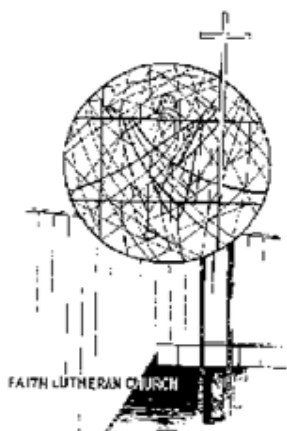


Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

June 2025 Newsletter

***The LORD created me at the beginning of her work, the first of her acts of long ago.”
~Proverbs 8:22***

Faith Lutheran Church

50 Leversee 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)

Sunday Morning Worship

In Person and Zoom
10:45 AM at Faith

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Gospel and Sermon Recordings <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>

Church Council**Officers (Committee Assignments)**

Evelyn Jarosz, President
Doug Adamek, Vice President
Diana Rieker, Secretary
Linda Hulihan, Treasurer
Errol Bull, Financial Secretary

Council Members

Mike Moroskey (Property)
Diane Anderson (Missions)
Dana Cerone

Partnership Council – Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Doug Adamek, and Diane Anderson

Want to Speak with Pastor?

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

Faith Online

“Like” us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FLCTroy/> We’re also on Instagram! @faithlutheran.troy

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

Direct link: <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://open.spotify.com/show/0eBYyey9x0b7gCJCnEAwYE>

From the Pastor’s Desk

We are each made in God’s infinitely diverse image. Whether we are short, tall, attractive or unfortunate looking, young, old, middle-aged, able-bodied, disabled, smooth skinned, acne-covered, or so wrinkly it seems our individual skin cells have wrinkles, no matter the amount of melanin in our skin, the color and textures of our hair, what’s in your pants and beneath your skin, we each look like God, and God like each of us. In the US, June is a month that invites us to celebrate that infinite diversity with a couple of our marginalized neighbors.



It’s Pride month. Rainbows everywhere! I’ve been reading a couple of historical gay romances by Cat Sebastian.¹ Her male protagonists in 1950s and ‘60s NYC struggle with personal safety, being who they are, and cultivating healthy relationships when they can be arrested and lose their jobs simply for the suspicion of homosexual activity. In one, Mark is still grieving the loss of his partner a year-and-a-half later; they couldn’t marry, so he’s not a widow, so what is he now? Who does he go to talk about what he’s lost? It won’t be until the Stonewall Riots of June 1969 when women start fighting back against a police raid at the Stonewall Inn.² The first Pride parade was held a year later to mark the anniversary. It’s obviously gotten bigger since. Pride month is an opportunity for our LGBTQIA+ siblings to celebrate their places in culture, the gains they’ve made

in legal and familial recognitions, and to advocate and organize for their legal rights. Pride is a refusal to be invisible, ignored, dismissed, harassed; it is resistance against injustice and oppression.

I'm betting most of us white people had never heard of the next one until it became a federal holiday. (I'd heard of it when I was living in WI, but had ZERO idea what it was about.) I now know that Juneteenth marks the "anniversary of the announcement of General Order No. 3 by the Union Army general Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in TX." June 19. When the Civil War ended, according to Wikipedia, May 9. In his 2019 book, *The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism*, Jemar Tisby reports the Virginia General Assembly, on the question of baptism rendering enslaved Africans free decided in Sept. 1667: "It is enacted and declared by this Grand Assembly, and the authority thereof, that the conferring of baptism does not alter the condition of the person as to his bondage or freedom." This broke longstanding Anglican custom that baptized Christians, being spiritual brothers and sisters, *could NOT* enslave one another. Despite the established tradition, the assembly decided that baptism would *not* confer freedom upon their enslaved laborers. Instead, the newly baptized would remain in physical bondage even after their conversion to Christianity. "Missionaries, ministers, and slaveowners encouraged African Christians in America to be content with their spiritual liberation and to obey their earthly masters." This is a **BOLD** denial of Jesus' life, teachings, death, and resurrection, and a **BOLD** rejection of how we are each created in and bear the infinitely diverse image of God.

Every month is a new opportunity to celebrate our diversity as members of Christ's body. Whether we are members of the skin and just don't understand the pancreas, or wonder why anyone would be proud about being part of the colon, or we really like being a tendon and those lung members don't get why, we are God's and bear that infinitely diverse image to the world.

Celebrate God's infinite diversity,

Pr. Kate Drefke

¹*We Could Be So Good* (©2023) and *You Should Be So Lucky* (©2024). Both take place in the same newspaper universe and are grumpy/sunshine. *So Good* is friends-to-lovers, and *So Lucky* is slow burn (but not that slow). Sebastian is like comfort reading; I've got more from her in my Libby holds.

