

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

January 2024

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17***

Faith Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Kate Drefke

drefkekate@gmail.com

(518) 279 6127 (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

10:45 AM at Faith

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

Bill Jarosz, President (Property)

Sara Martin, Vice President (Education)

Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)

Linda Hulihan, Treasurer Trainee

Errol and Heather Bull, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek (Inreach/outreach, Missions, Property)

Katie Bonnier (Inreach/Outreach, Missions)

Errol Bull, (Property)

Evelyn Jarosz (Stewardship)

Dana Cerrone (At Large)

Roberta Hayward, Treasurer trainer, at large

Partnership Council – Linda Hulihan, Bill Jarosz, Doug Adamek, and Donna Van Zandt

Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

Want to Speak with Pastor?

See phone/text/email contact information above and let her know that you want to speak with her.

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy almost 2024! Next week (from this writing), I'll be writing my year-end report for our annual report booklets and meetings, so I'm not going to spend time here reviewing 2023. That's forthcoming. Instead, I want us to think about the future- the future of our congregation (or congregationS as we are two yoked), and the future of the Church generally. As we've talked about before, there's a lot of fear about the future, from age concerns to money to who's going to do X-things. But what if we set aside fear for a moment, and look ahead with hope. I'm leaving you some space to jot down a few of your own thoughts. I encourage you to share these with your council members, and me, as thinking about the future will be a big theme for us.

What does it mean to you to be part of a congregation? Or, how does being part of a congregation help you grow in your faith life?

What are (at least) three assets of your congregation? (E.g.: musicians, leadership, creative arts, etc.) Be specific.

1)

2)

3)

Imagine the Church in another 20-25 years. What kind of things from today do you think will and won't be important then? Why/ why not? (I know some of you are thinking, "I won't be here! Not my problem!" Think about what you're leaving for those of us who will be here.)

What's something from the past five years in congregation that you really liked and want repeated, or to try again (or to continue)? And, what's something you would like us to try in the next two years?

From the past five years:

In the next two years:

What's something you appreciate about and something you hope for our partner congregation?

Appreciate:

Hope for:

Thanks for taking some time to think about these things. I hope you found it helpful and will share your thoughts with others- maybe over coffee hour.

Peace,

Pr. Kate Drefke

THANK YOU! for the Christmas cash gift! A little extra is always much appreciated.

----- **End of From Pastor's Desk** -----

Letter to the Editor

None this month.

Holiday Thanks

I would like to take the time to THANK everyone who donated food, gifts, and/or money to local needy families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. We were able to provide needed items to 4 different families. When I presented our donations to the various families, the smiles from them said it all. As I have often said, it is better to give than to receive.

Thank you for your continued support.

Blessings to you, for your kindness and Merry .

Donna Van Zandt

December 11, 2023 Council Meeting Highlights

In attendance -

Rich Anderson, Roberta Hayward, Linda Hulihan, Bill Jarosz, Evelyn Jarosz, Sara Martin, Donna Van Zandt, Pastor Kate Drefke

I. President B. Jarosz called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Pastor Kate opened the meeting with a prayer.

III. Approval of the agenda. No additions were made

Carried

IV. Approval of November minutes

Carried

V. Treasurer's Report

- CD investment has been completed
- Discussion on money going in and out.

Carried

VI. Financial Treasurer's Report

- One correction was needed on last month's statement
- General offering is somewhat down.

Carried

VII. Pastor's Report

- Officiated Paul Haas funeral
- Janet Ericksons funeral will be private
- We are halfway through Advent. Going well.

Feedback from the Advent questionnaire had good feedback from the congregants.

- Albany churches are doing mid-week Advent services
- Catechism classes are going well
 - Pastor has been accepted in a new program so she may continue to work on her professional development. This program will only take her out of town a couple of days.
- Pastor Lowell will now be shared between the 1st Lutheran and Good Shepard Churches in Albany.

VIII. President's Report

- Thank you to all the Council members for all their help.

- Special thanks to Rich Anderson for mentoring the Bulls who will become our new Financial Secretary's. Special thanks was also extended to Roberta Hayward for mentoring Linda Hulihan to become our new treasurer.

IX. Committee Reports

- Inreach/Outreach - No report
- Missions - No report
- Education - The Martins will make sure the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary is put up on or before December 17th.
- Stewardship - Pledge cards have been distributed. There has been a good response so far.
- Property - No report
- Worship - We are set with the worship setting, hymns, etc. for Advent and Christmas. Times and places for the various services have been shared. The committee will meet again in early January to discuss the plans for Epiphany.
- Partnership Council - No report
- Fin/Investment - No report

All written reports for the annual meeting in January need to be to Roberta by Jan. 4th.

