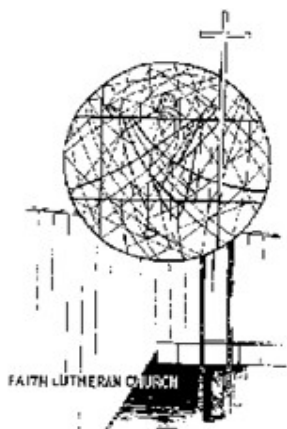


Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, NY 12182



# ***Following Faith***

***JULY AND AUGUST 2023***

*But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,  
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.  
Psalm 86:15*



**Faith Lutheran Church**

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

**Pastor Kate Drefke**

[drefkekate@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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)  
Roberta Hayward (Interim), Treasurer  
Linda Hulihan, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek (Inreach/outreach, Missions, Property)  
Katie Bonnier (Inreach/Outreach, Missions)  
Errol Bull, (Property)  
Evelyn Jarosz (Stewardship)  
Dana Cerrone (At Large)

Partnership Council – Roberta Hayward, 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 Pastor's Desk...**

In keeping with my most recent sermon (which by the time you read this will be a couple of weeks old), think about what the church for. What does it mean to say that we are the Body of Christ? That we follow Jesus, trying to live by his example, his teachings on faithful living? What role does the church play in its communities and the world at large?

A few years ago, I attended a vital congregations training. One of the speakers, remarking on the ELCA tagline, "God's work. Our Hands." said it leaves off the voice. He asserted that as Lutherans, we have a particular voice. I forget exactly what he thought the tagline should be revised to say, but I think a lot about "voice" and what it means to share that voice. What it means to share a voice of faith in the world today. I think about the world, how much it has changed since I was a child, how much it has changed over the lifetimes of my parents and their parents....

I grew up and church was a "nice" place to go. Believe in Jesus, God, "all that stuff," and you go to heaven when you die. Church was also a place where one had to be a certain kind of way in dress, manner, economic class, etc. If you couldn't at least pass... you weren't welcome. The church was a place of exclusion. That was the voice I heard, what I thought the church was about. And I was not interested. But little things here and there... and I got to experience glimpses of welcome and inclusivity. I got to see, hear, witness examples of people who loved Jesus- the Jesus who ate with "sinner and tax collectors," who made an alleged prostitute his first apostle, who spoke out against economic and social injustice- giving voice to those who had been excluded by the church... and those are voices I needed, and still need, to hear.

What is the church for? What is our voice? Who is in and who is out? Continue to think about these things throughout the summer. Think about what your ideal church looks like. Share with friends and family. Ask them to think about these things, too, and then listen to what they say- especially if it's someone not usually

sitting in the pews. Find out why. As we begin moving into the fall, I'd like us to share some of these stories together in worship and coffee hours.

## What's the pastor reading?

### Mystery

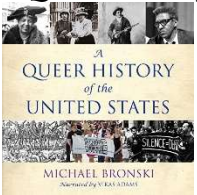
*Death on the Page: A Castle Bookshop Mystery* (©2020), by Essie Lang.



Cozy mystery, a quick read, simple writing. It was recommended by the bookseller at a small shop in Clayton last month, partly because it takes place in the Thousand Islands region. It's the second in a series featuring Shelby, a woman in her late twenties who goes to Alexandria Bay to help her aunt recovering from a knee replacement by working at said aunt's bookstore, and then decides to stay, also becoming a sort of amateur sleuth. In this story, an author who came to town for a book signing and research for her next book ends up murdered. And then it's found out that small items from the castle have been stolen. Are these things related?

### History

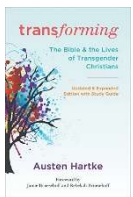
*A Queer History of the United States* (©2012), by Michael Bronski.



From the Revisioning History series, this volume looks at US history and how the LGBTQIA+ experience has shaped American culture and history. Historical figures both widely known (like Walt Whitman) and not (like Augustus Granville Dill) are talked about, along with things like the ineffectiveness of sodomy laws in the colonies, how Merrymount was founded by Thomas Morton in the 1620s has a haven for same-sex desire, atheism, and interracial marriage, and about transgender evangelist Jemima Wilkinson, who led her own congregation in upstate New York after changing her name to "Publick Universal Friend" and refusing to use pronouns. Lots of interesting stuff, adding layers to, and filling out American history.