²Read the Wikipedia page on the Stonewall Riots; law enforcement has been obsessed with what genitals are going into restrooms for decades! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonewall_riots

----- May 5, 2025 Council Meeting Highlights ----- 6:30 p.m. – In person

In attendance - Diane Anerson, Evelyn Jarosz, Mike Moroskey, Diana Rieker, Pastor Kate, Doug Adamek, Errol Bull, Linda Hulihan

Absent -Dana Cerrone, Doug Adamek

I. Call to order -

- President Jarosz called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Opening Devotion -

- Pastor Kate shared a reading from Psalm 121.

III. Approval of Agenda -

- There were no additions to the agenda

IV. Approval of April 2025 meeting minutes

V. Treasurer's Report

VI. Financial Secretary's Report

- Errol will have a Financial Secretary report for April next month. Errol was added as a point of contact for LPL and Vanco.

VII. Pastor's Report

- A funeral will be held this Saturday afternoon (5/10) for church member Nancy Johansen. Will be off Sunday after worship, 5/11 and will return on 5/15. Pastor Josh Evans from St John's in Albany will cover any pastoral needs. Will also be leaving after worship on 6/15 returning 6/21. Coverage during this time TBD. Summer worship planning underway, hymns have been picked through June, taking requests. In the fall, will resume with educational opportunities. July 6th is Lutheran night at the Valley Cats.

VIII. President's Report

- Things are going well. There are 2 new members for the Monday quilting group, Ann and Pam. There was a gathering with a few couples at church last Saturday evening for a barbeque dinner. Clean up day is tentative for Tuesday because of forecasted rain.

IX. Committee Reports

- Property Committee – Sign project is underway again, performed regular maintenance for lawn tractor. Discussed possibility of a mowing schedule.
- Missions Committee – April mission numbers will be available soon

X. Old Business

- The auto rider on the church insurance policy has been canceled. Kate will verify if any next steps are needed.

XI. New Business

- Community Garden Project – Kate went over her thoughts on what the project would entail. Evelyn suggested we pose this to the congregation.
- Fall Garage Sale – Mike said there is a lot of 'stuff' around that may be good to sell at a garage sale. Diana Rieker will be the Council contact if we decide to move forward with this.
- Sip and Paint Fund Raiser – This was discussed to be more of a church internal fund-raising project that Tim Lund would be willing to coordinate. Tim will price materials for canvases, paints and brushes.
- Joint Picnic with First United Presbyterian in Troy and with Poestenkill was discussed with a possible August 3rd date.

XII. Joys and Concerns

- Diana Rieker was sick and is feeling much better. Evelyn and Bill's grandson had heart surgery and is doing very well. Doug Adamek's surgery was a success. Linda and Jim's 50th anniversary.

XIII. Next Meeting - Monday, June 9, 2025 - 6:30 – on Zoom

XIV. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

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



Lutheran Night at the Valley Cats

Sun, July 6. Game at 5pm.

Join other Lutherans from the Capital Region to seek our local minor league baseball team in action.

Tickets in our block can be purchased for \$11 through the portal at <https://tv1.glitnirticketing.com/tvticket/web/loggingroup1.php>.

The password is sjlc (lowercase, no spaces).

Questions? Contact Pastor Josh Evans (pastorjosh@stjohnsalbany.org).

Quilt o' the Month

The "Red Hat" ladies are dancing all over the quilt featured for June. Evelyn Jarosz designed and pieced this red, pink, and black quilt.

The Monday quilters are thrilled to welcome Ann and Pam to our group. We are so pleased our group is growing. Stop by to join us on a Monday between 10:00 a.m. to noon help tie a quilt or just to visit. All are welcome!



Mission of the Month



The mission for the month of June 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 hardens in four counties. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The requested item from Bread of Life Food Pantry for the month of June is sugar. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Diane Anderson, Missions

Pastor on vacation

Kate will be on vacation from the afternoon of June 15 (after worship) through Sat, June 21.



If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pr. Josh Evans (St. John's, Albany) at 518-279-6127.

What is the Pastor Reading?

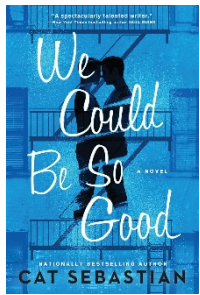
I said I was reading a stack of trashy novels on my camping trip and that's... not exactly true. I finished the DD Warren book by Lisa Gardner I was reading, then read a vacation mystery, a gay historical romance, and *then*, when I was heading back to the Capital region, a modern romance. And technically another, but a paperback instead of an ebook from the library. [shrug] Anyway, here's some light summer read recs.

Every Time I Go on Vacation, Someone Dies (©2024), Catherine Mack.