X. Old Business

- Investments - Discussed earlier regarding CD
- Review of the Constitution - The ball was dropped on this. To be continued in 2024.

XI. New Business

- 2024 budget - Roberta discussed the proposed budget for next year. The 2024 projection is that our income will be down approximately \$8,000.00. Our projected expenses will be approximately \$40,000.00 higher.
By the end of 2024 we may have to hit a CD or savings.
- Lutheran Magazine - It is no longer going to be printed, but it will on-line.
- Augsburg costs continue to rise. We will no longer go with printed bulletins. We will only order Celebrates in the future.
- Roberta to finalize the budget. All written reports need to be submitted to Roberta by Jan. 4th, 2024
- Council members terms ending. Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz, and Sara Martin will be stepping down from Council as they have maximized their term.
We will be looking for members of the church to replace these upcoming vacancies.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer - Evelyn Jarosz

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 8 via Zoom.

----- End of Council Meeting Highlights -----

Stewardship

Pledge forms were distributed and collected during December. It isn't too late to fill yours out for 2024 if you didn't get around to it during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

January Mission of the Month

The Mission for 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 mission of the month collection for Albany Maritime Ministry was \$165. In addition, many contributed time and gift items to be given to the Christmas at Sea program which provides special packages to ship crew members docking at the Port of Albany to load and unload cargo. These packages are always deeply appreciated by the recipients.

Breaking News – Creative Threads Plays Hooky in December!

As a group, Creative Threads played "hooky" for the month of December. We strayed from our mission of constructing quilts to doing a personal project for ourselves.

For the last six weeks, we have been learning how to do machine applique. A technique that will expand our knowledge of a different quilting application.

We are all doing the same project and had hoped to be finished by Christmas. Our goal now is to be finished in January and display our finished project at our informal worship service this January.

Evelyn

December Quilt Corrected!!

(The quilt image from November was pictured in the December Newsletter)

The quilt featured this month (December) was constructed by Ruth Goerold.

The quilt pattern, Take Five, is Ruth's final quilt. Ruth's favorite color was blue. In most all the quilts she made, blue was a featured color. Her final quilt is no exception.

This quilt will be the first in the collection to be donated to St. Paul's Center in the coming year.

Evelyn Jarosz, Master Quilter



Serving our January Sunday Programs

Lay Assistants

Jan. 7 - Diana Rieker
Jan. 14 - Bill Jarosz
Jan. 21 - Rich Anderson (A Fellowship Hall Service)
Jan. 28 - Errol Bull

Flowers on the Altar for January

No Memorial Flowers are scheduled for January

The new flower chart for 2024 is now hanging in the Narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the Altar during the upcoming year, please sign your name and who the flowers are in honor/memory of. The price remains the same at \$19.00 per bouquet. See Donna Van Zandt with questions and/or payment. Checks should be made out to WELCA.

Coffee Hour

The coffee hour service on the third Sunday (January) continues this month.

And consider signing up to Host sometime! ***The Lord Loveth a cheerful coffee hour host!***

Jan. 7	This could be you!
Jan. 14	This could be you!
Jan. 21	Fred & Michele Howard –
	Coffee Hour Service in Fellowship Hall
Jan. 28	This could be you!

There is a signup sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex if you would like to be a coffee hour host.

Counting Team

If you would like to volunteer to help with counting and depositing our weekly offering, please see Bill Jarosz or Errol Bull.

We ask that the Holy Spirit guide us all as we discern and move forward. We pray especially for individual guidance as we commit to personal participation in our congregation's future via our pledges for the coming year and thru sharing our time, talent, and treasure.

Prayers of comfort for the family Janet Erickson who passed away December 10. A detailed obituary is found <https://www.hbtatefuneralhome.com/janet-r-erickson.html>

Prayers for Alan and Carol Fike as they deal with repeated hospitalizations and now require 24 hour care. Also, for Sara Martin and her sister who plan, manage, and share in their parents' care.

Continued prayers for Larry Lansing, suffering from chronic conditions. We ask for continued healing and a return to better health.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the prayers that have been answered for the numerous successful medical procedures that our members have undergone in 2023.

Prayers of supplication for people suffering in war torn counties. 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 are leading to the terror of destructive violence.

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

Finally, prayers for our country that we focus on the things that unite us as one nation under God, rather than differences that divide us.

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the February, 2024 newsletter is Thursday, January 25, 2024. 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=ZVJDL3FxRjZSN2ZHtTfIUGo3TVVmdz09>

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>