

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

March 2022

*Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
And take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me, the joy of Your salvation,
And grant me a willing, sustaining spirit.
PS 51*

Faith Lutheran Church

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Pastor Kate Drefke

drefkekate@gmail.com

(518) 279 1627 (Voice and Text)
(Observes Sabbath 9:00 PM Thursday
thru Friday)

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

Sunday Morning Worship

In Person and Zoom
10:30 AM at Faith

Church Council Officers**(Committee Assignments)****Council Members**

Donna St. John, President (Altar Guild, Dinner Club)
Bill Jarosz, Vice President (Property)
Carol Karpfen, Secretary (Stewardship)
Roberta Hayward, Treasurer
Rich Anderson, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek
Katie Bonnier
Errol Bull, (Property)
David Cerrone (Education, Worship)
Diane Dyer (Office Administration)
Sara Martin (Education)
Donna Van Zandt (Worship)

(Stewardship) – Rich Anderson, Roberta Hayward, Carol Karpfen and entire council
Partnership Council – Roberta Hayward, Bill Jarosz, Carol Karpfen, and Donna Van Zandt
Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

Pastor's Virtual Office Hours

While COVID is still enough of a thing to warrant limited time in a coffee shop, I'm going to start offering "virtual" office hours for anyone who wants to "drop-in" and have a casual chat.

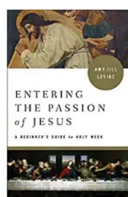
The first will be March 8. We'll try it for a few weeks and evaluate after Easter.

Topic: Pr. Kate's Virtual Office Hours

Time: Tuesdays, 10am-12pm, starting March 8, 2022

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117569411?pwd=elJVZzdhOTBjMU4xR1JibERITEU0QT09>

Meeting ID: 861 1756 9411 Passcode: 104197

Ash Wednesday Service and Lenten Book Study

Ash Wednesday is March 2. Worship with the imposition of ashes and communion will take place 4pm at Faith, and 7pm at Poestenkill. Starting the following week, on March 9, we will study New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine's 2018 book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. There will be two offerings each Wednesday: 2pm and 7pm. You are welcome to join and participate at either or both, or switch back-and-forth depending on the week.

Additional details and sign in information found in a section below

From the Pastor's Desk...

In February of 2020 life was moving along at its usual pace. For Lowell and me, we had been married and in our first calls about 6 months. We took our first married vacation to visit his family in NC. As we prepared for Lent's beginning, our colleague and friend had to cancel his long-planned kayak trip through Vietnam, the country of his birth and early years, because some virus was making its way through Asia and the group he was going to travel with decided that with whatever was happening it would be safer to stay put.

By mid-March, that virus we couldn't quite remember the name of was everywhere. The world had been turned upside down and our lives were inside out. On March 10 the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, and a national emergency with travel restrictions was declared in the US March 13. We shuttered ourselves indoors away from others, and went online for work, school, and worship. We were officially in the Lent-iest Lent we ever did Lent.

Writing this at the end of February 2022, with Ash Wednesday next week, and the second-year anniversary of the pandemic two weeks away, it feels like we have not really left Lent 2020. Collectively, we've had two COVID Easters, two COVID Christmases, and COVID everything in between. Just about all of us have attended at least one COVID-ed event: graduations, births, weddings, funerals, and retirements. COVID has pushed some things back and others forward. Everything has been impacted, and our exhaustion is real. The grief and trauma of the past two years have impacted us easily recognizable ways (how many decided they were "done" and retired or switched jobs?), and less recognizable ways (all those books I say I'm reading? I've started them... but the focus to finish...). I often compare and contrast this collective trauma to a car crash.

With a car crash, there's an easy to identify before and after. Before, my car was intact. After I flew it (true story), it was destroyed. With COVID, we are still at the point of impact (or like when I crashed landed my dad's Buick, impactS). We can all complete the sentence, "Before COVID..." But none of us can complete, "after COVID..." because we are still in it. "Since COVID..." we have changed, altered, adapted, etc. innumerable things. But we're still flying the car through the air held in by our seatbelts.