### Bible/ Social Issues

*transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians* (revised and expanded ©2023), by Austen Hartke.



Austen is a member of the ELCA with a MA in Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible Studies and founder of Transmission Ministry Collective, an online community dedicated to the spiritual care, faith formation, and leadership potential of transgender and gender-expansive Christians. I'm early in the book, still in part one, but from the foreword, Rebekah Bruesehoff, a teen/young adult of the ELCA, is quoted to say, "Being transgender means being who God made me to be." In the introduction, Austen says, "I don't think God made a mistake. I think God made me transgender on purpose." I'm looking forward to reading more, learning more about gender in the Bible.

## Vacation Bible School!



Poestenkill is hosting a VBS July 10-13, 5:30-7pm.

Our theme is "Water Stories" looking at Creation, Moses, baptism, and calming waters, and it comes from Illustrated Ministries' "An Illustrated Earth" curriculum. We're including water science into the lessons because science is one of the gifts God has given us for caring for Earth.

Register pre-k – 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade: <https://forms.gle/DY4in7P1pi9vHcbr9>

Adult/Youth helper sign up: <https://forms.gle/qGkoZeDFbnwwhWYa8>  
(If you want to help but "don't do computers" contact Laura G, Sue D.)

Ask Pr. Kate, Laura Grooten, or Sue Decker for more information!

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

**Letter to the Editor** – *(Something New and Available to anyone who would like to share their thoughts in the newsletter in the future)*

Fred,

Thanks for your continued sharing of the monthly newsletters. They give me a sense of connection to your faith community and my mom, who felt so much like Faith was "home". I also find them inspiring and hopeful. If you would, I'd love to pass along three thoughts I'd ask you to consider sharing with others:

1. I just LOVED Pastor Kate's topic of "welcomeness" and sense of belonging. It fits for faith communities as well as families and flows to all congregations and faiths. Please share my thoughts with her.
2. As a follow up to the above, I wanted to suggest an easy book I just started reading, "Doing Life with your Adult Children" by Jim Burns. It's an easy read and often makes "light" biblical references and some very practical advice. I've just shared it with my husband and will be encouraging my kids to read it so we can hopefully have some productive discussions. It's strong on "welcomeness" and keeping "judgey" comments silent.
3. I continuously see the quilts and think they are just beautiful. Sharing them as gifts to others is so lovely. I also have often wondered if they or perhaps one might be a source of income, say, through a raffle to a wider audience. Does your Facebook page have a larger audience/how broad is your mailing list? For example, the northern birds one might have very broad appeal. Could even be set up that if a minimum of say, \$500 isn't generated, then quilt is donated and funds returned. Could imagine individual tickets might generate a \$25 or \$50 chance...just a thought I wanted to share with the quilt group. Love their work.

Best to you and Michelle!

Mary Chris (Inglis). Brauchli

**Lutheran Night at the ValleyCats** Join with your fellow Lutherans of the Capital Region on Sunday, July 16 at 5:00 p.m. as the Tri-City ValleyCats take on the Evansville Otters. We have a block of group seating reserved, and individual tickets can be purchased through the ValleyCats group ticket portal at <https://tv1.gltinirticketing.com/tvticket/web/loggingroup1.php>. The password is **stjohn** (lowercase, no spaces). Purchase a standalone ticket or a "loaded ticket" for an additional \$5 credit toward food and beverage purchases. Questions? Contact Pastor Josh Evans ([pastorjosh@stjohnsalbany.org](mailto:pastorjosh@stjohnsalbany.org) or 518.250.9098).

## **Embracing Stewardship**

"Embracing Stewardship" are not my words, but the title of a book I've been reading this past month by Charles R. Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy.

This past February, I was assigned to the Stewardship Committee on church council for 2023. My first thought was OH NO!!! Then I turned my thinking to how would I address stewardship with our congregation. At the time, I thought stewardship only dealt with the church finances and church budgets. I was wrong, it is so much more. The book, *Embracing Stewardship*, helped me to see it is not only about the money, but living with a mindset of stewardship as an act of worship.

