

Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, NY 12182



# ***Following Faith***

***April 2022***

***Christ is Risen!  
He is Risen Indeed Alleluia!***



**Faith Lutheran Church**

50 Leversee Road  
Troy, New York 12182  
(518) 237 4641

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

**Pastor Kate Drefke**

[drefkekate@gmail.com](mailto:drefkekate@gmail.com)

(518) 279 1627 (Voice and Text)  
(Observes Sabbath 9:00 PM Thursday  
thru Friday)

Gospel and Sermon Recordings <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>

**Sunday Morning Worship**

In Person and Zoom  
10:30 AM at Faith

**Church Council Officers****(Committee Assignments)****Council Members**

Donna St. John, President (Altar Guild, Dinner Club)  
Bill Jarosz, Vice President (Property)  
Carol Karpien, Secretary (Stewardship)  
Roberta Hayward, Treasurer  
Rich Anderson, Financial Secretary (Interim)

Doug Adamek (Property)  
Katie Bonnier  
Errol Bull, (Property)  
David Cerrone (Education, Worship)  
Diane Dyer (Office Administration)  
Sara Martin (Education)  
Donna Van Zandt (Worship)

Partnership Council – Roberta Hayward, Bill Jarosz, Carol Karpien, and Donna Van Zandt  
Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

**Pastor's Virtual Office Hours**

While COVID is still enough of a thing to warrant limited time in a coffee shop, I'm going to start offering "virtual" office hours for anyone who wants to "drop-in" and have a casual chat.

The first will be March 8. We'll try it for a few weeks and evaluate after Easter.

Topic: Pr. Kate's Virtual Office Hours

Time: Tuesdays, 10am-12pm, starting March 8, 2022

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117569411?pwd=elJVZzdhdhOTBjMU4xR1JibERITEU0QT09>

Meeting ID: 861 1756 9411 Passcode: 104197

**From the Pastor's Desk...**

My teaching parish (field education concurrent with classes before internship) was in a small congregation in San Francisco. At the time, they were one of a handful of congregations and other worshipping communities that rented worship and office space from an Episcopal congregation. (The make-up of the congregations made it kind of like an island for misfit toys.) For the most part, our different communities didn't do much together, but Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday were shared among three of us, each taking one of those special worship services to plan and lead. The worst Good Friday service I ever attended, and hopefully will ever attend, was that year. The community leading the service ended the reading with, "and Barabbas was a

bandit.” Perhaps the parties responsible for planning and leading the service knew they were messing up because the bulletin header on every page read “Goof Friday.” Like a botched execution, the worship service failed to kill Jesus. He didn’t even make it *onto* the cross!

On the third day, my teaching parish’s Easter worship was awesome, and fun, and fully celebratory of the Resurrection. But it still felt a bit “off” because we were gathered to worship the resurrected One... who had not actually died.

As Christians we love- LOVE- Easter. It and Christmas are for many the only two times a year they cross the threshold of a church. We love to celebrate the Resurrection, the promises of God fulfilled in Christ’s victory over death, the assurance of Divine love, grace, forgiveness and every good thing. But we don’t really like Good Friday. We avoid talking about the crucifixion, beyond some awful substitutionary atonement theory stuff, and we often use euphemisms, or otherwise minimize its harsh realities. Good Friday services are usually poorly attended (at least in my experience, all the places I’ve lived, etc.). We don’t like death. We don’t like the realities of death, its finality. So, we skip it. Friday night- there are better things to do than attend a man’s public execution.

But this year, now our third COVID Good Friday, and our first together, I invite you to consider for your congregation, and this partnership of congregations, what Good Friday, and Holy Saturday in the tomb of unknowing, means for you (the plural you). It has been a hard couple of years with COVID. I imagine it had to have been especially hard in 2020, not just because it was RIGHT THERE IN YOUR FACE, but because it was also the first with a new pastor, one for whom you had been searching for years- and then she’d barely started, and the world was hit with a pandemic. And speaking of that years-long search- wow! Lots of ups-and-downs in that, from the initial mourning of Pr. Steve’s death to a rotation of interims and supplies that you cared about and who cared about you (and probably some that y’all just felt mutually “meh”).

