

Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, NY 12182



## ***Following Faith***

***JULY – AUGUST 2024 Newsletter***

***“May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know the hope to which God has called us.”***  
***Ephesians 1:17-18***



**Faith Lutheran Church**

50 Leverage 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**

Evelyn Jarosz, President, (Finance, Inreach/Outreach)

Diana Rieker, Vice President, (Property)

Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)

Linda Hulihan, Treasurer

Errol Bull, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek (Education, Finance)

Mike Moroskey, (Property)

Diane Anderson ( Missions)

Dana Cerrone (Inreach/Outreach)

Partnership Council – Linda Hulihan, Evelyn 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****From the Pastor's Desk**

Summer is here. Super hot and humid. Yuck! I skimmed something the other night about the impact of AC (air conditioning) on the environment. Basically, it's bad for earth- greenhouse gases, emissions. This is not news. But where AC used to be more of a luxury, it's becoming something of a necessity as the planet's temperatures have risen and people have moved to already hot areas, like the US southwest. I think the summary said that the increased use of AC will result in a 10% rise in greenhouse gas emissions over the next 5-10 years. Which means, of course, that global temperatures will continue to increase. I wonder how long until snow is a thing of New York's past.

We're already seeing, especially in areas nearer our poles, the impacts of climate change on everyone- the permafrost and ice caps are melting; the ocean is warming and species are dying; pollinators, like bees, are dying out from pesticides and climate change. I read a few backs about archaeologists reevaluating doing their work onsite because microplastics are now being found in ancient artifacts- including biological tissues.

During the summer solstice last week protestors defaced Stonehenge with some orange substance to draw attention to climate change. I do not understand the point of attacking an ancient pagan thing in the middle-of-nowhere England and calling it a climate protest? Makes no sense to me. During a golf tournament on Sunday afternoon (I know about this because I was reading at the Warbler and it was on the TV), climate protestors ran out onto the green and spread some sort of powdery substance. This one made a little more sense as golf isn't great for the environment. But still. Wouldn't it make a *lot* more sense to sabotage the private jets and yachts of billionaires? Or corporations that account for way more greenhouse gas emissions than any ordinary individual?

Some of you have pointed out you won't be alive for things like the end of winter in Upstate NY. But what about your grandchildren and great-grandchildren? When God breathed us into being, we were made to be a part of Holy Creation, interconnected and interdependent. As our summer Thanksgiving at the Table says, "Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise." Together as one whole by and for the Holy.

There's an old parable of a man walking along a shoreline. He can be seen picking up and throwing starfish into the water. When asked why he's bothering, he surely can't save enough for it to matter, he replies, "It matters to this one" as he tosses the creature back to its home. What we do matters to someone. Even as we are each only one against vast and complicated socio-politico-economic systems, our actions have consequences. It might only be noticeable to one person, but we never look into the face of someone God doesn't love.

It's another ridiculously hot and humid summer. After another non-winter. The world is on fire, and literally melting in places. It can feel overwhelming and hopeless. AND, I believe that we can each make a small change this summer that will make a big difference for someone somewhere, even if it's "just" God happy about one less piece of pollution. Maybe eliminate our own single-use plastics as much as possible (the hardest part of this for me is keeping a *clean* reusable travel mug or straw in my car). "Shop local" and "shop small" aren't just a nice little slogans; they make BIG differences to those businesses and the people who own, operate, and work in them. Buy an independent artist's CD or random piece of pottery; they get *soooo excited!* Plant a garden full of things that make bees and other pollinators happy.

In Christ,  
Pr. Kate Drefke

We pray for preservation and healing from exploitation.  
Stir up your power, O God, and save your good creation. The earth groans in travail. Forests fall, oceans rise, crops fail. The air is thick with so much burning. Free us from the powerful who destroy the air, water, and land. Frustrate their violence, expose their lies, overthrow their schemes. Pour out over the earth justice that rolls down like water to nourish the life of the world. Preserve the health of your beloved creation [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Strengthen those who serve and protect the garden of the earth. Restore the choir of your creatures and let us sing for joy. Gather us at your river, under the tree of life. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth; in the name of the one who from a wounded tree birthed a new creation, Jesus our redeemer. Amen.

