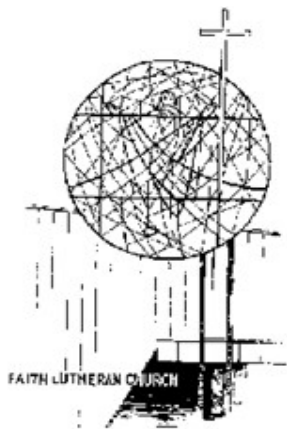


Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, NY 12182



# ***Following Faith***

***MARCH 2023***

***This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his  
one and only Son into the world that we might  
live through him.***

***1 John 4:9***



**Faith Lutheran Church**

50 Leversee 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**

Bill Jarosz, President (Property)  
Sara Martin, Vice President (Education)  
Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)  
Roberta Hayward (Interim), Treasurer  
Linda Houlihan, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek (Inreach/outreach, Missions, Property)  
Katie Bonnier (Inreach/Outreach, Missions)  
Errol Bull, (Property)  
Evelyn Jarosz (Stewardship)  
Vacant (Office Administration)

Partnership Council – Roberta Hayward, Bill 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**

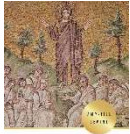
We've entered Lent, that season of wilderness wandering and temptation, self-reflection and penitence. For Jesus, this was forty days and forty nights alone, following his baptism, as he prepared to begin his public ministry. Our gospels tell us he was tempted by offers of food, protection, and to possess all the world's riches, to rule all that that he could see and more. Those things, though, were just the tangibles, or the surface stuff. Get past the first layer, and you realize that the real temptation was to forgo his mission to proclaim the Good News of God's Realm, to feed the hungry, heal the sick, etc. (you know- all that "love your neighbor" stuff). He faced temptation meant to prevent his forthcoming teaching, healing, and speaking out against corrupt powers. And at the end of his human life, when the bill for speaking truth to power was coming due, he prayed in the garden asking to get out of suffering and death, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

I think most of us, at least as children, learned that Lent, with its forty days and forty nights (plus Sundays- "little Easters") is like Jesus' forty in the wilderness. We "resist the temptation" of whatever we give up (if that's something you practice), and it gives us a *tiiniy* sense of what it was like for Jesus out there hungry and alone. This is true... but it's also far from the *whole* truth.

Lent follows the time after Epiphany, with its themes of discipleship and what it means to really follow Jesus. And now we follow Jesus into and through the wilderness, girding ourselves for the work ahead. In our self-reflection throughout Lent (and the whole year), we reflect on the ways in which we fall short of Jesus' example of radical love and inclusion, the ways in which we choose easier paths over following his difficult roads. Who among us does not find it easier to stay silent instead of speaking up when there is something wrong in front of

us? Lent challenges us to resist the temptation of complacency, staying with the familiar, of maintaining the status quo. Lent challenges us to truly follow Jesus: to be with hurting people; to challenge centers of power; to the cross.

## Midweek Book Study



Last year we studied Holy Week with New Testament scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. This year we still study with A-J again, using *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven* (©2020). The Sermon on the Mount runs from Matthew 5-7, and includes such “hits” as the Beatitudes and the Lord’s Prayer. Lent is a good time to dwell in this scripture as it covers discipleship, living together in community, and what it means to live into the Kingdom of Heaven.

As with our previous Lenten and Advent studies, the study will be offered twice on **Wednesdays in Lent, beginning 1 March** (and going through April 5):

**3-4pm @Poestenkill.** Our in-person offering is good for those who tend to experience “technical difficulties” or who want to be home before dark.

**7-8pm on Zoom.** This is especially good for those who work, are traveling, or are in school during the day. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83192075891?pwd=Q0UyT2Z3Ti9Fbk1JY2NFOHdaaFUzZz09>

Meeting ID: 831 9207 5891 Passcode: 239056

There are still a few copies of the book available for \$14. Reading is highly recommended, but not required; you can still come to sessions and get plenty from the short videos and be part of the conversation. Kids welcome! Watching the grandkids? Bring them along!

