

Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, NY 12182



## ***Following Faith***

***JUNE 2024 Newsletter***

***“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.***

***Mark 13:28***



**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****THANK YOU!**

Worship is the work of the people gathered. Our time together on Sunday mornings in prayer, reading scripture, singing, celebrating the sacrament... it doesn't "just" happen - the Spirit is at work in all of us throughout the week to prepare. Some of that work is more visible, like reading or assisting at communion, passing out bulletins. Some of this work is less visible - altar guild, changing out the banners, keeping communion supplies stocked, filling oil candles, printing bulletins, cleaning the sanctuary, narthex, other spaces. "Just" being present and open to the Word is doing the work of participating in worship, too. Also, filling out those annoying bulletin insert surveys about hymns and preaching are a help.

We work throughout the weeks and months, too, making our Sunday gatherings possible. There's council (everyone's favorite!), serving on committees, Ladies' Aid, participating in different Christian education opportunities, working the chicken barbecue, clean-up days, food pantry, Creative Threads, newsletter editing and assembly, etc. These are the sort of things that keep us connected and help lay our foundations for work in the community, like the food pantry, or connecting with other



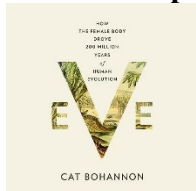
groups for mission support. Our offerings in the plate might pay to “keep the lights on” but all these “little things” add up for us to have a reason to turn on the lights (and change the light bulbs!).

There are other random things that happen, too. E.g.: the growing list of you (from both congregations) who have helped me with random car things, mended something, or fetched me an ice pack when my clumsiness won. The ways you check-in with one another around different joys and worries.

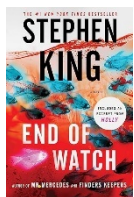
THANK YOU! Thank you for all the ways you show up for one another, for our communities of faith, in and outside of worship. I’m sure I missed something, so as you look around Sunday morning, and notice whose work got left off the listy-ness of this, say “I see what you did there. Thank you.” And let me know, too.

Peace,  
Pr. Kate Drefke

## What is the pastor reading?



*Eve: How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years of Evolution* (© 2023) by Cat Bohannon, read by the author. I saw an interview with Dr. Bohannon last fall taking about her book and found her really engaging. So, I got the audiobook and started listening to it on my drive to (and back from) VA in April. A self-described humanist, she’s not religious, but her use of the common image of Eve in the Garden of Eden is helpful as she talks about different “Eves” known from fossil records, like our legs, and hypothesized where no fossil record exists, as with our voices. For me, I find myself thinking about these evolutionary things and wondering about us created in and bearing God’s image. How has God evolved with us?



*End of Watch* (© 2016) by Stephen King. This is the final installment of the Bill Hodges Trilogy. I read the first, *Mr. Mercedes*, a couple of years ago after binging the three-season adaptation of the books (which I watched for Kate Mulgrew- Capt. Janeway in *ST Voyager*- in season 3). Bill Hodges is a retired detective. In the first book, he is eating and drinking himself to death when he gets taunted by a killer he didn’t catch before his retirement. In the final installment of the series, that killer is back from what should have been death, and is now playing with mind control. King also introduced the character Holly Gibney in the first book. Unable to let her go, she now has her own novel, published in 2023. I’ll be reading that soon, too.



*Worth Fighting For: Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty is Trending* (© 2024) by John Pavlovitz. Technically, as I write this, I have yet started reading this book. I’ll be doing that over the weekend so I’m prepared for the discussion with First, Albany’s book group on Tuesday. I read a different Pavlovitz book (*A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community*) on internship for a congregational book club there. His writing reflects his progressive Christian perspective and he doesn’t suffer ideological perspectives that dehumanize or deny the humanity of others.

## Catechism!

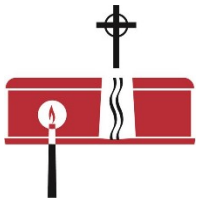


I know we’ve got some middle and high school aged youth who have not yet gone through catechism (aka confirmation class), so if you/ your child/ grandchild is going to be entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade or higher this fall, PLEASE contact me (518-279-6127 or [drefkekate@mail.com](mailto:drefkekate@mail.com) - 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.