As a result, I've been observing the stewardship of time in our congregation. My observations are as follows: each week the altar is made ready for communion. Sunday music has been practiced and played during service. The sanctuary and fellowship hall have been vacuumed and dusted. The garbage has been taken out to be picked up on collection day. The church grounds have been maintained, and a couple of "chainsaw angels" have taken care of trees damaged in the last storm. The Zoom system is up and running thanks to the volunteers that spent many hours of trouble shooting. New light fixtures have been installed and the hallway is much brighter now. The offering from Sunday morning has been counted, recorded, and bills paid. Can you think of any I missed? If so, let me know.

This book has broadened my view of stewardship. It is not just about money. Simply put, it is discipleship at its finest because it calls into question our use of all that God has entrusted to our care: time, talents, and money. My goal this year is to enlighten our congregation's thoughts on stewardship. I hope to get us to think of the word, Stewardship, as a good word.

Evelyn Jarosz- Stewardship

## **June 5, 2023 Council Meeting Highlights**

The meeting was called to order at 7:16

1. Opening Devotion - Shared by Evelyn Jarosz. A reading from Mountains Are Calling.

2. Treasurer's Report

Approved with correction

3. Financial Secretary Report

Accepted

4. President's Report

Thank you to all for helping with Pastor Jim Hulihan's celebration for his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination.

Thank you to Fred H., and Mike M. for replacing some of the lights in the hallway.

Thank you to the Congregation for all the general help with a variety of things.

5. Pastor's Report

Our website is paid for thru May, 2025

We are looking for help with the design of the website. Are there any young people who could help? How can we get more people to join this group?

ELCP will be hosting VBS this summer. Volunteers are needed. July 10 - 13 during late afternoon hours.

There will be a joint worship service on July 9th at Gilead. A picnic will follow the service. More details to come.

Pastor Kate will be on vacation on June 25, July 2, and Jul 30, 2023 Pastor Becca will be with us on July 5. Currently a Service of the Word will be held on the other two Sundays. If there is an emergency during Pastor Kate's vacation, we will contact Pastor Josh at St. John's in Albany.

6. Committee Reports

Inreach/Outreach - Kate was given an update for cards.

Discussion on our current missions may need to be updated. To be discussed later.

Stewardship - Evelyn

Can we do something to doesn't include money? Possibly put something in the newsletter?

Keep promoting with our congregants.

Property - Bill

The lawnmower needs a new battery and new tire.

Fred is working on changing some of the lights, especially in the hallway.

This is a slow and time consuming process.

Bill discovered a gas leak in the 'boiler room'. He addressed the situation and had it fixed.

Worship - Pastor Kate

A worship booklet was put together and will be used during the summer during our worship services. Much of the service revolves around Setting 10 from our ELW hymnal.

## 7. Financial Investment

Evelyn shared that a letter was sent to SYNOD (Julie Grindel) requesting that our funds be returned. This letter was sent to Bishop Miller.

We may need a broker.

Doug shared that he spoke to an Investor. Possibly we need to go to a mutual fund.

## 8. Old Business

Cleaning closets in the church balcony. Evelyn and Donna are working on this.

Smart Goals

Suggestions being made - A local blood drive

Collect underwear in conjunction with ELCP for Joseph's House.

Consider working on Winter Kids Kits

This suggestion and examples coming as a result from the Upstate NY Synod Assembly and what occurred last winter in Buffalo.

We continue to look for a new Church Treasurer.

There will be a shared worship service at Gilead on July 9th beginning at 10:00 a.m. There will be a picnic following the service.

## 9. New Business

Donna Van Zandt shared a brief report after attending the Upstate NY SYNOD Assembly on June 2nd and 3rd in Syracuse. The theme for the assembly revolved around Restorative Justice. Welcoming ALL into our church.

## 10. Next Meeting - Our next meeting will be Monday, August 7th. 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

## 11. Joys and Concerns, Closing

Joys - Katie B. is expecting a new grandchild!

Bill and Evelyn are expecting their first boy great grandchild.

