

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NY 12180



Following Faith

DECEMBER 2021

***"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and
the government shall be upon his shoulder, and
his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace."
ISAIAH 9:6***

Advent and Christmas

Advent is a season of looking forward with anticipation, preparation, and excitement for the One who is to come, God in the flesh, Emmanuel and Jesus who will come again in the second coming. We share in the feelings of anticipation and excitement as Pastor Kate joins us in ministry and worship this Advent and Christmas season.

Advent is all about new beginnings. God is surely involved in the reality that we are beginning our new journey together during the Advent/Christmas season. Both are prime opportunities to focus on the renewal and re-energizing of Faith in its life and mission in Christ Jesus our Savior!

Let us turn our Advent hearts to prepare for the Christ child anew this Christmas. Let us prepare to celebrate Emmanuel, God with us, who brings us the joy of new life so that we might, like Jesus, be bearers of hope for all of God's children.

Best wishes to all of you and your loved ones during this time of Advent and Christmas.

Adapted from The Church of the Holy Spirit

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Pastor Kate Drefke

**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

Please welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Kate Drefke.



Pastor Kate will start on December 5th, 2021, at both Poestenkill and Faith. We look forward to her fresh energy.

Council Nominations for 2022

Each year at the annual meeting half of the Council positions are up for election. The term of office is 2 years and members are elected at large. Election of Officers and committee appointments take place at the Council Organizational meeting after our Annual meeting. If you are willing to serve on the council, let someone on the current council know! Thanks for considering!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on January 30, 2022, immediately following the morning service. Please plan on attending as we receive reports for 2021 and look ahead to 2022!

December Mission of the Month

The featured mission for the month of December is in support of the Albany Maritime Ministry. The Albany Maritime Ministry is an ecumenical group of volunteers who offer a warm welcome and a variety of support services to seafarers that dock at the Seafarers Center in the Port of Albany. Most

seafarers have been at sea for weeks or months. The Albany Maritime Ministry welcome seafarers, offer a clothing bank, help seafarers contact loved ones, conduct a Christmas at sea program, provide bible and devotional materials, and provide pastoral counseling. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Quilts - Quilts - Quilts

The Monday quilters met at the home of Janet Walsh to put the finishing touches on the quilts made in 2021 being delivered to St. Paul's Center in December.

The group is pleased to announce that there is a satellite quilt group getting together Saturday mornings. We would welcome new members to either group. If interested contact Evelyn Jarosz (518 237 8545).

Altar Guild

If you are interested in serving on the Altar Guild, please contact me at 518-526-2545 or 518-274-3539.

Thank you,
Donna St. John, Altar Guild Leader

Leading Our December Worship

In the Pulpit All Sundays and Christmas Eve,
Pastor Kate Drefke!!!

Lay Assistants

December 5	Rich Anderson
December 12	Bill and Evelyn Jarosz
December 19	Carol Karpien
December 24	To Be Determined
December 26	Pat Turcotte/Bill Jarosz

Flowers for the Altar

December 5 - One given in memory of Harold Behrens by Lou Ann Behrens; a second to Welcome and Honor Pastor Kate Drefke on her first Sunday as our called Pastor

December 12 - In memory of Michael Maselli given by Mary Maselli

December 19, 24 and 26 - Poinsettias - In honor and In memory of those we love

If you would like to place a poinsettia in loving memory or in honor of someone, please fill out the order form included with this newsletter and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than December 16, 2021.

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar at any time during 2022, please fill in the flower chart hanging in the Narthex. Please fill in your name along with who the flowers are in memory of or in honor of would be helpful.

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.

Dinner Club

Christmas Dinner Club - In person and by zoom.

Our Christmas party will take place in person on **Saturday December 12th, 2021**, in the church fellowship hall. We will also run a zoom meeting for anyone wishing to join in from home. Cocktail ½ hour begins at 5:30pm and dinner at **6:00pm**. Don't forget your \$10 grab bag gift.

Please contact a committee member, by December 8th, to let us know if you will be attending in person or by zoom with a dinner delivery.

All are welcome!

For reservations contact: Howard (518 421 4576); Jarosz (518 618 9151); or St. John (518 2743539).

February Dinner Club Banquet is planned for February 12th, 2022 at Moscatiello's restaurant. More information to follow.

Make your reservations with the St. John's (518 2743539). Everyone is invited.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

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!

Continued prayers for healing and recovery for Larry Lansing.

Prayers for Pat Turcotte who spent a couple of days in the hospital and who is now recovering at home.

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

HOLIDAY SEASON SHARING

Calling Cookie Bakers

The annual tradition of delivering Christmas cookies to our special care members will continue this year. Dianna Rieker and Evelyn Jarosz will spearhead the packing and distribution of the cookies. They need your help baking them.

Please bring your cookie donation to church Sunday, December 12th. Following the morning service the cookies will be packed and made ready to be taken to designated members. Anyone able and willing to help with the deliveries will be much appreciated.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Family Baskets

We are asking for donations to support this holiday outreach that helps families in our community struggling to make ends meet. A form and return envelope was included with the November and are available in the Narthex.

ALBANY MARITIME MINISTRY

Christmas-at-Sea 2021

(A ministry that was nurtured for many years by Pastor Hempel and is carried on today by Pastor Presinger)

Faith Lutheran will again be preparing gift boxes which will be dropped off for distribution to ship crew members. We have pre-ordered materials for 15 gift boxes. Each will contain: Knit Watch Cap, Work Gloves, 2 pair Warm Socks; Writing Paper, envelopes, pen, pencil; Comb, tooth brush and paste, razors, shaving cream, deodorant; and an adult activity book (Word Search, Sudoku, and Crossword)

The cost of a whole box is \$40; of a half box is \$20; and of a quarter box is \$10. If you are able to contribute towards this loving outreach your donation would be welcome. Dinner Club is spearheading the effort, but volunteers who would like to be involved are welcome to help pack and wrap the boxes.

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the January 2022 newsletter is Tuesday, December 28, 2021. 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.

POINSETTIAS

Again this year, we will have poinsettias adorning the Altar for Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in loving memory or in honor of someone, please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than December 16, 2021. (If possible please fill out a separate order form for each plant.)

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) at \$12.00 each in loving memory or in honor of:

Given by: _____

My plant(s) may be given to the sick or shut-ins. Yes _____ No _____

Please make checks payable to WELCA