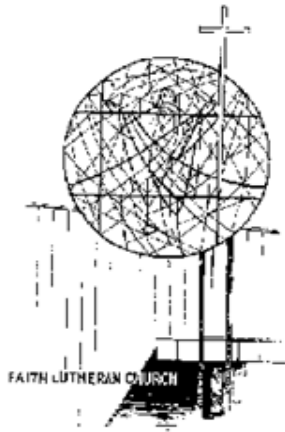


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

September 2016



Ready...Set...
Ready...Set...
Ready...Set...

Dear Church,

I know that the word that follows is supposed to be "GO!" As in "Off to the races! Hurry up; let's go!"

That Ready-Set-Go series has been in my mind as I continue to begin my ministry with you at Faith. As an interim pastor, my goal with you has been to get oriented quickly, dive right in with you on whatever is most urgent, and help to efficiently set a path for our time together.

Yet even as I begin my fourth (!) month with you in September and we kick-off the fall with Rally Day on September 18th, I sometimes feel like I'm still just getting started. Am I very behind schedule if I feel like I still *continue to begin*?

Certainly we have already done some important things together and established some promising plans. I have enjoyed getting to know more of your stories, and shared in the joy of a wedding and the sadness of a funeral. The steeple repairs are set to begin, and preparations are well underway for the congregational study that will help you set the church's course into the future.

Still, at the start of each week, I find myself looking back and forth between my calendar and a collection of to-do lists and post-it notes, struggling with the same questions:

- ~ What is the most important thing to do next?
- ~ Who is the most important person or group of people to attend to?
- ~ What is God calling me to focus on right now?

When I mull those questions, there may be a tiny part of me that is procrastinating on other tasks like setting consistent office hours, hanging pictures in the office, and organizing files.

But there is a bigger part of me that thinks of those questions as an essential activity of my spiritual life and a necessary grounding for my ministry, like a navigator stopping at intervals to check coordinates on a journey.

The three questions above are a variation of questions posed in one of our family's favorite picture books, [The Three Questions](#) written and

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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. Jennifer Wegter-McNelly, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

Donna VanZandt (President)
Sara Martin (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Diana Rieker (Secretary)
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)

Council Members

Errol Bull (Property)
Dana Cerrone (In Reach/Out Reach)
Elizabeth King (In Reach/Out Reach)
Evelyn Jarosz (Worship)
Sara Martin (Education)
Michael Moroskey (Property)
Pam Perras (Stewardship)
Carol Perrott (Missions)
Ben Wagar (Property)

illustrated by John J. Muth, which is inspired by a much older short-story of the same title by the Russian author Leo Tolstoy.

My son Keller has outgrown picture books now, but I keep that one around. I find I often pull it off the shelf to loan out or sometimes to look through myself. The beautiful water color illustrations are rewarding for their own sake. I encourage you to check it out, even if you don't have anyone of the picture-book age in your house right now.

With some small variations, I think the questions fit most of us who are trying to walk with God, regardless of the particulars of our calendars, lists, and post-it notes. Much of scripture seems to me to pose those questions from one direction or

another. The questions also capture pretty well the shared discernment we are called to do as Christian communities and as leaders, who should always be asking who and what God is calling us to focus on in a particular time.

As we transition this month to the quicker pace of fall and the specific challenges we have set out for ourselves at Faith Lutheran Church, I encourage us sometimes to pause, open ourselves to the breath of the Spirit in the moment,

...and continue to begin together.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Jennifer

ability module, strategic planning module and the communication module.

The Council has decided to move forward with repair of the church steeple. Several roofing contractors were contacted regarding this project. Expenditure of up to \$9,000 was approved at the last congregational meeting.

For any concerns or problems, please advise us. We will discuss and address issues at our next meeting on Tuesday September 13th, 2016 at 7pm.

Diana Rieker, Secretary

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Pastor Bill Hempel is recovering nicely after surgery to remove a kidney. Dave Cerrone has started new therapy to aid in his continued progress. Larry Boord continues with PT. He is seeing some improvement but still has a ways to go. Paul Moleskey - Is home and making progress. All of the above individuals have expressed that your prayers and remembrances are greatly appreciated.

Word was received that Betty Regan passed away in late July. Betty had been a long time member of Faith and most recently was living in Ohio. She was 94 years young. Her ashes were buried in Oakwood Cemetery on August 16th.

Just a reminder, that a Memorial Service celebrating the life of Dorothy Benzinger will be held at Faith on September 11th at 12:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

COUNCIL SUMMARY

Discussion and planning for the administration of the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) continued. The tool will be used to anonymously collect information on areas of church satisfaction/dissatisfaction, areas of importance and priorities for the church. The Council reviewed a sample results report as well as supplemental modules and additional questions that can be included in the assessment. The Council decided at the August 16th special Council meeting to stay with the original 85 questions and add 3 supplemental modules; critical



C.A.T.

(Church Assessment Tool)

Holy Cow! It's almost here! What you ask? C.A.T. is almost here. (Church Assessment Tool) If you read your July Newsletter, you know that the Church Council decided to implement an assessment tool called C.A.T. beginning on September 18th. The purpose of this assessment is to help the leaders of the church determine the needs of the church in conjunction with our search for a new minister. We are encouraging all congregants of Faith to participate. The more responses we have the better the assessment will help us. It is also our goal to make this assessment as painless as possible. You will be given the opportunity to participate and complete the C.A.T. by going to your computer and signing in or by completing a paper copy.

Mark your calendar. **September 18th** there will be a special congregational meeting following the church service to kick off the C.A.T. Instructions explaining how to use your computer for this along with hard copies will be provided. Keep in mind, all assessments will be anonymous. More details will be forthcoming, but in the meantime feel free to contact me or other Council members with your questions or concerns.