-from ACS p. 47

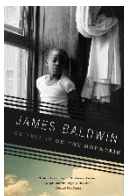
### What is the Pastor Reading?

*Alone* (©2005) by Lisa Gardner.



On the way to and from synod assembly at the beginning of June, Lowell and I listened to short stories in Gardner's Det. D.D. Warren universe. So I decided to give the novels a try. Turns out the first book introducing DD wasn't really intended to create a series lead, so she has very little to do with much of anything in this first novel. Instead, most of the action surrounds Bobby Dodge, who fatally shoots a man in front of his wife and four-year-old son. As the investigation into the shooting unfolds, Bobby begins to wonder if he was just the widow's unwitting pawn. He starts to see a psychologist and wonders why he became a police officer, and a sniper. Why can't he keep a healthy relationship with a woman? It's a quick and enjoyable enough read. I'll be reading more.

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* (©2013; originally published 1953), by James Baldwin.



This is a re-read for me, the first being c. fall 2016 when I was taking a course on Baldwin, and now for First, Albany's book group. Baldwin's debut novel is semi-autobiographical as the protagonist, John, turns 14 on a Saturday in March 1935. As the action unfolds, largely at the storefront Pentecostal church where his step-father is the pastor, he learns family secrets and begins to

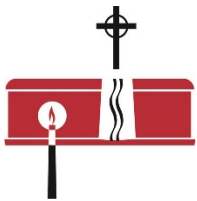
articulate his own spiritual, sexual, and moral struggle. Baldwin said of this work, “Mountain is the book I had to write if was ever going to write anything else.” And he wrote some great stuff- other novels and essays talking about faith and liberation.

*Unwind Dystology*, by Neal Shusterman (©2009-2015).



I find summer a great time to indulge in YA novels, and I like series because I can invest in the characters and not have to meet all “new people” with the next book. Like TV shows versus movies. After America’s Second Civil War. The Pro-Choice and Pro-Life armies came to an agreement, and according to their Bill of Life, human life may not be terminated from the moment of conception until the age of thirteen years. Between 13 and 18, a child may be retroactively aborted by their parent/s through a process called “unwinding.” In this process, all of the teen’s organs and other body parts are repurposed in living recipients so that the lives of the “unwound” are not technically ended. In this first book, which I read for a social book group back in, 2012 or ’13, a group of teens on their way to unwinding for different reasons (behavior, money, destiny) find one another and seek to change their fates. It’s very interesting stuff.

### Funeral Planning



Something that I’ve been wanting to do for a while and that came up in one of our many off-topic conversations in Catechism (for the already confirmed) is funeral service planning.

Funerals are a service of worship proclaiming Christ crucified and risen, and providing comfort and assurance of Resurrection promises to your survivors. What I encounter a lot with families at the time of death is wanting to have a funeral their loved one would want. So, I have put together a planning sheet to help all of us with that. Regardless of your age and/or condition, contact me (phone, email, Sunday morning at great risk of me forgetting) to schedule a half hour to talk about what you want included\* in your funeral- favorite scripture, hymns, etc. Is there someone you want to say a few words? No promises that what you request will happen, but it’ll be a relief to your family to have your wishes in writing. We’ll make a copy of the sheet for you to share with your family, but I also encourage you to invite someone to be part of that conversation so they can also hear from you directly.

You can come to me (office), I can go to you (your home), or we can “meet in the middle” at a coffee shop.

\*Also, an option, for those obstinate like me, naming what you DON’T want read or sung.

### Catechism!



I know we’ve got some middle and high school aged youth who have not yet gone through catechism (aka confirmation class), so if you/ your child/ grandchild is going to be entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade or higher this fall, PLEASE contact me (518-279-6127 or [drefkekate@gmail.com](mailto:drefkekate@gmail.com) - preferred) ASAP so I can start working with all of you on setting up an initial meeting to discuss and plan for the year.