If we think about our lives being full of deaths and resurrections, and time in between spent in the tomb, what deaths have been? Relationships. Dreams. Concrete plans for the future... that didn’t happen. Scary diagnoses of illness. Actual deaths of loved ones.

When you’ve experienced such a death, did you deny it, or rush to “make it better” as quickly as possible? Did you lie in the tomb, alone, scared, uncertain or without any idea what was going to happen next?

We KNOW Easter is coming. But first, it’s okay, even necessary, for us to spend some time on the cross, some time in the tomb, letting go of what holds us back, what keeps us from rising to new life together. So, what needs to “die”?

### **Our Holy Week Services Schedule**

Maundy Thursday – 7:00 PM – Faith Lutheran - Troy

Good Friday – 7:00 PM – Evangelical Lutheran – Poestenkill

Easter Sunday – 9:00 AM – Evangelical - Poestenkill and 10:30 AM Faith - Troy

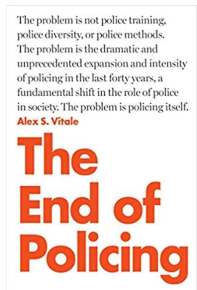
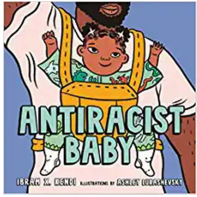
## Other Good Friday Services

First Lutheran Albany – 12:00 Noon

Gilead Lutheran Brunswick – 2:00 PM

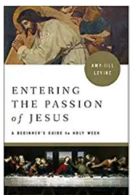
## Reading!

I was going to say that I'm catching up on periodicals, share a couple nuggets from articles, but then I watched some of Judge Jackson's confirmation hearings last week, and Ted Cruz inspired me. He printed up large posters of pages from Ibram X. Kendi's 2020 children's book *Antiracist Baby* to ask a candidate for the Supreme Court of the United States if babies are racist. I have the book on my shelf. I've read it. It's ok. Nothing "threatening" or otherwise offensive, and definitely not anything that says babies are racist. Nor do I think this is a book that should be on the "must read" list of a candidate for the Supreme Court.



Later in the week, he held up a copy of Alex S. Vitale's 2018 *The End of Policing*. The cover of Vitale's book reads, "The problem is not police training, police diversity, or police methods. The problem is the dramatic and unprecedented expansion and intensity of policing in the last forty years, a fundamental shift in the role of police in society. The problem is policing itself." I believe Judge Jackson's response to this book being metaphorically thrown at her was yet another reminder to members of Congress that policy- police, punishment, etc.- is their purview, not the Judiciary's.

## Lenten Book Study



The study began on March 9, using New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine's 2018 book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. There are two offerings each Wednesday: 2pm and 7pm. You are welcome to join and participate at either or both, or switch back-and-forth depending on the week.

### Remaining Schedule and Zoom Info:

April 6 Chp 5 The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

April 13 Chp 6 Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

Topic: Entering the Passion of Jesus 2pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82529736775?pwd=ekZiMFVwNFJvMmh0MmtnWE51SkE1QT09>

Meeting ID: 825 2973 6775 Passcode: 078846 By phone: 646-558-8656

Topic: Entering the Passion of Jesus 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84512991203?pwd=dEtDNEhHcGhwRkRkbVdveGM1OUsvdz09>

Meeting ID: 845 1299 1203 Passcode: 853018 By phone: 646-558-8656

## **Faith Lutheran Technology Upgrade!!**

We requested and received refurbished computers from a wonderful organization: **GE Elfun Computer Rehab of Schenectady, Inc.** They accept older computers (and equipment), wipe them clean, refurbish, and donate them to non-for-profit organizations. We received updated laptops, desktop, and printer. We certainly appreciate the gift.

