

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
50 LEVERSEE ROAD  
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



# ***Following Faith***

***JULY 2020***

## **ELCA Prayer for Times of Public Health Concern: COVID-19/Coronavirus**

God, our peace, and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Dear friends,

As you may have been hearing from me recently in my sermons, the Season after Pentecost is the season of green and growth. During this long season, we hear stories from the Bible, particularly from the gospel of Matthew, that can encourage or maybe even prod the stretching of our faith – as we think about and discover anew the ways in which the gospel message calls us as God’s children.

The growth that we find is sometimes smooth and gentle – and other times it can be challenging and a bit uncomfortable. Through whatever happens, we can be assured that God is with us.

In these days of summer green and growth, I often find myself recalling my Old Testament professor. His favorite verse in Genesis echoed his faith – so much so that he made his students memorize them – in Hebrew! This verse is found at the end of the story about Noah and the ark:

“As long as the earth endures,  
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,  
summer and winter, day, and night,  
shall not cease.”

For my professor – for me, too – the promise in this verse tells us of God’s faithfulness to us. God is the almighty creator. God is with us through all the seasons – all the changes – all the time!

Praying for good growth in this season,

*Pastor Judy*

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

[www.faithlutherantroy.com](http://www.faithlutherantroy.com)

Sunday morning virtual worship: 10:00 a.m.

**Rev. Judith Converse, Pastor  
(Stewardship)**

**Church Council Officers:**

**Diana Rieker (President)  
Bill Jarosz (Vice President)  
Carol Karpien (Secretary)  
Roberta Hayward (Treasurer)  
Rich Anderson (Financial Secretary)**

**Council Members**

**Errol Bull (Property)  
Fred Howard (Special Projects)  
Linda Hulihan (Stewardship)  
Bill Jarosz (Property)  
Sara Martin (Education)  
Carol Perrott (Inreach/Outreach)  
Donna St. John (Missions)**

**R. Hayward, F. Howard, B. Jarosz,  
and C. Karpien (Partnership Council)**

**Barbara Boord, Newsletter Editor**

**ELECTRONIC SERVICES WILL CONTINUE  
TO BE HELD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION AS  
WELL AS SERVICE MATERIALS WILL BE  
SENT BY EMAIL AND BY US MAIL.**

## Coronavirus Thoughts

When we first closed our church doors in mid-March due to the coronavirus, I believed that it would be for just a few weeks. There was talk of being together again in our beautiful sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Now we know that this virus and the sometimes deadly disease that it causes are not going away. We can only hope to slow its spread, AND we are going to be doing things differently for an awfully long time.

At the May Faith Lutheran Church Council meeting – held virtually using Zoom - I shared a recent letter from our Bishop. In it he has recommended that we not reopen our buildings until we can do so safely. Additionally, there are a large number of questions that the leadership of the congregation will need to answer and make plans for once we do decide to invite people ‘back to church.’”

Some of those questions revolve around the building: cleaning and safe movement. Some of those questions deal with our worship service: seating, masks, singing, and the practices involved in distributing the elements of Holy Communion. There are additional questions about funerals and other group events.

In short, we have a LOT to think about, talk about, and plan for. I request your prayers for our church leaders more than ever during these upcoming months as we try to discern what is safest and best for our family of faith.

Finally, remember that if there is a particular hymn that you’d like to sing/ hear on Sunday morning during our worship service, please let me (978) 808 6780 or [judyconverse@gmail.com](mailto:judyconverse@gmail.com)) or Donna VanZandt (518 496 8935

or [dvanzandt@brunswickcsd.org](mailto:dvanzandt@brunswickcsd.org)) know. And if you would like to talk with me about anything, use the contact information above and we can communicate using voice only or voice with video.

**Pastor Judy**

***ELCA Prayer for the situation in which a worship community may be advised against gathering***

**Gracious God, it is good for us to gather as your beloved in community. We treasure your presence with us in word and meal, song, and prayer. Be with us in these days when gathering together as often as we would like is not possible. When we must be apart for reasons of safety, we trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings. Encourage us in connecting as we are able, reaching out to our neighbors in need and being persistent in prayer. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our constant companion. Amen.**

### **AMONG OUR PEOPLE**

**Please pray for Brayden McCormack, and his family. Brayden is a 9-year-old boy from Tampa, Florida who has unfortunately contracted Naegleria Fowleri a Brain-eating amoeba. This single-cell amoeba attacks brain tissue and is usually fatal. His continued strength, along with our loving prayers, will support his healing and recovery.**

**Prayers for Paul Haas who is doing 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 Larry Boord who is now home and continuing his recovery process. Please include Barbara as well.**

**Prayers of encouragement for Pastor Judy and the Councils of Faith and Evangelical as they lead our congregations into a new journey of Faith in our communities.**

**And finally, prayers for our country and our world in these times of COVID-19 pandemic and turmoil and unrest.**



## OUR FAITH at WORK

The featured mission for the month of July will be in support of the **Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of the Greater Capital Region (GCR)**.

