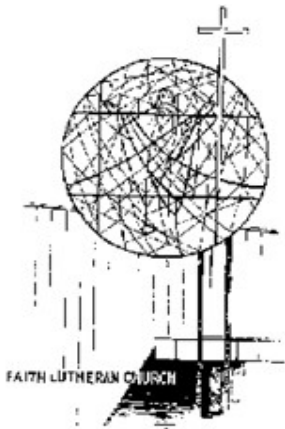


Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

AUGUST 2022

***My command is this: Love each other
as I have loved you. John 15:12***

Faith Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Kate Drefke

drefkekate@gmail.com

(518) 279 1627 (Voice and Text)
(Observes Sabbath 9:00 PM Thursday thru Friday)
(In an emergency call the number above)

www.faithlutherantroy.com

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**

Bill Jarosz, President (Property)
Vacant, Vice President (Property)
Carol Karpien, Secretary (Stewardship)
Roberta Hayward, Treasurer
Rich Anderson, Financial Secretary (Interim)

Doug Adamek (Inreach/outreach, Missions, Property)
Katie Bonnier (Inreach/Outreach, Missions)
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

Virtual Office Hours

These are being discontinued during July and August. See phone contact information above

From the Pastor's Desk...

I had lunch with a colleague the other week who remarked on how summer doesn't really exist once you get out of school. Even with some of the weird summer requirements of seminary (like CPE*), she had been used to summers off from kindergarten through her MDiv, and 20+ years later it still throws her. Because I took classes year-round for my BS and then MSW, I didn't really notice the "lack of summer" in my first post-MSW job. We saw kids from a few different area school districts and some of my co-workers had school-aged kids, so I was somewhat aware of the "start" and "end" of "summer," but it didn't actually make a difference to me. Time was just a blur in an agency that underpaid and overworked their staff (then wondered why they had such high turnover). But I notice the difference now as a pastor. The pews are emptier and I face them (instead of being in the pews), the altar is dressed in green for-ev-er, and the fan that works up front in the winter doesn't move much of the thick humid air. Now, I find summer is a good time for specialized sermon series (we're doing two this year!), and otherwise playing to worship formats, like our hymn sing on July 31, or having worship outdoors.

Summer, I'm discovering, is also a good time to really observe and take note of the habits, other interests, and priorities of a congregation, especially those to which a pastor is new. For example, even in congregations with few school-aged children and youth, the program year still coincides with the academic year. Just about everybody takes some sort of vacation in the summer.

One of our series this summer is focused on mission and discernment. So far we've covered the relationship of the Holy Trinity and asked "who is the c/Church?" Coming up we will focus explicitly on the

definitions of “mission” and “discernment,” and talk about how they can be used to help us in our “program” and calendar years. What kind of things (e.g.: worship, community care programs, etc.) carry through year-round? Are there differences? What do these things say about who we are and what we prioritize? Likewise, what “pauses” do we take over the summer or other chunks of the year (e.g.: Sunday School, coffee hour, etc.)? What do these program or social pauses say about who we are and what we prioritize?

Here's another way to think about these things: our Inreach/Outreach chairperson, Katie B., is starting to work on developing this into an actual committee again. It's a big job since inreach and outreach covers two different already broad things. Inreach in other congregations might be called “social ministry” and be focused on things like social activities for members, or it might include a team of members who work with the pastor to visit homebound members. Outreach, by contrast, might be called “evangelism” in other congregations, and the focus is on going out into the community and meeting people where they are, sharing the Good News, inviting them into the congregation, being present at community events, and/or working on social justice issues that align with the Gospel of Jesus: hunger/feeding, poverty/living wages, sick/access to healthcare, etc.

How do you see Faith reaching into to care for one another? How do you see Faith reaching out to the community, to our neighbors and sharing God's love? How are you called to share in these things?