While it feels like we are in the longest Lent we ever did Lent... I think we can still point to things that are like Holy Week- joyful celebrations, death, and new life. Nationally, we've had new conversations about justice- racial, economic, and healthcare, etc. That has required us to let go of long-held self-concepts and listen anew to the Other's voice. Individually, some people have retired or made career changes- little deaths and little resurrections that can make big differences. Worshipping communities have changed, too. Some saw early growth with the switch to online, while others were unable (and/or unwilling) to engage online; some declined for a number of reasons, and some have shut their doors permanently (of this last group- I would say nearly if not all were on the way to closure before COVID, and the pandemic gave them permission to do it now).

As we mark two years at the point of impact, I encourage you to reflect on this time. How has it been an unending Lent? What Holy Week and Easter events have you witnessed and been a part of? Can you name your grief? Can you name your hope? I hope you will take time to share with me, and others in the congregation, some of your reflections.

Peace,
Pr. Kate Drefke

What the Pastor is Reading

As admitted above, I start lots of books, but the upheavals of COVID have wrecked a lot of my focus. So, here are a couple books I've started this month, plus one I read all the way through in one sitting. Two starts and a complete.

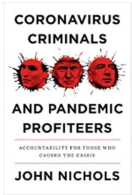
Children's



Outside, Inside (2021) by LeUyen Pham (author, illustrator).

I subscribe to a children's book box because I like kids' books and each month has a different theme (e.g.: neurodiversity, mental health, race, economics, gender, etc.), and comes with a discussion guide so parents can have conversations with their kids. A recent one was about sudden changes and waiting, and included this book about the pandemic from the point of view of a young child (or the little black cat on every page, I'm not totally sure). Without saying "COVID" or "face mask" or "vaccine" it talks about the early pandemic, a scary and uncertain time, and points to community hope.

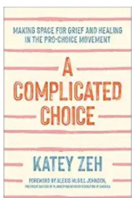
Politics



Coronavirus Criminals and Pandemic Profiteers: Accountability for Those Who Caused the Crisis (2022) by John Nichols.

In the preface Nichols quotes New York Assemblyman Ron Kim, who when interviewed for the book said, "There's no justice without accountability." Explaining further, he said, "We need accountability to get to the justice that we need, whether it's systemic changes or anything. But if we don't have accountability at the front end, we can't get to any of the changes." When I did restorative justice during seminary, we talked about things like accountability, culpability, and responsibility. True justice that reconciles the hurting with the hurtful requires these. What does accountability and justice look like when we talk about COVID?

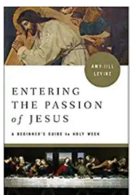
Religion/ Christian Living/ Social Issues



A Complicated Choice: Making Space for Grief and Healing in the Pro-Choice Movement (2022) by Katey Zeh.

Our national conversations around abortion are binary shouting matches and overly simplified. The "pro-life" side claims abortion is always emotional and traumatic and denies objectivity, while the "pro-choice" side focuses on the objective experience and denies the emotional aspects. Zeh, an ordained Baptist minister, speaks primarily to those identifying as pro-choice and places abortion in the complicated contexts of full lives, including systemic injustices that shape the decision. A reflection and discussion guide from the publisher (Broadleaf Books) is available for download and printing.

Lenten Book Study



Ash Wednesday is March 2. Starting the following week, on March 9, we will study New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine's 2018 book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. There will be two offerings each Wednesday: 2pm and 7pm. You are welcome to join and participate at either or both, or switch back-and-forth depending on the week.

You can purchase the book on your own in your preferred format (e.g.: large print, ebook, audiobook), or Pr. Kate has ordered several copies, and you can get one from her for \$14.

Lenten Book Study Schedule and Zoom Info:

March 9	Chp 1 Jerusalem: Rising Reputation
March 16	Chp 2 The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
March 23	Chp 3 Teachings: Risking Challenge
March 30	Chp 4 The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
April 6	Chp 5 The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
April 13	Chp 6 Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

Topic: Entering the Passion of Jesus 2pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82529736775?pwd=ekZiMFVwNFJvMmh0MmtnWE51SkE1QT09>

Meeting ID: 825 2973 6775

Passcode: 078846

By phone: 646-558-8656

Topic: Entering the Passion of Jesus 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84512991203?pwd=dEtDNEhHcGhwRkRKbVdveGM1OUsvdz09>

Meeting ID: 845 1299 1203

Passcode: 853018

By phone: 646-558-8656

Attention Youth of Faith!

All youth grades 7-12, confirmed and not, are invited to meet with Pr. Kate after worship (actually, noon because she needs a little break) on Sunday, March 6 to meet and talk about what YOU want in a youth group and/or for your continued faith formation (which is lifelong; confirmation doesn't equal church graduation).