For over 100 years, The YWCA-GCR has been the start of positive change for thousands of local women and children. Programs offered by YWCA-GCR 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 in efforts to continue building a healthy and strong community in downtown Troy. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

### Pull tabs

We continue to collect the pull tabs off soda or beer cans. Donated pull tabs will be periodically dropped off to the Ronald McDonald House, in Albany. You will find the collection containers on the table in the Narthex. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Ronald McDonald House provides a haven of comfort, love, hope, and support – free of charge – for critically ill children and their families. The Ronald McDonald Family Room offers families respite and support within the Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center. And the Ronald McDonald Mobile, in partnership with St. Peter's Health Care Services, provides free, comprehensive dental care to underserved and under-insured young students in the Capital Region.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region not only provides access to quality health care; we enable a family-centered approach, ensuring families are fully supported and actively

involved in their children's care. For more information check out the website:

<https://rmhcofbany.org/>

### Bread of Life Food Pantry.

Our mission of the month is the Bread of Life Food Pantry which is located next to Evangelical Church in Poestenkill. It is a nonprofit organization helping families supplement their food needs. Our church has been supporting the food pantry with food donations left in the collection box in the Narthex. While the church is closed, the need continues. You may choose to bring donations directly to Evangelical Church in Poestenkill. You may drop off your donations during the daytime. Volunteers will check Monday, Wednesday, Friday. If you wish, you may leave a message at the church office number (518) 283-6045 to let them know when you will be dropping off a donation and they will look for it.

#### **"BREAD OF LIFE" FOOD PANTRY**

##### STAPLE FOOD SUGGESTIONS TO

SHOP FOR OR DONATE – **ELCP Poestenkill, NY**

**Meat Items:** hamburger (1lb.) bacon (1lb.) hot dogs, frozen chicken (tenders, nuggets, patties)

Frozen fish (sticks, fillets)

Eggs, American cheese slices, butter (1 lb.), bread & rolls

**Canned or jarred items:** Vegetables (green beans, corn, peas, potatoes, beets, carrots) Fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, **fruit cocktail,**

**Mandarin oranges,** applesauce)

Pork & Beans, any like Bush's baked beans, canned pasta (ravioli, beef-a-roni, spaghetti)

Peanut Butter, jelly (**strawberry,** grape, others), fruit juices (apple, cranberry, other varieties) snack items (cookies, bars, pudding, fruit cups, cake & baking mixes, any others)

Canned Tuna, Stew, Chili or **Hash** – Soups (chicken noodle, tomato or any kind) -Spaghetti sauce – Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup

Coffee (instant or ground) Tea bags, Sugar, Flour, cooking oil, dried pasta (any kind) Pancake or Baking Mix, rice (white or brown), Pancake syrup Stuffing Mix, dried Potato Mixes, Mac & Cheese, Ramen Noodles, Cereal (cold or hot) Oatmeal, Cheerios, Frosted Flakes, Mini-Shredded Wheat, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Cinnamon Life, Honey Nut Cheerios, Life, Raisin Bran, Chocolate varieties, Froot Loops, Lucky Charms

**Personal Items:** Bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brush, shampoo, **dish soap, laundry soap,** toilet paper, paper towels, tissues

**Fresh Produce:** Potatoes, carrots, onions, oranges, apples, garden abundance in summer **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Call (518) 283-6045 for shopping list or to drop off at the church.

[barbboord@hotmail.com](mailto:barbboord@hotmail.com).

Finally, at your request, we will be happy to send you a hard copy via the USPS.

*Donna St. John, Missions*



**JOINT PRAYER GROUP**

Faith Lutheran and Evangelical Lutheran have a Joint Prayer Group that has been active since June 2016. There are approximately 12 of us that pray on a regular basis for our churches, for our Pastor and for healing for our members and others in need of prayer.

Pray for wisdom for our church leaders as we plan how we as congregations will worship together in the future.

Pray for spiritual revival in this area. Pray also for the churches in this area that are struggling and in need of pastors.

If you, a loved one, or someone you know would like to be included on the specific list for prayers, please let me know.

Michele Howard, [mcvh44@aol.com](mailto:mcvh44@aol.com), (518) 753-4288.

## NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Barbara Boord is coordinating the Newsletter efforts.

Newsletter copies may be viewed on the church web site:

[www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com](http://www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com)

at any time.

We will email you a copy if you send your email address directly to Barbara at:

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletter item deadline for the August 2020 newsletter is Friday July 24. Please email your articles to: [barbboord@hotmail.com](mailto:barbboord@hotmail.com).