## Reading

### Social Science/ Transportation



*Ninety Percent of Everything: Inside Shipping, the Invisible Industry That Puts Clothes on Your Back, Gas in Your Car, and Food on Your Plate* (©2013) by Rose George.

It is legit crazy some of the practices that shipping companies are allowed to get away with. It is mind-blowing how vast the shipping industry is- there are at least 20 million containers crossing our oceans right now, plus tankers, scrap, etc.- and how complex it all it is, like navigating the different laws of “flag” and “port” states and international laws, agreements.

### Poetry



*The Weary Blues* (©19xx) by Langston Hughes.

Langston Hughes’ first collection of poetry describes the lives of Black Americans with joy and pride, realistic about and confronting the racial stereotypes of his people. He shows the struggles and hopes of working-class African Americans.

### Children’s Book



*Mother God* (©2022) by Theresa Kim Pecinovsky, illustrated by Khoa Le.

“You know God the Father,/ But God is your Mother too./ You are made in Her image-/She is making all things new.” And so, begins this beautifully illustrated children's book exploring feminine images of God from Scripture. No spoilers, but worth the five minutes to read, and the time after thinking about how you image- picture- God. (I have it in my office if you’re curious.)

## **Annual Meeting Highlights – January 29, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 11:55 AM. Pastor opened with a prayer.

The Agenda that was mailed to members was Adoption for the meeting and the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were approved.

Dana Cerrone, Linda Hulihan (to serve as Financial Secretary), and Evelyn Jarosz were nominated and elected to two year terms. President Jarosz thanked Diane Dyer and Carol Karpfen who are going off council and Rich Anderson for his work as Financial Secretary. In addition, he thanked Roberta Hayward for continuing to serve as Treasurer until another treasurer can be found.

### **Presentation of Proposed Financial Plan and Expenditure Budget**

- Presentation and Discussion of Proposed 2023 Budget - Roberta Hayward explained that because we are running a \$20,000 yearly deficit at current giving levels, we may soon have to use our savings to meet budget.
- Questions about our investments with Synod were asked. Hayward reported that Synod owes interest from the Lord Abbott and Zeisser funds from 2021 and 2022 and first quarter of 2023. She has been in contact with our synod representative who assured her that the monies (about \$10,000) would be paid. Once Synod pays, it was recommended that we take our investments out of Synod's hands.
- A motion to approve the Proposed 2023 Budget carried unanimously.

### **Financial Secretary Report**

- Giving pattern in 2022 - R. Anderson reported that general offerings are low, but slowly improving.

### **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. Meeting minutes of the Partnership Council were provided.
- A resolution for continuation and renewal of the Covenant Agreement for the coming year was moved. Discussion: It was suggested that the split between the 2 congregations be reviewed and possibly set at 50/50% instead of the agreed upon 45/55%. President Jarosz suggested that this should be taken up at council.

Resolution to continue the Covenant Agreement carried: Ayes 20, Nays 2, Abstentions 1.

### **New Business**

- A member asked about our mission statement and whether it should be reviewed and revised.
- President Jarosz thanked all the Council members: former, current, and future.

- He also thanked all who worked on the furnace repair effort: Fred Howard, Eugene St. John, Mike Moroskey, Rob Hayward, and Errol Bull.
- The congregation also thanked Bill Jarosz for the many hours he spent on the furnace problem.
- Evelyn Jarosz asked that everyone think of one thing that the church could do to increase community and service to others. Any ideas should be given to the President or a Council Member.

Adjournment at 12.25 PM and Closing with the Lord's Prayer

### **March Mission of the Month**

The featured mission for the month of March will be 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 individuals learn to read, to write, and 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 student goals. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

January Mission collection was \$190.00 in Support of Albany Maritime Ministry.

Our Souper Bowl special collection for local Hunger Programs was \$215.00.

Thank you and God Bless!

Katie Bonnier, Inreach/Outreach.

### **February 6, Council Meeting Highlights**

**Treasurer's Report** - Report presented by Roberta Hayward

### **Financial Secretary's Report**

There are questions regarding the Upstate Synod Foundation and our Zeisser account. There is a lack of communication between Synod and churches. We should we look for other options. A committee is suggested to investigate and come back with recommendations. Those offering to help include Doug Adamek, Rob Hayward, and Evelyn Jarosz. Approved.