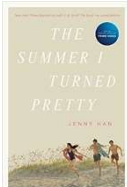
I hope you are each enjoying your summer hiatuses, whatever that may mean for you. Stay cool in these hot and humid days. Love your neighbor as you love God.

In Christ,
Pr. Kate

Books!

I'm still taking my time reading Stephen King's Bill Hodges trilogy, checked out from the library, but that hasn't stopped my book buying. Because sometimes you just want to buy books. And in the past week (as of this writing) I went to Market Block to buy books. That I will eventually read.

YA Fiction: *The Summer I Turned Pretty* (2009) by Jenny Han.



Speaking of summer... from the back cover:

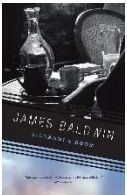
Some summers are just destined to be pretty. Belly measures her life in summer. Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August. Winters are simply a time to count the weeks until the next summer, [...]. But one [...] wonderful and terrible summer, the more everything changes, the more it all ends up just the way it should have been all along.

Poetry: *The Girl and the Goddess: Stories and Poems of Divine Wisdom* (2020) by Nikita Gill.



“Let her be a little less human, / a little more divine // Give her heart armor so it doesn't / break as easily as mine.” From the back cover: “Meet Paro. A girl with a strong will, a full heart, and much to learn. [...] This is Nikita's most personal writing to date]: an intimate coming-of-age story told in linked poems that offer a look into Hindu mythology and the rich cultural influences of that helper her become the woman he is today.”

Fiction: *Giovanni's Room* (1956) by James Baldwin.



I may have mentioned before that in my third year of seminary I took a course on James Baldwin. Our main text was his semi-autobiographical novel of his boyhood *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, and then we read his essay *The Fire Next Time* which more explicitly detailed some of his own wrestling with faith among other things. A few years ago, his novel *If Beale Street Could Talk* was turned into a (very good) movie. This novel, on my “to-read” list since seminary, is “set in the 1950s Paris of American expatriates, liaisons, and violence, a young man finds himself caught between desire and conventional morality.”

Service Starting Time Beginning in September – 10:45

Baptism of Lincoln Clements



June 4 marked a happy occasion with the baptism of Lincoln Clements, the third son of Aubrey and John Clements. We welcome with joy our newest member!



Passing of Bob Hayward

Bob Hayward's condition deteriorated significantly in recent days. After a brief stay at Samaritan Hospital, Bob was transferred to the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's. He passed away on the morning of July 29th. Pray for Polly who is exhausted from her efforts to keeping Bob at home for as long as possible and heartbroken at the loss of her spouse of 73 years. Please keep Polly and her family in your prayers.

Our Faith at Work

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.

Katie Bonnier, Inreach/Outreach.

Council Meeting Highlights July 5, 2022

Opening Devotion Pastor Kate opened with a prayer and group discussion of how to connect with youth.

Treasurer's Report - We will assess at the end of the quarter to see if we are seeing a downturn in giving.

President's Report - Bill Jarosz noted that the council received Donna St. John's resignation letter. The Council wishes to formally recognize all the good work she has done and thank her for her service.

Pastor's Report - Robert Bove has informed Pastor that he has documents relating to our church history. B. Jarosz will contact him. A request to use the fellowship hall was received from a group from High Point on August 3. Council approved, and D. Van Zandt will supervise. Pastor has received a request for another

Baptism. Pastor will continue her two summer preaching series: Mission & Discernment and Grief & Loss.

Committee Reports

- **Inreach/Outreach** – Kate Bonnier & Doug Adamek – K. Bonnier asked that people keep her informed of any needs for cards via email.
- **Missions** – Kate Bonnier - June mission collection for Bread of Life was \$413. July mission is YWCA.
- **Property** – Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz- B. Jarosz is planning a cleanup and paint day in the early fall. D. Van Zandt suggested getting a dumpster so we could discard unused things.
- **Worship**– Donna Van Zandt & Pastor Kate continue to work introducing new music.
- **Acceptance of Donna St. John's resignation.** See President's report.
- **Possible clean up and paint day** - See Property
- **Policy writing team** - C. Karpfen, K. Bonnier and Pastor will collaborate.
 - - **Hall Rental Agreement**
 - - **Memorials gift agreement**

Roberta Hayward will be retiring as treasurer this September.