NOTE: the rite of confirmation is an affirmation of baptism- taking on the promises made on your behalf when you were baptized. It is NOT required to be baptized BEFORE starting catechism. We can totally do it 2<sup>nd</sup> Century style: catechesis and then baptism. “I am making an informed decision to be baptized and am responsible for continuing to grow in faith.”

For those who are 18+ and already graduated high school but maybe might be interested in confirmation, let me know! We’ll work together to figure out what and how to meet of your catechism needs.

### July 7 Valley Cats

Join with your fellow Lutherans of the Capital Region as the Tri-City ValleyCats take on the Sussex County Miners. We have a block of group seating reserved, and individual tickets (\$11) can be purchased through the ValleyCats group ticket portal at <https://tv1.glitnirticketing.com/tvticket/web/loggingroup1.php>. The password is stjohnluth (lowercase, no spaces). Questions? Contact Pastor Josh Evans ([pastorjosh@stjohnsalbany.org](mailto:pastorjosh@stjohnsalbany.org)).

### July 14 Worship and Pride

We will be having **ONE shared worship service on July 14, at 10am at Faith**. This is so we can participate in Collar City Pride's first Pride Fest happening that afternoon at Riverfront Park, from 1-5pm. We have our own "booth" for being an open and affirming presence, seeing God's holy and infinitely diverse image reflected in each person. Many people have experienced church as unfriendly and unwelcoming at best, or abusive and shaming at worst because of their sexual and/or gender identity. Pr. Kate Drefke will be at the table all afternoon in her collar to answer questions and offer prayer with attendees who want it.



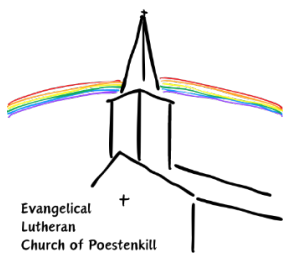
Sign-up for different shifts will be available starting Sunday, June 30. If you've never been to a Pride Fest before, parking will be awful, and there will be several hundred people.

Want or need a primer on LGBTQIA+ terms, etc. beforehand? Check out Believe Out Loud:

<https://www.believeoutloud.com/voices/article/lgbt-terminology-101/>

Do you constantly wonder about pronouns? I have a seminary classmate whose ministry website has a whole page on pronouns: <https://www.technicolorministries.com/pronouns>

(We'll be giving away coasters and pens- both made with recycled materials- with our names on them, so look for those coming soon to take and passively spread the word about us.)



Drawn/traced from our

Facebook profile pic.

Inspired by our merger banner.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
50 LEVERSEE RD. TROY, NY 12182

### Letters to the Editor

None this issue.

### Special Congregational meeting – June 23, 2024

A special Congregational was called for Sunday, June 23, 2024 . The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and decide if the church should invest money to replace the cedar siding with vinyl siding as the cedar siding has deteriorated almost beyond repair.

23 people were in attendance for this meeting. 3 people were on Zoom to listen.

I. President Jarosz called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. President Jarosz explained to the congregation why this meeting had been called.

II. Council members Mike Moroskey and Diana Rieker (Property Committee) shared the information they had received regarding this siding project. 3 companies had been contacted. 2 companies responded. Comfort Windows and Doors, and DF Construction. After reviewing both proposals and speaking with each Company, Council felt that DF Construction would be the best choice. One thing that both companies shared was that the current cedar siding was very close to being irreparable.

### III. Questions & Answers

Question - How will this be paid for?

Answer - There are several resources -

- \$56,930.00 in the checking account
- \$31,548.00 in the savings account
- \$178,580.00 in a CD coming due in September
- \$41,532.00 in an LPL found last December
- Memorial Funds for the replacement of the front doors.
- Eventually the possible sale of the Annex
- Donations from Congregants.

Question - If approved, when would the siding be replaced? Answer - Sometime this Fall. DF Construction is 'booked' for the summer.

Question - What is the latest information we have on the outside sign?