### **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.

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

### **President's Message**

#### **Spring clean-up day.**

When I drove up to church on Wednesday, 5/22 my heart sang. It was clean-up day at Faith Lutheran Church. The parking lot was full and a large crew of parishioners were all busy. Each had a job trimming shrubs, weeding amongst the shrubs, and hauling brush.

Inside there was a group cleaning and organizing rooms to get them ready for future use.

After two hours of all working together, lunch of pizza was provided by Diana Rieker and Mike Moroskey. Pastor Kate kept the coffee flowing throughout the morning.

Everyone went home hot, it was 90 degree day, tired, and pleased with what was accomplished.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and expertise to make the day a success.

### **Congregational meeting**

A special congregational meeting is being called on Sunday, June 23rd, following worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve a contract for siding the church exterior and replacement of the church front doors. A copy of the contract will be available in the Narthex on June 16th.

Evelyn Jarosz,  
Council President

----- May 6, 2024 Council Meeting Highlights -----

- I. Attendance - Diane Anderson, Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Mike Moroskey, Diane Rieker, Donna Van Zandt, Pastor Kate
- II. Absent - Doug Adamek, Dana Cerrone, Errol Bull
- III. President Evelyn Jarosz called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.
- IV. Pastor Kate opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 24 and prayer.
- V. Approval of Agenda – Carried.
- VI. Approval of March Meeting Minutes (there was no April meeting) – Carried.
- VII. Approval of Treasurer’s Report that was distributed. Carried
- VIII. Financial Report No report at this time.
- IX. Pastor’s Report Written report shared.
  - Joint Council retreat cancelled
  - Partnership Council met March 18
  - Midweek Lenten Book Study had 8-10 participants
  - Catechism will resume after the Lenten hiatus
  - ELCP hosted the Hudson Mohawk Conference Spring Assembly on April 21
  - Jerry Philips funeral was held on April 30th at Faith
  - Pastor attended The Bridge for Early Career Preachers April 23 - 26 Very much worth the time.
  - Pastor will be participating in the Festival of Homiletics May 13 - 16
  - Upstate Synod Assembly will be June 2 - 3 in Syracuse. Pastor Kate and Donna Van Zandt will be attending.
  - Collar City Pride - Faith and ELCP will share a table at this event. July 14th We will have a joint church service that day at Faith, beginning at 10:00 a.m.
  - Thought is being given to possible older kids and adults who may wish to be baptized or confirmed in both congregations. This will be considered from May through the summer.
  - Thought is also being given to the next catechism for confirmation class.
  - Pastor Kate is also working on a conversation sheet for funeral service planning.
- X. Committee Reports

- Inreach/Outreach
- Since our April meeting, numerous cards have been sent to members of the Congregation.
- Creative Threads are making plans to move to our church building from Cornerstone. By moving, this will become an outreach program for our Church and community.
- Coffee Hour rotations are going well. Coffee Hour is well attended.
- Missions  
A discussion of our monthly missions was discussed. Below is the most recent months of giving as well as the future months.

April, 2024 - \$250.00 to Unity House and \$250.00 to Sidewalk Warriors

May, 2024 - \$500.00 to ELCA World Hunger

June, 2024 - \$250.00 to the Bread of Life Food Pantry and \$250.00 to the Lansingburgh Boys and Girls Club

July, 2024 - \$250.00 to the YWCA & \$250.00 to the Regional Food Bank

Aug. 2024 - \$250.00 to the Ebenezer Foundation and \$250.00 to Capital Roots

Sept. 2024 - \$250.00 - to Habitat for Humanity and \$250.00 - the Tunnel To Towers Foundation

#### - Property Report

- Sign Project - The design was approved by the council. Purchase and installation will be from Fast Signs. A 50% down payment of \$1,523.00 was authorized. Total cost - \$3,054.00. The project is in the permit phase.

