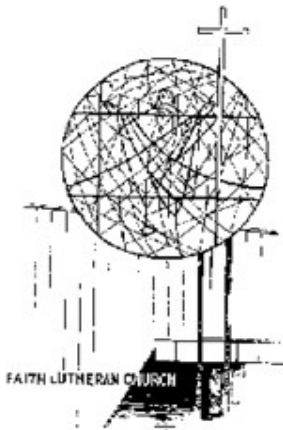


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NY 12180



Following Faith

AUGUST 2021

5 Finger Prayer

How To Pray:

Thumb: The finger closest to you - Pray for those closest to you

Index Finger: The finger that points the way- Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal you

Middle Finger: The tallest finger - Pray for leaders and all who have authority

Ring Finger: The weakest finger - Pray for the weak, sick, and those with problems

Pinkie: The smallest finger - Pray for yourself



Finding Our Way Home

Picture a little girl lost in a big city. There she sits, crying on the curb.

A policeman finds her, puts her in his cruiser and drives her up and down the streets, hoping she'll recognize something familiar. Which, at last; she does. She sees a steeple with a cross on it. Tears vanish. Speech returns.

"That's my church," she says. "I can find my way from here." You're not the only one, little girl. Indeed, we can find our way from here.

Driving down the road one day alone with my father, he said something clearly out of the blue, totally unexpected. I've never forgotten his sudden clear discernment, "No matter what you do in life, always stay with the church. Because if you do, you'll always have a family no matter what. And when you have family, someone will always be there and you'll never be alone."

What prompted my dad to say those particular words at that precise time I'll never know. However, those words could not have proven to be truer. Certainly there are all kinds of good reasons to be part of the church, none better than it is the very body of Christ.

Yet one of the best things I've come to understand is what that means. We'll never be alone. And best of all, we'll always have a family to remind us, "I can find my way from here."

Pastor Steve Cordes – August 2014

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

**Transitional Leader – Pastor Dan May
(518) 795 0964 or psrtdan88@gmail.com**

**Sunday morning worship – In Person and Zoom
10:30 AM at Faith**

Church Council Officers:

**Donna St. John (President)
Bill Jarosz (Vice President)
Carol Karpien (Secretary)
Roberta Hayward (Treasurer)
Rich Anderson (Financial
Secretary)**

Council Members/Committee Assignments

**Rich Anderson (Stewardship)
Errol Bull (Property)
David Cerrone (Education, Worship)
Diane Dyer (Office Administration)
Roberta Hayward (Stewardship)
Linda Hulihan (Missions)
Bill Jarosz (Property)
Carol Karpien (Stewardship)
Sara Martin (Education)
Diana Rieker (Inreach/Outreach)
Donna Van Zandt (Worship)**

**R. Hayward, B. Jarosz, C. Karpien,
and D. Van Zandt (Partnership
Council)**

Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

This is your home too!

As so many of us struggling in these difficult times where the sands underfoot seem to shift on a daily basis, our President and Council are working very hard to move things along on an accelerated call process. We need to support our leaders – helping where we can with our time, our prayers, and our contributions. If there is something that you are able and willing to do – phone calls to keep in personal touch with members, help with church or cemetery cleanup, help with building repairs, inviting a friend to worship with you, Altar Guild, Quilting group, assisting with our services, or planning Faith's 30th anniversary celebration – let a council member know. Your support will be welcomed, and knowing that you are with them will help prevent burnout in these dedicated people who individually are juggling so many balls at once!

Thank you President St. John and council members for all that you are doing!

The Editor

The Joint Call Committee

As council president and co-chair of the joint call committee I will continue communicating our status for finding a new pastor.

The joint call committee will meet to observe and interview a pastoral candidate on August 22 at a neutral location. Please pray that God leads us through this process and opens our hearts and minds to what He has in store for us going forward.

Donna St. John

Leading Our August Worship

Aug. 1 - Pastor Christopher Hoyer	----
Lay Assistant - Errol Bull	
Aug. 8 - Deacon Janet Walz	---
Lay Assistant - Evelyn Jarosz	
Aug. 15 - Deacon Jim Netzer	----
Lay Assistant - Bill Jarosz	
Aug. 22 - Deacon Charles Senrick	----
Lay Assistant - Carol Karpfen	
Aug. 29 - Deacon Jim Netzer	----
Lay Assistant - Rich Anderson	

Second Quarter Stewardship Summary

During the second quarter, Faith has received \$17,266 in collections. This reflects an increase of \$661 when compared to the same period last year.

While this is a positive indicator, we must be aware of several factors affecting the church's financial well-being. First, over the last three year period, member contributions have declined by 7.4 %. Second, last year the church benefited from receiving a loan of \$23,500 from the Small Business Administration PPP that was later forgiven. This loan helped us weather the negative effects of the pandemic, but was a onetime opportunity. With these two factors in mind, it is most important that we continue to give generously and build on the progress we have made. Please prayerfully consider how together we may accomplish this.