Answer - This is a work in progress. The manufacturer has the information.

The City of Troy has approved the construction and the installation of the sign. We should see the new outside sign in place, fairly soon.

IV. Motion to allow Council to spend up to \$80,000.00 for the siding cost of \$69,850.00 with the extra money being available for any underlining issues that may arise by Fred Howard.

Second - Diane Anderson - Carried - 22 – 1

V. Motion to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. by Fred Howard

Second - Donna Van Zandt - Carried

### ----- June 10, 2024 Council Meeting Highlights -----

In Attendance (Virtual) - Diane Anderson, Errol Bull, Linda Hulihan , Evelyn Jarosz, Diana Rieker, Donna Van Zandt, Kate Drefke , Pastor.

Absent - Doug Adamek, Dana Cerrone, Mike Moroskey

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

II. Pastor Kate began the meeting by reading Psalm 74, followed by a prayer.

III. Approval of the Agenda - Carried

IV. Approval of Secretary's Minutes from May, 2024 - Carried

V. Treasurer's Report

Amounts available in each account shared.

Motion to approve – Carried

VI. Financial Secretary's Report

Errol is in Philadelphia and was unable to share a report

Motion to accept – Carried

VII. Pastor's Report

- A request has been made to rent out our church for church services by Pastor Theresa.

- There will be a special congregational meeting on June 23, 2024.

This meeting is to present a proposal to replace the current wood siding with vinyl siding. A costly project, but yet a needed project due to the deteriorating condition of the wood.

- Pastor has created a funeral information sheet for those who may wish to share and discuss their funeral plans/wishes.

- Pastor is giving thought and planning either confirmation or catechism for the ELCP youth. Are there any youth at Faith in need of one of these programs?

- Faith will provide an informational table at the Collar City Pride event on July 14

VIII. President's Report

- Thank you to everyone who helped with the Spring Cleanup. Various things are much improved.

IV. Committee Reports

- Outreach - As mentioned by Pastor we will have an informational table at the Collar City Pride event. We will offer informational flyers regarding Faith, pens, and water.

- Property - Discussion regarding new siding was held. 2 companies responded. Comfort Windows and Doors and DF Construction. One other company did respond. Council decided to go with DF Construction. More things need to be researched and answered, but at this time, this is a work in progress, providing this project is approved at the Congregational Meeting scheduled for June 23rd.

- The new outside sign has been ordered and is being manufactured. The permit for the sign has been approved by the City. Hopefully the sign will be installed soon.

X. Old Business



- Possible Blood Drive (Outreach) - Donna Van Zandt reported that she has spoken with the Red Cross. Running a Bld. Drive is relatively easy. Red Cross will send us some possible dates for this Fall. Another work in progress.
- Spring Cleanup - Notes are under the Presidents report.

XI. New Business

- Rental of church by Pastor Theresa. This service would be held on Sunday afternoons, and considered as an interdenominational congregation.
- Discussion of the pro's and con's of this were discussed. Currently the Council feels they need more information. Pastor Kate will suggest to Pastor Theresa to check back with us in 6 months.

XII. Next scheduled meeting is Aug 5, 2024 via Zoom

XIII. Joys and Concerns

- Alyssa D'Loia was recently married to Kevin Payne (Diana Rieker's daughter)

IVX. Motion to adjourn - Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 with the Lord's Prayer.

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

**July and August Missions of the Month**

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The July Missions are in support of the YWCA and the Regional Food Bank.

One of the featured missions for the month of July will be in support of the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) for 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.

The other featured mission 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.

Total contributions of \$500.00 were sent in support of our June mission Bread of Life Food Pantry and the Lansingburgh Boys and Girls Club.

The August Missions are in support of the Ebenezer Foundation and Capital Roots.

One of the featured missions for the month of August will be 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. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The other featured mission is in support of Capital Roots. Their mission is to reduce the impact of poor nutrition on public health in New York's Capital Region by organizing community gardens, providing access to healthy food, offering nutritional and horticultural education for all ages and coordinating urban greening programs. Founded in 1975 as a way to bring the benefits of growing your own food to Capital Region inner cities, they now operate over 55 gardens in four counties. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Total contributions of \$500.00 will be sent in support of our July missions YWCA and Regional Food Bank.