Soon, the CAT will be let out of the bag!

*Peace to you this day,
Donna Van Zandt, Council President*



Here it is – the first newsletter of the Sunday School year! Although it is warm right now, I think that we can all feel the end of summer approaching. Now it is time to get back into the routine. Sunday School will be starting with a “mini” rally day on Sunday, September 18. We welcome all new and returning students to join us for the kick off of the school year.

We are planning to resume a similar schedule to last year with Sunday School taking place during the first half of the church service, and then having the students come in to the church service after the sermon has concluded. This plan may be altered slightly during the year as we progress and discuss viable options for any improvements in the program. We are looking forward to working with Pastor Jennifer and can't wait to see what the year has in store.

See you in September!

Sara Martin, Education Director

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our mission for the month of September will be in support of Habitat for Humanity Rensselaer County (HfHRC).

Habitat for Humanity Rensselaer County was formed in 1997 because of the need for affordable housing for hard-working, lower-income Rensselaer County families who lived in substandard conditions.

Much of the support for HfHRC comes from churches, schools, and civic groups.

Volunteers provide most of the labor, and individual and corporate donors provide money and materials to build houses. Selected families contribute 400 hours toward construction and pay the full cost of their mortgages, insurance, and taxes. Loans are interest free.

Your continued support is appreciated.

Carol Perrott, Missions

FLOWERS for JULY

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sept 4 th | In Memory of Colleen Peyser
Given by Mom and Dad |
| Sept 11 th | In Memory of Dottie Benziger
Given by Family |
| Sept 18 th | In Memory of Ceil Boomhower
Given by Nadeen Thompson |
| Sept 25 th | In Memory of Cay Moss
Given by her loving Husband, Ron
and Family |

PRAYER GROUP NEWS

Members of the joint Faith Lutheran and Evangelical/Poestenkill Prayer group meets on Mondays at 10:00 am either at Evangelical *in Poestenkill or Faith. The group will not meet on September 5th Labor Day. The next meeting will be on September 12th at Evangelical Lutheran.* Anyone wishing to join the group is welcome. For further details, contact Michele Howard at 518-4288.



September 20th at 10:30 am WELCA will resume their fall schedule with a bible study and a business meeting. The Upstate NY Women of the ELCA Fall Conference Retreats will be held on three separate weekends. The dates, location and topics are as follows. September 17th - Newman Center, SUNY Fedonia - Master's Table – a study on wine and its place in Scripture. October 8th – Kateri Tekawitha Shrine, Fonda – Bible study including the history of the Shrine and Native American Christianity. October 28th –29th – Christ the King Retreat Center, Syracuse – will be a study based on the book Sensible Shoes. Anyone interested in further information please contact Donna Gibson.

SERVING FAITH in SEPTEMBER

Sept 4 th	Altar	LouAnn Behrens and Joyce Duncan
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Carol Karpien Carol Perrott and Stephanie Wagar
	Counters	Michele and Fred Howard
	Coffee Hour	Rikki Franklin
Sept 11 th	Altar	Karen Cordes and Donna St. John
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Maloney Diana Rieker and Jim Peters
	Counters	Donna Gibson and Linda Hulihan
	Coffee Hour	Donna Gibson
Sept 18 th	Altar	Karen Cordes and Joyce Duncan
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Pat Turcotte Bill Speanburg and Mike Moroskey
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
	Coffee Hour	Heather and Errol Bull
Sept 25 th	Altar	Evelyn Jarosz and Stephanie Wagar
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Errol Bull Donna and Dave Truland
	Counters	Diane and Rich Anderson
	Coffee Hour	Gene and Donna St. John

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

*Donna Van Zandt, Worship Chairperson.
Schedule for Altar Guild by Pam Perras
Schedule for Coffee Hour by Heather Bull*



DINNER CLUB

The July 27th outing of Dinner Club at the Washington Park Playhouse was a success. Everyone able to attend enjoyed a supper of sandwiches followed by the play Chicago.

The Octoberfest is on September 10th at Faith starting at 3:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm. It will be hosted by Carolyn Coleman, Linda and Jim Hulihan, Chris and Larry Lansing, and Donna and Eugene St. John. Be sure to make your reservations with the committee. Everyone is welcome!

October 8th dinner will be hosted by LouAnn Behrens, Joyce and Bob Duncan, and Carol and Ron Karpien.

BARBARA BOORD ACTING NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COORDINATOR

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at church for pick up when you are present.

You may go to the church web site at:
www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com any time and view the newsletter.

We will email you a copy if you send your email address directly to Barbara at her email address. At your request, we will be happy to send you a copy via the USPS.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The August newsletter deadline is Monday August 22nd. Please email articles to: barbboord@hotmail.com.

Assistance with the compiling and distribution of the Newsletter is always appreciated. Anyone that can give some time to this joint effort is encouraged to contact me at the above e-mail address.

**GOD'S BLESSING BE WITH YOU THIS
LABOR DAY AND ALWAYS.**

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>LABOR DAY</i>	6	7	8	9	10 <i>OCTOBERFEST</i>
			Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:20PM	Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		3:00 PM <i>DINNER</i> 6:30 PM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>Dottie Benziger Memorial Luncheon 12:30 PM</i>		<i>Council Meeting 7:00 PM</i>				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<i>Congregational Meeting</i>	<i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	<i>WELCA 10:30 AM</i>	Speigle Elders 10:30AM-2:30PM	Home Bureau 2:00 to 4:00 PM		
25	26	27	28	29	30	