Concerns - Please keep the following people in our prayers

Rich Anderson

Ron Karpier

Katie Bonnier

Alan and Carol Fike - (Sara Martin's parents)

The Gresens Family

Ruth Frazee

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

## **July and August Missions of the Month**

For July

We will be supporting the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) of the Greater Capital Region (GCR). For over 100 years, the YMCA -GCR has been the start of positive change for thousands of local women and children. The programs offered are designed to help women prepare for school and employment through economic advancement programs. It provides affordable, safe, and supportive transitional and permanent housing, food, security services, homelessness prevention and advocates for gender and racial equity. Our donations will join others efforts to continue building a healthy and strong community in downtown Troy. Your support is greatly appreciated.

May 2023 Mission collected \$320 Unity House of Troy

For August

We will be in support of the work of the Ebenezer Foundation. The foundation is a U.S. based not-for-profit organization created to provide financial support to the Ebenezer Child Care Trust in Zambia, Africa. The Trust is dedicated to saving, raising, and educating impoverished and orphaned children living in the city of Livingstone, and operates exclusively on donor support. Ebenezer Child Care Trust operates a children's orphanage, a primary school, a farm, and a community food program. Our donations help to continue the foundation's commitment to sustaining a loving home for the Ebenezer orphans and a quality education for all Ebenezer students.

I will report June Mission Collection in Sept Newsletter

Thank you, Katie Bonnier

## **Joseph's House**

As part of a goal for Faith's Church Council we are working in conjunction with our sister church, ELCP. During the summer months Faith will be accepting donations of underwear for the people at Joseph's House in Troy. Underwear for men, women, and children (along with sports bras for women) have been requested. (socks are not needed at this time) Donations may be placed in the back of the church to be delivered this Fall. If you are unable to purchase the underwear but would like to make a monetary donation, that is acceptable as well. Make sure to label your donation for this cause. If you have a donation, but are unable to get it to Faith, let me know. I'll be happy to come and pick-up your donation.



Whatever you can donate, will be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Blessings to All, Donna Van Zandt

### **Serving our July and August Sunday Programs Lay Assistants**

#### **July -**

2 - Errol Bull

9 - Fred Howard (possibly needed at Gilead. This service is still a work in progress, but readers from the different churches has been suggested.)

16 - Carol Karpien

23 - Evelyn Jarosz

30 - Diana Rieker

#### **August -**

6 - Bill Jarosz

13 - Diane Dyer

20 - Rich Anderson

27 - Errol Bull

#### **September -**

3 - Evelyn Jarosz

### **Flowers on the Altar for July and August**

July 30 - In Loving Memory of Marilyn

Howard. Given by Fred and Michele Howard

August 27 is in Loving Memory of Margaret Speanburg. Given by Barbara Morgan.

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, fill in the flower chart hanging on 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

### **Coffee Hour**

There will be no coffee hour during the months of July and August. It is planned to restart at some point in September. Whether to have it before the service, as we have done this spring, or after service as we have done for special events is under discussion. If you have any input on this, Council would appreciate your comment. We will reach out in early September to seek volunteer hosts.

## **AMONG OUR PEOPLE**

A special SURPRISE coffee hour celebrated and honored The Rev. Jim Hulihan on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. And special thanks to wife Linda, who in cahoots with her sister, made their arrival at service on June 4<sup>th</sup> late, so that Jim did not see the setup in Fellowship Hall and was truly surprised. Congratulations and thanks Jim for your long, faithful service!



*If you have a special Joy or Concern that you would like to have included in this section, please email your item to: [farmerf169@aol.com](mailto:farmerf169@aol.com), or by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if there is no answer.*

**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.**

**Prayers for healing for Alan and Carol Fike as they deal with repeated hospitalizations. Also, for Sara Martin and her sister who plan and share in their parents' care.**

**Continued prayers for Jill and Ed Gresens' daughter Amanda (37) who continues to recover from a heart attack.**

**Continued Prayers for Katie Bonnier as she rehabilitates from ACL surgery on her knee.**

**Continued prayers for Ron Karpfen as he rehabilitates from his hip surgery.**

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

**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 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.**

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

### **Newsletter Deadline**

The newsletter item deadline for the September, 2023 newsletter is Friday, August 25, 2023. Please email your articles to: [farmerf169@aol.com](mailto: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>

---