Unless we have a volunteer, we need to revisit hiring an administrative staff member and bookkeeper. Roberta will help with the transition. If anyone knows of a possible candidate, please let a Council member know.

New Business NONE

Next regular meeting Monday August 8, 2022, at 7:00pm. - Zoom

Meeting Schedule: September 12, Zoom
October 3, in person
November 7, Zoom
December 5, Zoom

Joys and Concerns Bill and Evelyn Jarosz are celebrating their 57th Wedding Anniversary

----- *end of council meeting highlights* -----

Lightning Strike

The quilt featured this month was pieced and quilted by Donna Gibson.

Donna used a combination of new fabric and fabrics from her stash to make this **striking** quilt.

This quilt will keep someone at St. Paul's Center warm this winter.

The quilters send a welcome to anyone who would like to join us - from beginner to experienced quilters and all levels in between. We meet Mondays and Saturdays.



Evelyn Jarosz, Master Quilter

A Note from Jennifer Wegter-McNelly's Family

July 19, 2022

Thank you to everyone who helped with Jennifer's memorial service on Saturday, including the deacons, elders and sound crew at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Scotia, NY, Megan James, the church pianist, Rev. Janet Abel, the officiant, Rick Longhurst, a member of Trinity who introduced Janet, and Ted Smith, who read scripture. Thank you, as well, to everyone who attended, whether in person or online. If you weren't able to join us but would like to watch the service after the fact, it is now available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZrKqe-y8Ns&t=344s> Blessings all, and again, thank you. Kirk & Keller

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

We ask that the Holy Spirit guide Pastor Kate and each of us as we discern and move forward in the coming years together!

Prayers for the Hayward Family as they grieve the loss of their patriarch, Bob.

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. He has a new cell phone number - 518-203 6547 - and enjoys telephone calls from his friends. His address is the same: 85 Bloomingrove Drive, Unit B – room 318A, Troy, NY 12180.

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

Congratulations to Pastor Kate who recently celebrated the 3rd anniversary of her ordination!

Lay Assistants

Aug. 7 - The Bull's
Aug. 14 - Bill Jarosz
Aug. 21 - Pat Turcotte
Aug. 28 - Rich Anderson

Aug. 14 - In loving memory of Frank Vumbacco. Given by Kathy Vumbacco.

Aug. 21 - In loving memory of Larry Boord. Given by Barbara Boord.

Aug. 21 - Given in loving memory of David Niles by
Grandma Marilyn Niles.

Aug. 28 - In loving memory of Margaret
Speanburg. Given by Brenda Stevens

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, fill in the flower chart hanging in the Narthex Bulletin Board. Please fill in your name along with who the flowers are in memory or in honor of.

The cost continues to be \$19.00 per bouquet. Cash or check made out to WELCA is accepted. See Donna Van Zandt for questions and/or payment.

Come One, Come All! Faith is looking for help on Sundays. All generations are welcomed. Experienced or Inexperienced does not matter. We just need a little bit of your time and help.

From time to time, would you be willing to share your help and/or your thoughts?

Would you consider being a lay assistant, or would someone in your family be willing to be a lay assistant? Your spouse or significant other? One of your children or a grandchild?

The church is also looking for members to sit on the Worship Committee. Come and help with the decisions that are made for our worship services.

If you or someone you know is willing to help, please let me know. Any and all questions can be addressed either by email or by speaking to me in person following one of our church services.

God's Peace,
Donna Van Zandt

Newsletter Deadline The newsletter item deadline for the September, 2022 newsletter is Sunday, August 28, 2022. Please email your articles to: 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>