12-12:15 Brief prayer and devotion

12:15-1:30 Food* and discussion

*Please let Pr. Kate know if you plan to attend and any dietary needs (e.g.: vegetarian, allergies, etc.) so she can make sure there's enough good food.



individuals learn to read, to write, to speak English, and to improve their math skills. Tutoring is free and confidential. Students and tutors work together for an average of 2 hours per week to meet students' goals. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Flowers for the Altar

March 13 - In memory of Everett and Eugene Boomhower. Given by Bob and Joyce Duncan.

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar at any time during 2022, please fill in the flower chart hanging in the Narthex. Please fill in your name along with who the flowers are in memory of 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.

March Mission of the Month

The featured mission for the month of March is in support of the work of **Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County**. Through our donations, Literacy Volunteers provide tutoring in Reading/Basic Literacy and in English as a Second Language to approximately 250 teens and adults. One-to-One and Small Group Tutoring help

Altar Guild

If you are interested in serving on the Altar Guild, please contact me at 518-526-2545 or 518-274-3539.

Thank you, Donna St. John, Altar Guild Leader

Leading Our March Worship

Lay Assistants

March 6 - Evelyn Jarosz
March 13 - Fred Howard
March 20 - Bill Jarosz
Mar. 27 - Carol Karpfen

Community Service of Word & Prayer

COVID-19 has been with us nearly two years. Join us at Evangelical Lutheran, Poestenkill, on Thursday, March 10, at 7pm, for a brief service of word and prayer as we grieve the trauma of the past couple of years and look forward with hope.

Faith Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting January 30th, 2022 Highlights

Report of Nominating Committee – Because no one has offered to serve in the four open positions and considering the size of the congregation, it was suggested that the Council consider reducing the number of council positions. A clarification of voting requirements followed. It was determined that while remote voting during annual meetings is not permitted, remote voting during council meetings is permitted (NYS Religious Corporation Law). Sara Martin offered to continue on Council if she could attend via *Zoom*. Future council meetings will be held both in-person and remotely.

- **Motion** to nominate Sara Martin carried.
- **Motion** to close the nominations and elect Sara Martin Carried

Presentation of Proposed Financial Plan and Expenditure Budget

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Prayers of supplication for people suffering in war torn counties. 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 leading to the terror of destructive violence.

Continued prayers for healing and recovery for Larry Lansing.

Paul Haas who continues to do 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 of thanksgiving and celebration with the joyous arrival of Nicole Van Zandt's new daughter, Ellie! Grammie Donna is overjoyed as she begins this new life journey.

Prayers of healing for Linda Hulihan who is recovering from an injury to her knee.

Prayers for Pastor Kate as she works with our congregations move outward in new directions of evangelism, service and presence in our communities.

Prayers for renewal of our Congregations as we move into a new journey of faith, service and outreach in our communities.

Presentation and Discussion of Proposed 2022 Budget – Roberta Hayward reported that the church’s KeyBank accounts have been closed and all funds have been moved to our Hudson River Credit Union accounts. NuCor stocks were liquidated and funds are in our savings acct. Concerning our investments, the Synod is 4 quarters behind in sending dividends from our Lord Abbett and Zeisser accounts and is working to bring them up to date.

Our income is not meeting our expenditures. The projected deficit of \$67,250 includes the \$30, 000 brought forward from last year for capital improvements.

- **Motion** to approve the Proposed 2022 Budget carried unanimously

Financial Secretary Report

- Giving pattern in 2021 - Giving has decreased by 8.3% during 2021. Ways to increase stewardship were discussed, including the formation of a Stewardship Committee, better communication, electronic giving (Vanco or recurring checking account payments), and starting a Capital Improvement fund raising effort. Rich Anderson agreed to continue as Financial Secretary until a replacement can be found.

Continuation and Renewal of Covenant Agreement

Our Covenant Agreement with Evangelical Lutheran Church Poestenkill requires that each congregation include a report of the Partnership Council actions as part of its annual meeting.

A resolution for continuation and renewal of the Covenant Agreement for the coming year is needed. Note: the shared expense split remains 55% Faith/45% ELCP.

- **Motion** to continue the Partnership Covenant with ELCP carried.

