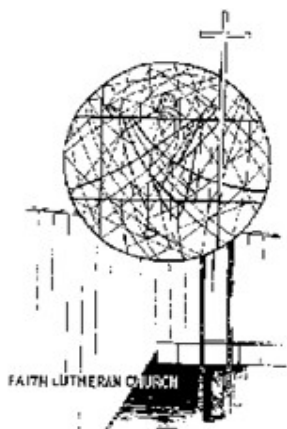
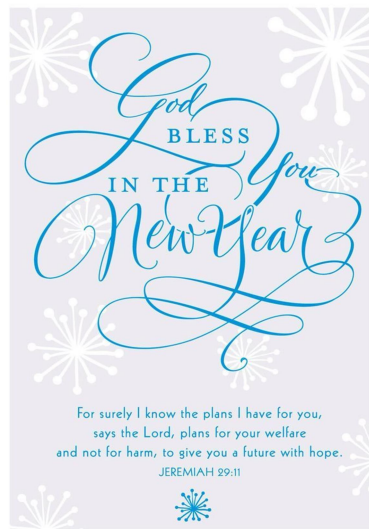


Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

January 2022



From Pastor Kate

One of the greatest movies of all time, no need to ever remake it for it is greatness itself, is *The Princess Bride* (1987). A young boy is home sick, so his grandfather comes over to keep him company and read him a book. The story has everything- action, adventure, sword fights, pirates, a princess (obviously), a giant, and romance (ick!). In the story, Inigo Montoya (played by the lovely Mandy Patinkin), is a man who has dedicated his life to finding the six-fingered man who killed his father so he can get revenge.

When he finds the six-fingered man, he will go

up to him and say, "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die." And then, being the expert swordsman he has become for just this reason, he will proceed to fight the man to the death. In recent years, a meme of this line has made its way around the internet billing it as a key to "networking success" or "how to be good at talking" because it begins with a polite greeting, "Hello," followed by an introduction, "My name is Inigo Montoya." then a relevant personal link, "You killed my father." and, finally, my favorite, expectations are managed, "Prepare to die."



Hello. My name is Kate Drefke. I'm your new pastor. Prepare to question curiously.

(continued below.....)

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Pastor Kate Drefke
drefkekate@gmail.com
570-884-8426 (call/text)

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

Continued from Pastor Kate....

Last fall the ELW got its own supplement (like the WOV was for the LBW), *All Creation Sings* (ACS). Two of my favorite songs from ACS, “Faith Begins by Letting Go” and “Ask the Complicated Questions” are on facing pages. With lyrics such as, “pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God” and “for our God makes strong our weakness, forging faith in fires of doubt” we are reminded that living lives of faith is not about having answers, but about asking questions, letting go of what we thought was the “right answer” and asking new questions, seeking to trust God in doubt rather than ourselves in certainty. Worship, prayer, and book or Bible studies are obvious opportunities to engage and dialogue with scripture or theology. Less obvious opportunities may be found in conversations with friends, while doing chores, or in hobbies. We ask questions. “What does this mean?” “Who is missing from the story?” “How are we seeing the Divine’s image in our neighbors?” “When I pray for someone, am I praying for what they need, or what I want for them?” “Where is the Holy Spirit taking me today?” Sometimes there’s an answer and it stays pretty consistent, like, “what are the 10 Commandments?” Sometimes, the answers are nuanced, changing as we grow, like *how* we understand the meaning/s of the 10 Commandments collectively and individually. I love sharing what I learn, what I’m thinking about with others. As we build this new relationship we’ve been called into, ask questions. State your curiosities. Including during worship! I hope you’ll enjoy exploring the curious questions of faith with me.

Peace,
Pr. Kate

PS If you’re curious about the hymns I mentioned, you can hear recordings on YouTube:

ACS 1004 *Faith Begins by Letting Go* <https://youtu.be/0xboN2IEztk>
ACS 1005 *Ask the Complicated Questions* <https://youtu.be/cJdwOYF3OTs>

What’s the pastor reading?

I think reading is super important. It teaches, provides escape, encourages imagination, sparks curiosity, comforts, motivates, and so on. While I’m better at starting books than finishing them (and even better at collecting!), I’ve always got a few going. Each month I’ll share 2-3 books that I’m reading (or listening to). I hope you’ll share what you’re reading, too!

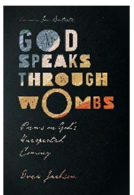
Memoir



No Walls and the Recurring Dream: A Memoir (2019) by Ani DiFranco

I’ve been listening to Ani’s music on-and-off since high school after a camp counselor talked so effusively about her. My first proper concert was in Green Bay, WI (or somewhere in that area) during her *Red Letter Year*, and Lowell gave me tickets to her concert in Williamsport, PA this fall (*Revolutionary Love* tour). In this memoir she shares about her growing up, her formation as a social activist, and the work of a folk singer/songwriter.

Poetry / Inspirational & Religious



God Speaks Through Wombs: Poems on God’s Unexpected Coming (2021) by Drew Jackson

From his perspective as a Black man and pastor in the US, Drew Jackson explores the first 8 chapters of Luke’s Gospel writing poems in response to and reimagining, rehearsing the Gospel’s message of liberation. From “History./ Told by those/ lovers of Adonai/ from the underside.” to

“Get up, my child,/ and eat your fill./ Today is yours for living.” this is a collection that preaches hope and deliverance.