On Saturday, March 28th our tech project team, along with some needed experts, worked to install the new computers and update our Zoom with recently purchased webcam and microphone. After hours of fun and enjoyment we are happy with our finished product; a Zoom church service with a closer view of the altar, ability to capture a full-service sound with both voices and music. Zoomers can now hear the congregation joining in!

It is our hope that Zoom attendees finally have a more inclusive and enjoyable experience without us spending the thousands of dollars first estimated. Please be mindful that the majority of our sound equipment is old and outdated, and we have been told by multiple sources that Zoom is not the smoothest or best option to use to share our service. In the future we may work towards live streaming. Baby steps.

Thank you to Eugene St. John (project lead), his coworker Chris Reynolds, Bill Jarosz, Pastor Lowell and Pastor Kate. Also, thank you to Glen Peyser for transferring desktop information from the old computer over to the new computer, Roberta Hayward for researching affordable software to meet our needs, and to Linda Hulihan and Bill Jarosz for assisting with Zoom all along.

Volunteers are still needed to run the Zoom service on Sundays. It is a simple process now. Basically, turning on and turning off the zoom service.

Please let me know if you are interested in being part of the Zoom Team.

Thank you!

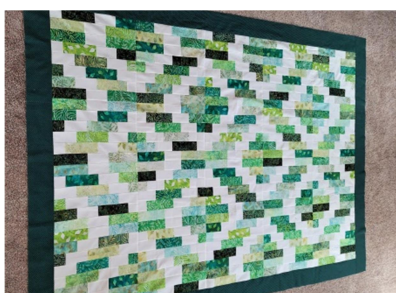
Donna St. John, President

518-526-2545 *cell*

## **TOP OF THE MORNING!**

The quilters have been busy stitching away since the beginning of the year. The quilt pictured was piece by Evelyn Jarosz and finished just in time for St. Patrick's Day. It is one of the quilts that will be included in our next donation to St. Paul's Center.

The quilters were most appreciative for the generous donations to our mission from our church council and individuals. They enabled us to replenish our supplies and continue creating quilts for the residents of St. Paul's Center.



## **April Mission of the Month**

The featured mission for the month of April will be in support of **Lutheran World Relief**. Lutheran World Relief, LWR, provides aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. LWR partner with communities to build and grow rural economies and work to break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive. Your continued support is greatly appreciated

## **Council Meeting Minutes March 7, 2022**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Discussion of distribution of Souper Bowl donations results in general consensus that monies should go to Ukraine via Lutheran World Relief.

Emory and Webb informed us that our insurance deductible will increase from \$1000 to \$2500. The policy provides for replacement of building and liability.

### **President's Report**

Donna St. John has been working on action items and stressed that preparation for meetings is essential to keep the meetings a reasonable length.

### **Election of officers**

President:	Donna St. John
Vice president:	Bill Jarosz
Secretary:	Carol Karpien
Treasure:	Continuing position-Hayward
Financial Secretary	Rich Anderson (interim)

### **Committee Reports**

**Education** – Sara Martin, Dave Cerrone

Pastor met with youth after church and is planning other activities.

**Property** – Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz, Doug Adamek

Door project: A contractor has been found who will give us a quote on refurbishing or replacing the front doors. Replacing and adding a crash bar to the eastern door is a one day project. Several shingles have blown off and Bull is working on replacing them ASAP.

- **Worship**– Donna VanZandt and Pastor Kate are working on incorporating hymns from the new purple supplemental hymn book.

**Synod conference June 5-6**

We need to finalize who will represent the congregation at the conference (April 3) and synod (June 5-6) assemblies.

Possible delegates include Donna St. John and Donna Van Zandt. Pastor Kate will be going. A male delegate is still needed.