Collection Statistics Comparison:

First Quarter 2020	First Quarter 2021
\$17,304.06	\$13,968.85
Second Quarter 2020	Second Quarter 2021
\$16,565.06	\$17,266.65

Lay Assistants and Ushers

Now that we are holding our weekly church services indoors, we need your help. The church is looking for volunteers to help during the service as a lay assistant and/or an usher. The job description for each is quite simple. Lay Assistants will read the two lessons and psalm as well as assisting the Pastor with communion.

The job of the usher is easy as well. Greet people as they enter the church and hand them a bulletin. During communion direct people towards the minister to begin the process.

If you are willing to help please contact Donna Van Zandt at church or send her an email -

dvz515@hotmail.com

Flowers for the Altar

Aug 15. - In memory of David Niles, Given by Merilyn Niles.

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar at any time during the remainder of 2021, please fill in the flower chart hanging in the Narthex. Your name along with who the flowers are in memory of or in honor of would be helpful. The cost continues to be \$20.00 per bouquet.

Cash or check made out to WELCA is accepted. See Donna Van Zandt for questions and/or payment.

August Mission of the Month

The featured mission for the month of August will be in support of the work of the Ebenezer Foundation. The foundation continues to advance its mission of providing shelter, food and medical care to the orphans of Livingston, Zambia. A primary goal of the foundation is to make a difference in the lives of children. Our donations help to continue children access to education, health and medical services.

July 12, 2021 Council Meeting Highlights

Donna St. John expressed her thanks to all who are working to keep things going. She summarized progress in the call process and other areas.

Pastor May **said he was impressed with the tenacity of the congregation.** He would like to set up training for member distribution of Communion to shut-ins. Gilead is interested in investigating a relationship with neighboring congregations. Pastor suggested that two people from each congregation meet for an informal discussion.

Committee reports

- Inreach/Outreach – (Diana Rieker) Cards are being sent. Looking to the future, it would be good to involve youth in reaching out.

- Office Administration – (Diane Dyer) Dyer is preparing and mailing the weekly bulletins.
- Missions – (Linda Hulihan) Missions payments are current.
- Education – (Sara Martin, Dave Cerrone) Sara thanked all who helped with Confirmation and is hoping to get youth involved in the service and church programs.
- Stewardship – (Rich Anderson, Carol Karpfen with council collaboration) Carol will write a short article for inclusion in the August newsletter.
- Property – (Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz) Errol will fix the sign lettering on the church and paint the letters red.
- Worship– (Donna VanZandt, Pastor Dan) Donna thanked all who helped with the Service of the Word. Zoom is still in the process of being perfected. She suggested we consider hiring an IT person. She is working on Lay Assistant assignments and hymns as well as recruiting pastors for coverage. Pastor May suggested we look into live streaming.

Monday Quilt Group

We are back sewing together on Mondays after a hiatus during COVID. The virus may have kept us from sewing together but didn't stop us from quilting. We are busy tying quilt tops made over the last year; making them ready to be delivered to St. Paul's Center.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, it is easy to do by getting in touch with Janet Walsh 518 235 3245 or Donna Gibson 518 833 7471.

Altar Guild

With regular church services resuming, we would like to set a schedule for altar volunteers.

- You may have served in the past and would like to continue.

- Maybe you can assist with setting up on Saturday.
- Or maybe you are only available to help with the clean up after service.
- You might just want to hear more on what we do behind the scenes.

If you are interested in continuing to serve on the altar guild or would like to become an Altar Guild member, please contact me at 518-526-2545 or 518-274-3539.

Thank you,
Donna St. John, Altar Guild Leader

St. John's Cemetery – Melrose

The St. John's Cemetery in Melrose (Schaghticoke) is a cemetery that was 'used' by St. John's Lutheran Church, most recently sited in Melrose. Since that church closed in 1969, the cemetery has not been cared for, and it has become overgrown and unsightly. Since the last members of St. John's joined Our Savior's Lutheran (a church that then formed Faith Lutheran), there seems to be some connection with Faith Lutheran.

Cleaning up and learning more about the restoration of the cemetery is a project that Pastor and Steve Converse are coordinating through the summer and into early Fall. They are hoping to spend a day/week clearing the overgrown areas and removing fallen limbs, etc. They, along with the St. Johns, are also coordinating a monthly work day for those from Faith or other groups who are interested in helping. They will be at the cemetery on the third Saturday of the month between 9 and 2 to work.

Remaining planned summer Saturday work days:
August 21, September 18

Pastor Judy and Steve (978) 808-6780.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Praise God! Nick and Veronica St. John had a baby girl, Emma Rose St. John July 26th. Donna and Eugene are over the moon excited with this their second new grandbaby in recent months!

Prayer for healing for Larry Lansing who is undergoing Chemo therapy for cancer affecting his jaw. Our prayer is for healing and recovery.

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

Save the Date

On September 19th we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Joining of St. John's Lutheran of Troy and Our Savior's Lutheran to form Faith Lutheran of Troy.

We hope that you will join us for a light luncheon following the service that morning.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletter item deadline for the September 2021 newsletter is Wednesday August 25, 2021. Please email your articles to: farmerfl69@aol.com. If you would like a special joy or concern shared, you can also contact him by phone at 518 421 4576.