Diane Anderson, Missions

### **Creative Threads**

The Rose Garden quilt is ready just in time for the summer newsletter. The bright blues and shades of red and pinks will be a radiant addition to grace a bed at St. Paul's Center.

Creative Threads have been busy for the month of June clearing and cleaning two rooms in the Sunday School wing of Faith Lutheran Church. We were able to transform them into a new sewing room. Starting the first Saturday of the month of July, Creative Threads is excited to start sewing our quilt projects on our premises.

We invite you to stop by and visit us any Saturday between 9:30 and 11:00. We love to show our projects and share our skills with you.

Evelyn



## Serving our July and August Sunday Programs

### Altar Guild

The scheduled people for July are:

July 7 Diana Rieker  
July 14 Diane Anderson & Janet Walsh  
July 21 Diane Anderson & Janet Walsh  
July 28 Diane Anderson

The scheduled people August are:

August 4 Diane Anderson  
August 11 Dana Cerrone  
August 18 Dana Cerrone  
August 25 Roberta Hayward  
September 1 Roberta Hayward

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

### Lay Assistants

July, 2024

7 - Dave Truland  
14 - Errol Bull  
21 - Time Lund  
28 - Diana Rieker

August, 2024

4 - Donna Truland  
11 - Fred Howard  
18 - Evelyn Jarosz  
25 - Rich Anderson

Sept., 2024

1 - Bill Jarosz  
8 - Carol Karpien

### Flowers on the Altar for July and August

July 7 - In loving memory of Doris Auman. Mother of Linda Hulihan and Carol Huber.

July 28 - In loving memory of Marilyn Howard.  
Given by Fred and Michele Howard.

August 11 - In honor of Bob and Joyce Duncan's 40th wedding anniversary. Given by the Family.

August 25 - In loving memory of Margaret Speanburg. Given by Barbara Morgan.

The flower chart is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, 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 is on break for the summer, except for the Coffee Hour Service on the third Sunday of July and August.

July 21 Fred and Michele Howard

August 18 To Be Determined

If you would like to be a coffee hour host beginning in September, please see Fred Howard.

### Counting Team

Jul 7 Ev & Bill Jarosz  
Jul 14 Rich & Diane Anderson  
Jul 21 Fred & Michele Howard  
Jul 28 Errol & Heather Bull

Aug 4 Joyce Duncan & Janet Walsh  
Aug 11 Ev & Bill Jarosz  
Aug 18 Rich & Diane Anderson  
Aug 25 Fred & Michele Howard

Sept 1 Errol & Heather Bull  
Sept 8 Joyce Duncan & Janet Walsh  
Sept 15 Ev & Bill Jarosz  
Sept 22 Rich & Diane Anderson  
Sept 29 Fred & Michele Howard

If you would like to volunteer to help with counting and depositing our offerings, see Errol Bull.

## AMONG OUR PEOPLE

**Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing in times of sickness, economic struggle, and all of life's other difficulties.**

**Prayers for the Speanburg extended family. For Bill and Carolyn who have both had medical issues requiring hospitalization this past spring; for Bonnie Speanburg-Snyder who is being treated for cancer; and for the rest of the family who are supporting and helping with care and doctor appointments.**

**Bob Duncan is now at Van Rensselaer Manor and Joyce Duncan is recuperating at home from a back injury. Please keep them both in your prayers.**

**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.**

**Prayers for strength, healing, and continuing support for Nancy Johansen as she lives with chronic conditions and disabilities.**

**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 that are leading to the terror of destructive violence.**

**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 September newsletter is Tuesday, August 27, 2024. Please email your letters or articles to: [farmerfl69@aol.com](mailto:farmerfl69@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=ZVJDL3FhRjZSN2ZHtTFlUo3TVVmdz09>

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>