- **Installation of Pastor Kate**

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Volunteers are needed to work with ELCP to prepare a reception.

- **Renew accounts**

Zoom account and Sundays and Seasons. Both have been renewed.

- **ELCP requesting to change service times.**

Ongoing Discussion before partnership council meeting. ELCP offered two suggestion that would allow them more time with Pastor: 1 - Once a month, hire a supply Pastor for Faith so Pastor Kate could stay at ELCP; 2 – ELCP would start worship at 8:45 and Faith at 10:45, thus giving Pastor more time at Poestenkill. After a lengthy discussion no consensus was reached. A survey of the congregation was suggested.

- **Technology upgrade Project team report**

GE Elfun Computer Rehab is in the process of filling our order. When they arrive, we will set up a workday.

Camera and microphone have been purchased. \$450. Eugene St. John volunteered to work on this.

- **Policy writing team** -Tabled

- Hall Rental agreement

- Memorials gift agreement

**Hiring part time administrative staff** - Tabled

## **New Business**

Application for membership by Katherine Vumbacco approved.

Next regular Council meeting - **Monday April 4, 2022, at 7:00pm.** - In person

----- *End of Council Meeting Minute Highlights* -----

## **Leading Our April Worship**

Lay Assistants

April 3 - The Bulls

April 10 - Palm Sunday - Rich Anderson

April 14 - Maundy Thursday - Evelyn Jarosz

April 17 – Easter - Fred Howard

April 24 - Diane Dyer

## **Happy Springtime Everyone!!!**

**We'd like to invite ELCP & Faith families to an Easter gathering at ELCP on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am**

**Lite refreshments prepared by members will be served**

**The gathering will focus on our children's group and will offer: a brief Easter story time, craft, game & Easter egg hunt.**

**For the sake of keeping things simplified yet plentiful please rsvp to: [sldeckerht@gmail.com](mailto:sldeckerht@gmail.com)**



## **AMONG OUR PEOPLE**

**Prayers of supplication for people suffering in war torn countries. Where there is starvation nourishment; where there is persecution, shelter and clothing for refugees; and where there is open warfare, negotiations leading to peaceful settlement of the issues leading to the terror of destructive violence.**

**Continued prayers for healing and recovery for Larry Lansing.**

**Paul Haas who continues to do 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 of thanksgiving and celebration with the joyous arrival of Nicole Van Zandt's new daughter, Ellie! Grammy Donna is overjoyed as she begins this new life journey.**

**Prayers of healing for Linda Hulihan who is recovering from an injury to her knee.**

**Prayers for renewal of our Congregations as we move into a new journey of faith, service and outreach in our communities.**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving for the blessing of a new Pastor. We ask that the Holy Spirit guide Pastor Kate and each of us as we move forward in the coming years together!**

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The newsletter item deadline for the May, 2022 newsletter is Thursday, April 28, 2022. Please email your articles to: [farmerf169@aol.com](mailto:farmerf169@aol.com). If you would like a special joy or concern shared, you can also contact him by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if he is unable to answer.

## **Online**

“Like” Faith on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FLCTroy/> and keep up with what's happening.

Can't make it in on Sunday morning for worship? Join us on Zoom!

Zoom Meeting ID: 83772454374    Password: 049977    Dial-In: 646-558-8656

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83772454374?pwd=ZVJDL3FhRjZSN2ZHTTFlUGo3TVVmdz09>

Miss worship altogether, but still want that Gospel lesson and sermon? Pr. Kate posts audio recordings of her sermons online each week at <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>

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## EASTER PLANTS

As our tradition continues, we will once again have a variety of spring plants adorning the Altar for Easter Sunday. If you would like to place a plant in loving memory or in honor of someone please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

The price for each plant remains the same at \$12.00.

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Plant(s) at \$12.00 each in loving

Memory or 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.

Checks payable to WELCA.

Thank you.