Religion / Christian Ministry / Preaching



Words That Heal: Preaching Hope to Wounded Souls (2019) by Joni S. Sancken

This is the required text for a continuing ed certificate I'm doing focused on trauma and preaching.

Dr. Sancken, associate professor of homiletics at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, is the primary instructor and an ordained pastor in the Mennonite Church USA. Chapters focus on what she calls “soul wounds” present in the Bible and in each of us. “What troubles me about this?”

is a question she has us ask when reading a piece of scripture.

Pastor Jennifer Wegter-McNelly

Jennifer Lynn Wegter-McNelly, 52, passed away at home on December 17, 2021 after a difficult four-year-journey with breast cancer.

Jennifer was our Intentional Interim Pastor from June, 2016 through May, 2017 when she was diagnosed with very serious, aggressive breast cancer. Her survival for over 4 years after diagnosis was a miracle for which we are so thankful. Her original prognosis was for much less time than that.

In light of current uncertainty about how the pandemic will evolve over the coming weeks and months, a memorial service has not yet been scheduled. Details will be published once a date has been set. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Jennifer's memory to ongoing breast cancer research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (on the DFCI website: Give Now → Direct My Gift...→ Women's Cancers → Breast Cancer).

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!

January Mission of the Month

The featured mission for the month of January is in support of the **Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York**. The Regional Food Bank provides food assistance to many charitable agencies serving the hungry and disadvantaged, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, youth programs, senior programs and programs for the disabled. Many of our neighbors continue to struggle with hunger and food insecurity. Our support helps make the Regional Food Bank a better and stronger organization that improves the lives of hungry people throughout the Capital Region. Your continued support is greatly appreciated

December 6, 2021 Council Meeting Highlights

The Treasurer reported third quarter collections were \$1,300 more than the same period in 2020. We have about \$20,000 in Memorial Funds and \$60,000 in cash on hand.

President's Report

Donna St. John welcomed Pastor Kate and shared information about technology upgrades.

Council Highlights continued

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kate has had brief meetings with Presidents from both congregations and attended Pastor Hahn's installation. She is in contact with Larry Lansing and requested a list of shut-ins. Dave Cerrone and Pastor will work on updating the church's social media and website. Plans are going forward for Christmas services. Pastor has started "Words that Heal" continuing ed program.

Committee Reports

- Inreach/Outreach – (Diana Rieker) Cookies for shut-ins will be packed on Sunday after church. Donna Van Zandt will have Poinsettias for shut-ins as well.
- Missions – (Linda Hulihan) The list of missions contributions for the last two months will be sent soon. The mission list needs updating.
- Education – (Sara Martin, Dave Cerrone) The youth are involved with gift tags and cookies for shut-ins. Trimming of the Christmas tree will serve as a meet-and-greet time for Pastor Kate and the youth. Pastor would like to develop adult education opportunities.
- Worship– (Donna VanZandt, Pastor Kate) Christmas services are being planned.

Old Business

Capital Improvement Plan Items:

Front Door replacement: Errol Bull presented options for new front doors. Considering the significant expense of doors from Doors by Decora (around \$16,000), other options were discussed. Further research is needed.

Mask Mandate: After a lengthy discussion, the majority agreed that mask wearing and social distancing are recommended and signage should reflect the change.

Technology Team:

We are looking to put together a team to assess how we currently use technology, what may be our future needs and how can we meet those needs with zoom, our website, social media.

Our plan is to upgrade our current technology capabilities and we need your input!

- young adults already using social media.
- technology savvy individuals help implement upgrades.
- And members currently using zoom to attend church services to share experiences.

Please contact Donna St. John at 518-274-3535 or dstjohn2@nycap.rr.com or stop by the fellowship Hall January 9th after church for a quick meeting to start the ball rolling.

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

Lay Assistants Leading Our January Worship

January 2	Errol and Heather Bull
January 9	Rich Anderson
January 16	Diane Dyer
January 23	Carol Karpien
January 30	Evelyn Jarosz

Flowers for the Altar

January 9 In loving memory of my brother Don Miller. Given by Mike Moroskey.

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.

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

No January Meeting.

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

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.

ALBANY MARITIME MINISTRY Christmas-at-Sea 2021

Fifteen wrapped gift boxes were delivered to the collection point at St. Paul/St. Matthew Lutheran church in Albany on December 14. The person who received the packages told us a heartwarming Christmas story. With Covid restrictions, crews have not been able to come ashore as they did in "normal" times. So the AMM has offered vaccination clinics on board the ships. The administering physician is a RC Eucharistic minister and also offers communion to sailors, many of whom are Pilipino, who wish to partake. The sailors are very happy about both of these

opportunities and often send selfies home letting loved ones know.

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the February, 2022 newsletter is Thursday, January 27, 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=ZVJDL3FhRjZSN2ZHTTFlUzRlTGZkdz09>

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>

Learning and Growing Opportunity from Synod:

"Faith Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action"

MONDAYS, 7-8:30PM, via Zoom

FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28

FACILITATED by Pastor Lori Kochanski

Sessions led by leaders from across the Church

Description: In 2019 *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* was voted on by the church wide assembly and is our newest social statement. Using the new study guide we will explore the ways we are called to action regarding faith, sexism and justice.

SIGN UP

HERE: <https://forms.gle/gY6NoQ7vRnZxCfSGA>