#### - Siding Project

Mike M., Bill J. and Diana R. have met with 3 contractors Estimates are being received and discussed.

Currently we are estimating that the cost will be around \$70,000. Approval from the congregation will be needed.

## XI. Old Business

### - Blood Drive

Donna Van Zandt reported what she had learned in regard to hosting a Blood Drive. She will work on a possible date for this fall.

### - Church Rolls

As of May 5th, church rolls have been updated as best as possible. This report included, active members, inactive members, alumni, shut ins, deceased members, etc.

Our thanks to Fred Howard, Evelyn Jarosz, and Pastor Kate for taking on this task.

### - H.S. & College graduating students.

A work in progress that will wait until the fall. Discussion of gift baskets possibly being given to those heading off to college regardless of what year they are entering.

## XII. New Business

- Spring Cleanup: by Day and/or by Group

Anyone interested in helping to clean up the church and/or the church proper will be welcomed on May 22 and 23 beginning at 10:00 a.m. People/Groups may set up separate times to tackle some of the much needed cleaning as well.

## XIII. Joys and Concerns

- Those celebrating many years of marriage.

April 10 - Mike Moroskey and his wife celebrated 52 years of marriage.

May 10 - Jim and Linda Hulihan will celebrate 49 years of marriage.

In June - Rich and Diane Anderson celebrated 37 years.

In July - Pastor Kate and Lowell will celebrate 5 years.

July 10 - Bill and Evelyn Jarosz will celebrate 59 years of marriage.

## XIV. Closing

Our meeting closed at 8:08 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2024, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be via Zoom.

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

## **June Mission of the Month**

---

The June Missions are in support of Bread of Life Food Pantry and the Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Club.

One of the featured missions for the month of June is in support of the Bread of Life food pantry. The Bread of Life food pantry 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 mission donations. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The other featured mission for the month of June is in support of the Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Club. The Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Club provides a healthy environment of social, educational and recreational programs for boys and girls ages 5 to 18. Their mission is to inspire and enable young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as healthy, responsible, and productive citizens. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



Total contributions of \$500.00 were received in support of our May mission ELCA World Hunger.

Diane Anderson, Missions

### Creative Threads

Creative Threads

June features a quilt pieced by Diana Rieker.

Once again, Diana did her magic with scraps of fabric in order to construct this spectacular quilt that is going to be cherished by its recipient at St. Paul's Center.

Evelyn



### Serving our June Sunday Programs

#### Altar Guild

- June 2 Roberta Hayward
- June 9 Roberta Hayward
- June 16 Evelyn Jarosz
- June 23 Evelyn Jarosz
- June 30 Diana Rieker
- July 7 Diana Rieker

#### Lay Assistants

- June 2 - Diana Rieker
- June 9 - Carol Karpfen
- June 16 - Tim Lund
- June 23 - Bill Jarosz
- June 30 - Rich Anderson

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

### Flowers on the Altar for June

June 23 In loving memory of Kevin Morgan.  
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 service on the third Sunday continues this month.

- June 2 Diana & Rich Anderson
- June 9 Kathy Vumbacco & Mary Maselli
- June 16 Dana and David Cerrone
- June 23 Jim Peters
- June 30 Summer Coffee Hour Break Begins

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

### Counting Team

June 2 Ev & Bill Jarosz  
June 9 Rich & Diane Anderson  
June 16 Fred & Michele Howard

June 23 Errol & Heather Bull  
June 30 Joyce Duncan & Janet Walsh

If you would like to volunteer to help with counting and depositing our weekly offering, please 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.**

**For Kayla Yetto who is in the final weeks of a difficult first pregnancy, that the next few weeks are uneventful and that the healthy baby is born without incident.**

**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 July - August, 2024 newsletter is Tuesday, June 25, 2024. Please email your letters or 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=ZVJDL3FhRjZSN2ZHtTTFIUGo3TVVmdz09>

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>