Old Business

Recruiting additional support staff with regular hours (paid or volunteer) was discussed. If we employ someone, the budget will have to be amended.

New Business

None

Reports

- President – St. John emphasized the importance of communication and shared that she is willing to continue as President.
- Committee reports – See written reports
 - Property – Emory and Webb Insurance review items are almost complete. Door replacement and crash bars installation remain. Several people volunteered to serve on the committee. Removal of several trees was discussed.
 - Missions – Nature of one mission was clarified.
 - Technology – Upgrades to technology are being pursued.
 - Worship – Thanks to Donna Van Zandt and the Altar Guild for their work.
 - Office Administration – Thanks to Diane Dyer for publishing the bulletins.
 - Education – Sara Martin will work with Pastor Kate.

Joys and Concerns

Warm welcome to Pastor Kate whose installation is being planned. Pastor is offering a Lenten study opportunity via *Zoom* on the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus*. Thanks to Fred Howard for doing the newsletter. Congratulations to Donna Van Zandt and family for the anticipated birth of a grandchild.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (1:00pm) carried.

Closing Prayer

End of Congregational Meeting Highlights

February 7, 2022 Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report

Roberta Hayward explained that we should be receiving quarterly dividends from the Zeisser and Lord Abbett investments. We typically earn \$1000 to \$1200 per quarter. Synod has paid Lord Abbett and Ziesser 4th quarter dividends from 2020 and still owes 2021 dividends. In response to questions raised at the annual meeting, it was explained that we can follow those accounts and may consider taking control of them. Pastor Kate's moving expenses will be reviewed by Donna St. John and Ruth Frazee (ELCP) so she can be reimbursed.

Pastor's Report

Pastor's activities included the annual meeting, Kay Young's funeral, and the planning of Helen Englis' memorial service (May 28). Ash Wednesday services will be at 4:00 PM at Faith and 7:00 PM at ELCP.

The book *Entering the Passion of Jesus* will be the topic of our Lenten Bible study on Wednesday evenings and afternoons via *Zoom*. Pastor is hoping to schedule a youth activity.

Committee Reports

- Office Administration – (Diane Dyer) Bulletins will include the “Celebrate” content for Zoomers.
- Education – (Sara Martin, Dave Cerrone) Martin and Pastor will discuss possible future activities for youth.
- Stewardship – (Rich Anderson, Carol Karpfen, and council collaboration) Karpfen explained that short quarterly reports were published in the newsletter last year.
- Property – (Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz) Jarosz reported that the east door will be replaced and a crash bar added. Churches are not required to be ADA compliant, so the west doors can be repaired or replaced. A committee is being formed to deal with the door issues. Additional issues are that other doors, including the kitchen door, are entry points for mice and are not well insulated.
- Worship – (Donna Van Zandt, Pastor Kate) A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 16th.

Open Council Seats

Doug Adamek and Katie Bonnier were nominated and elected unanimously.

Zoom and Technology upgrade

Our printer is not working correctly. We need to repair or purchase. We are waiting for a response from the Elfun program as to whether we will receive any new equipment. Software also needs to be upgraded. We need a tech team to coordinate and organize our office and media needs.

Media and Web Presence

Currently, Pastor is regularly posting on Facebook. David Cerrone will work with Rob Hayward on our web presence.

Installation of Pastor Kate

Pastor's installation will take place in March. Donna St. John will coordinate with ELCP.

Policy Writing (gift policy and hall rental)

Roberta Hayward will research Synod recommendations. Pastor recommended that we consult with our Regional Gift Planner.

Hiring administrative staff member, part time

Donna St. John and Roberta Hayward will review our needs.

End of Council Meeting Highlights

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the April, 2022 newsletter is Tuesday, March 29, 2022. Please email your articles to: 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. Pr. Kate posts a nugget of info on each of the upcoming readings and video links to the hymns we'll be singing every Tuesday thru Thursday.

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=ZVJDL3FhRjZSN2ZHTTFIUGo3TVVmdz09>

"Faith Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action"

MONDAYS, 7-8:30PM, via Zoom

FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28

FACILITATED by Pastor Lori Kochanski

Sessions led by leaders from across the Church

Description: In 2019 *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* was voted on by the church wide assembly and is our newest social statement. Using the new study guide we will explore the ways we are called to action regarding faith, sexism and justice.

SIGN UP

HERE: <https://forms.gle/gY6NoQ7vRnZxCfS>