse@gmail.com)) or Donna VanZandt (518 496 8935 or [dvanzandt@brunswickcsd.org](mailto:dvanzandt@brunswickcsd.org)) know. And if you would like to talk with me about anything, use the contact information above and we can communicate using voice only or voice with video.

**Pastor Judy**

***ELCA Prayer for the situation in which a worship community may be advised against gathering***

**Gracious God, it is good for us to gather as your beloved in community. We treasure your presence with us in word and meal, song, and prayer. Be with us in these days when gathering together as often as we would like is not possible. When we must be apart for reasons of safety, we trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings. Encourage us in connecting as we are able, reaching out to our neighbors in need and being persistent in prayer. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our constant companion. Amen.**

## AMONG OUR PEOPLE

**Please pray for Brayden McCormack, and his family. Brayden is a 9-year-old boy from Tampa, Florida who has unfortunately contracted Naegleria Fowleri a Brain-eating amoeba. This single-cell amoeba attacks brain tissue and is usually fatal. His continued strength, along with our loving prayers, will support his healing and recovery.**

**Prayers for Paul Haas who is doing well at Van Rensselaer Manor. While he cannot have visitors, he does have his cell phone 518-892-2231 and enjoys telephone calls from his friends.**

**Prayers for Larry Boord who is now home and continuing his recovery process. Please include Barbara as well.**

**Prayers of encouragement for Pastor Judy and the Councils of Faith and Evangelical as they lead our congregations into a new journey of Faith in our communities.**

**And finally, prayers for our country and our world in these times of COVID-19 pandemic and turmoil and unrest.**



## OUR FAITH at WORK

The featured mission for the month of August will be in support of the work of the **Ebenezer Foundation**.

The foundation is a U.S. based not-for-profit organization created to provide financial support to the Ebenezer Child Care Trust in Zambia, Africa. The Trust is dedicated to saving, raising, and educating impoverished and orphaned children living in the city of Livingstone, and operates exclusively on donor support. Ebenezer Child Care Trust operates a children's orphanage, a primary school, a farm, and a community food program.

Our donations help to continue the foundation's commitment to sustaining a loving home for the Ebenezer orphans and a quality education for all Ebenezer students.

<https://www.ebenezerfoundation.org/>

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The featured mission for the month of September will be in support of **Habitat for Humanity**.

Habitat for Humanity has been providing home opportunities for families in need of decent housing for more than twenty-five years. Our support helps many families obtain their own home, which goes a long way toward building stability and independence in their lives.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

### Pull tabs

We continue to collect the pull tabs off soda or beer cans. Donated pull tabs will be periodically dropped off to the Ronald McDonald House, in Albany. You will find the collection containers on the table in the Narthex. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region not only provides access to quality health care; we enable a family-centered approach, ensuring families are fully supported and actively involved in their children's care. For more information check out the website:

<https://rmhcofalbany.org/>

## BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY.

Our mission of the month is the Bread of Life Food Pantry which is located next to Evangelical Church in Poestenkill. It is a nonprofit organization helping families supplement their food needs. Our church has been supporting the food pantry with food donations left in the collection box in the Narthex. While the church is closed, the need continues. You may choose to bring donations directly to Evangelical Church in Poestenkill. You may drop off your donations during the daytime. Volunteers will check Monday, Wednesday, Friday. If you wish, you may leave a message at the church office number (518) 283-6045 to let them know when you will be dropping off a donation.

### “BREAD OF LIFE” FOOD PANTRY STAPLE FOOD SUGGESTIONS TO SHOP FOR OR DONATE – ELCP Poestenkill, NY

**Meat Items:** hamburger (1lb.) bacon (1lb.) hot dogs, frozen chicken (tenders, nuggets, patties) Frozen fish (sticks, fillets) Eggs, American cheese slices, butter (1 lb.), bread & rolls  
**Canned or jarred items:** Vegetables (green beans, corn, peas, potatoes, beets, carrots) Fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, **fruit cocktail, Mandarin oranges**, applesauce)  
Pork & Beans, any like Bush's baked beans, canned pasta (ravioli, beef-a-roni, spaghetti)  
Peanut Butter, jelly (**strawberry**, grape, others), fruit juices (apple, cranberry, other varieties) snack items (cookies, bars, pudding, fruit cups, cake & baking mixes, any others)  
Canned Tuna, Stew, Chili, or **Hash** – Soups (chicken noodle, tomato, or any kind) -Spaghetti sauce – Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup  
Coffee (instant or ground) Tea bags, Sugar, Flour, cooking oil, dried pasta (any kind) Pancake or Baking Mix, rice (white or brown), Pancake syrup  
Stuffing Mix, dried Potato Mixes, Mac & Cheese, Ramen Noodles, Cereal (cold or hot) Oatmeal, Cheerios, Frosted Flakes, Mini-Shredded Wheat, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Cinnamon Life, Honey Nut Cheerios, Life, Raisin Bran, Chocolate varieties, Froot Loops, Lucky Charms  
**Personal Items:** Bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, **dish soap, laundry soap**, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues  
**Fresh Produce:** Potatoes, carrots, onions, oranges, apples, garden abundance in summer **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**  
Call (518) 283-6045 for shopping list or to drop off at the church.