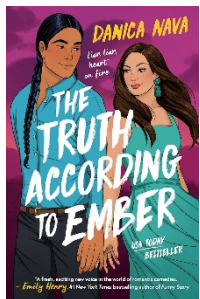
This is told from the POV of Eleanor Dash, bestselling mystery author. Her first novel was a sort of cathartic release of the trip she took to Rome after graduating college and before starting her stuffy office job. Almost as soon as she arrived, she met Connor Smith and together they solved a crime. In her novelization of their time together, she changed everyone's name but his. Now, ten years and ten books later, she wants to kill him and have him out of her life for good. But stuck on an Italian book tour with Connor and twenty super-fans, he shows up and says someone is trying to kill him. Is someone really out for him? Is he just trying not to get kicked off in her books so he can keep blackmailing her for royalties? I really enjoyed Mack's use of footnotes for Eleanor's various asides. Without realizing it, I finished this the same day book #2 in The Vacation Mysteries series came out. Waiting for it to be available on Libby.)

We Could Be So Good (©2023), Cat Sebastian.



Since I mentioned this one and its sequel earlier. Nick is a reporter on the city beat of *The Chronicle* in NYC, 1957? '58? He's a fan of baseball. Not the Yankees, but they're the only NY team after the Dodgers left Brooklyn. New guy on the news floor is Andy. His dad owns the paper and wants him to take it over in another year after he's gotten some on the ground experience. He doesn't know what he's doing. He constantly loses his keys, among other things. But he and Nick form a close friendship, especially as Andy starts dating one of Nick's friends, a photographer in another department of the paper. They go to baseball games together. They work well together. Introduced for the sequel (not really a sequel, but [shrug]) is Mark Bailly, the paper's book critic. In his book (*You Should Be So Lucky*), he gets assigned by Andy in the summer of 1960 to ghostwrite a weekly diary for Eddie, a baseball player newly transferred to the NY expansion team, the Robins, who's in a slump. The books are well-researched for their time and location. They're narrated in the third person, but the inner world of each protagonist is well-explored.

The Truth According to Ember (©2024), Danica Nava.



This is the paperback I picked up at the indie bookstore in Clayton and then promptly started reading at the distillery next door (my kindle was in my car a couple of blocks away; I wasn't planning on stopping to read. Oops). Anyway, this is Nava's debut novel and in some ways, it shows. In others, I'm not complaining. This is the hottest of the ones I've been reading. Ember- who narrates- has been trying to get a new job for a while, but her resume keeps getting rejected. Eventually, she decides to lie a bit about her qualifications and ethnicity- she checks "white/Caucasian" instead of Native American- it's half true. And then BAM! she gets an interview, lands a dream job, and meets the hot IT guy. Problem: company policy strictly forbids office romances. Too bad because they are both into one another. I'm about two-thirds through it. They've hooked up, someone at the office knows and could cause problems. More on top her home problems- like her younger brother who basically stole her college money.

SERVING OUR APRIL SUNDAY PROGRAMS

Lay Assistants

Jun 1	Carol K
Jun 8	Evelyn J
Jun 15	Carol H
Jun 22	Dave T
Jun 29	Bill J

Coffee Hour

June 1	Anderson	After
June 8	Vumbacco & Maselli	After
June 15	Cerrone	During
June 22	done for the summer	

If you would like to be a coffee hour host, please see Bill Jarosz.

Counting Team

June 1	Anderson
June 8	Howard
June 15	Bull
June 22	Jarosz
June 29	Anderson

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

Altar Guild

June 1	Dana C
June 8	Dana C
June 15	Diana R (coffee hour worship)
June 22	Diana R
June 29	Diane A
July 6	Diane A

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

If you would like to volunteer with preparing for the altar for Sunday's service, please see Diane Anderson

PENTECOST FLOWERS

Each year monetary donations are received for the purpose of planting annual flowers to beautify the church grounds. If you would like to contribute to this project, Donna Van Zandt will accept your donation and continue to place these annual flowers around the church. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Donna. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support with this project.



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.

Ernie Phillips who continues to struggle with chronic conditions.

George, the neighbor of Bill and Evelyn Jarosz

Ericka, the dear friend of Dana Cerrone suffering from cancer.

Mike Moroskey's great niece, Brittany.

The Coleman/Lansing family is thankful for the continued healing of matriarch, Carolyn. Also, remember Steve who is in a nursing home, and Larry who continues to struggle with his chronic conditions.

Prayers for the Speanburg extended family. Bill and Carolynn are now living in the Danforth Adult Care Center in Hoosick Falls. Bill and his twin sister Ruth will celebrate their 90th birthdays this month at a small family celebration at Bonnie Speanburg Snyder's home.

Prayers for the Fike and Martin families as Sara and her sister plan, manage, and share in their father, Alan Fike's care.

Prayers of comfort and peace for Nancy Johansen's family.

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 deadline for the July & August 2025 newsletter is **Monday, June 23, 2025**. Please email your letters or articles to Pastor Kate Drefke, drefkekate@gmail.com, and put "**July/August 25 newsletter**" in the subject line. If you would like a special joy or concern shared, you can also contact her by phone at 518-279-6127 (Voice and Text) and leave a voicemail if she is unable to answer.