### **President's Report –**

- Welcome to Dana Cerrone, Linda Cerrone, and Evelyn Jarosz who are willing to share their time on Faith's Council. God's Blessings.
- Our most recent Council Meeting went well.
- Many Thanks to Fred Howard for continuing to produce our monthly newsletter.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Pastor Kate recommended that we hold a joint council retreat in March. How can we continue to work together and have a stronger relationship. March 11, 2023 was set beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- There will be a Lenten Study - Sermon on the Mount on Wednesdays. Pastor is looking for co-leaders from each church.
- Website - Can someone help Pastor? Possibly Sara
- Felt the annual (congregational) meeting went well. –

- Our Covenant Agreement with ELCP should be rubber-stamped. If we didn't have a majority vote to continue the agreement with ELCP would have triggered the termination process.

### **Election of Officer's for the upcoming year**

- President - Bill Jarosz
- Vice President - Sara Martin
- Secretary - Donna Van Zandt
- Treasurer - Roberta Hayward
- Financial Secretary - Linda Houlihan

### **2023 Committee Representatives**

- Stewardship - Evelyn Jarosz
- Partnership - Doug Adamek
- Office Administration – This assignment will be vacant
- Other Committee Reps. will remain the same.

### **Old Business –**

- We need to continue to work on cleaning out the Balcony and the attached closets. Erroll, Roberta and DVZ to start working on this.

Coffee Hour - We hope to restart coffee hour on Sunday mornings but now, prior to our church service. (10:00-10:15 start time). This will begin first Sunday in March. There is a sign up list in the Narthex to help provide/serve.

### **New Business**

***We need a Treasurer!!*** Roberta H. will help train anyone who is Interested.

Zoom continues to be an issue. Zoomers are not able to hear the music. Bill will reach out to someone at Cornerstone to try and help remedy this Situation.

Council meeting dates have been established knowing that they are subject to change. A joint council retreat will be held on March 11, 2023.

There will be no July meeting unless absolutely necessary.

### **Joys and Concerns**

- Keep in our prayers - Ron and Carol Karpien; Polly Hayward, Lowell Chilton, Pastor Kate
- Joys - Bill and Evelyn will be welcoming a new great-grandson in the near future.

Adjournment This meeting ended at 7:54 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be March 11th at Faith beginning at 9:00 a.m.

----- *end of council meeting highlights* -----



## Quilt Ministry – **FEBRUARY HEARTS!**

February is the month in which we think of hearts. The quilt this month featuring hearts is the work of Diane Anderson. Surely it, will be loved by the person, at St. Paul's Center, who receives it as a gift from our congregation.

Evelyn Jarosz, Master Quilter



### AMONG OUR PEOPLE

*If you have a special Joy or Concern that you would like to have included in this section, please email your item to: [farmerf169@aol.com](mailto:farmerf169@aol.com), or by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if there is answer.*

**We ask that the Holy Spirit guide us all as we discern and move forward in the new year. We pray especially for individual guidance as we commit to our financial support for our church in 2023.**

**Continued prayers for Ron Karpjen as he works with specialists to fully diagnose and treat effectively medical issues that he is facing. Include Carol in your prayers as well.**

**Continued prayers for Larry Lansing, suffering from chronic conditions. We ask for healing and a return to better health.**

**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.**

**For Lutheran World Relief and other NGO's as they work to minister to those who are in impossible situations due to flooding, drought and all sorts of disasters both natural and man-made.**

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

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

## Lay Assistants

April 9 - Easter - Evelyn Jarosz

March 26 – Bill and Evelyn Jarosz

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.

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>

## EASTER PLANTS

As our tradition continues, we will once again have a variety of spring plants adorning the Altar for Easter Sunday. If you would like to place a plant in loving memory or in honor of someone, please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than Monday, April 3, 2023.

The price for each plant this year is \$13.00.

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Plant(s) at \$13.00 each in loving

Memory or honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

My plant(s) may be given to the sick or shut ins. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If possible, please fill out a separate order form for each plant purchased.

Checks payable to WELCA.

Thank you.