*Donna St. John, Missions*



## JOINT PRAYER GROUP

Faith Lutheran and Evangelical Lutheran have a Joint Prayer Group that has been active since June 2016. There are approximately 12 of us that pray on a regular basis for our churches, for our Pastor and for healing for our members and others in need of prayer.

Pray for wisdom for our church leaders as we plan how we as congregations will worship together in the future.

Pray for spiritual revival in this area. Pray also for the churches in this area that are struggling and in need of pastors.

If you, a loved one, or someone you know would like to be included on the specific list for prayers, please let me know.

Michele Howard, [mcvh44@aol.com](mailto:mcvh44@aol.com), (518) 753-4288.

## NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Barbara Boord is coordinating the Newsletter efforts.

Newsletter copies may be viewed on the church web site:

[www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com](http://www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com)

at any time.

We will email you a copy if you send your email address directly to Barbara at:

[barbboord@hotmail.com](mailto:barbboord@hotmail.com).

Finally, at your request, we will be happy to send you a hard copy via the USPS.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletter item deadline for the October 2020 newsletter is Monday September 21. Please email your articles to: [barbboord@hotmail.com](mailto:barbboord@hotmail.com).



## WE'RE GETTING READY FOR IN-PERSON, INDOOR WORSHIP!

It has been 5 ½ months since we worshiped in our sanctuary at Faith Lutheran. It has been a **long** 5 ½ months! After a great deal of discussion following lots of reading and listening to the information that is available – **as well as weighing the risks that are still present**, we are beginning to plan for worship in our sanctuary again.

Here's what we're planning:

- September 6 – Worship via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. (Pastor Christopher Hoyer leading worship and preaching)
- September 13 – Outdoor worship at Evangelical/ Poestenkill at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 Worship via Zoom
- September 20 – **INDOOR worship at Evangelical/ Poestenkill** at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 Worship via Zoom
- September 27 – **INDOOR worship at Faith/ Troy** at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 Worship via Zoom

**Going forward the indoor/ in-person worship service will alternate between Evangelical and Faith Lutheran, each week at 9:00 a.m., AND the 10:30 Zoom worship would continue to be offered.**

**If you would like to receive OR continue to receive a weekly mailing of the Zoom worship bulletin, please call the church office (518 237 4641) and leave a message with your name and plan to continue. Thank you!**

Here are some of the guidelines for our in-person worship:

- **Please, please do not come to in-person worship if you feel ill!** The symptoms of the virus are well-known – fever, shortness of breath, and achiness. Especially as we move into the Fall and flu season, we all need to be careful about spreading any illness to others when we are together.
- If you come to in-person worship, **a mask will be required**. That mask should cover your nose and mouth fairly snugly. Please have it on when you enter the building. Masks will also be available at the check-in table.
- Upon entering, you will be asked to sanitize your hands.
- We will ask you to verify your name and phone number for tracking purposes should someone present that day develop COVID-19.
- We ask that you **remain at least 6 feet away from others**. That includes when you are entering or leaving – and when you are sitting. The pews in the sanctuary will be marked to indicate where you can sit. Those from the same household can sit together.
- Please enter through the narthex – either the east or west doors. An usher will assist you in via the center aisle to a pew. All exiting will be from the side aisles and through the doors at the front of the sanctuary – near the library and the sacristy.
- An offering plate will be available in the center aisle for your envelope. THANK YOU!
- A bulletin will be available for use during the service.
- If you need to use the restroom while you are in the building, please allow only one person in the room at a time. Use the disinfectant wipes that are available.

Initially we will not be singing hymns or partaking in Holy Communion. These additions to our service may be added as we move forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a Council member or Pastor Judy. Be safe.