

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

March 2025 Newsletter

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
~John 12:3

Faith Lutheran Church

50 Leverage 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)

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)**

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

This Lent our worship and preaching is going to be a bit different. Generally, the same order of worship and all, but we’ve adapted a 5-part midweek worship series for Sunday mornings. The focus is on the five senses giving us some intentional meditation on Jesus’ own human incarnation as we move through the season from the mountaintop (Transfiguration Sunday, technically pre-Lent) to the cross and the tomb on Good Friday. I’ll admit to not being super crazy about this worship idea when it was first brought up. Not because I think it’s a bad idea, but because I didn’t want to do the extra work involved to ensure a worship service that would make good sense. But now I’m looking forward to us focusing on embodiment because, as I’ve said before and will say a gagillion more times: **we are each made in and bear God’s infinitely diverse image**. We might wish to bear some of God’s more attractive features, but we also never look into the eyes of someone who isn’t divinely made and loved.

Our bodies are amazing. We come in so many different shapes and sizes, colors and textures, identities and styles. There are so many physical features we can use to identify and describe ourselves and others- like hair and eye colors, height, weight, assistive devices, etc.- and internal or genetic features that we can’t see- like chromosomes, internal organ placement, fetal development. Made in God’s image, we can imagine God in a wheelchair, as any gender, any age, with any variety of physical characteristics, hair style preferences. Does

anyone remember the early '00s show *Joan of Arcadia*? God appeared to the title character- Joan- a teenage girl, based on what aspects of the human God she needed. E.g.: old lady God (played by the great and now late Kathryn Joosten ♥), or “hot guy God” (who she did not make out with). Our scriptures give us a multitude of ways of imaging God- elements of nature, objects, animals, embodied. Sometime take a moment, open the ACS (that purple book hymnal supplement) and turn to pages 268-271 in the back and look up some of these different images for God.

As embodied expressions of the Divine, our theology doesn't happen in some formless void, but through our bodies- as we experience the world and the world experiences us. When we do theology, we name our particularities (race, gender, age, etc.) because the interactions our bodies have with the world influence how we think. Womanist theologian Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon (+2018) talked about the gifts of thinking differently- a black woman doesn't think the same as a white man, and highlighted how our different trainings benefit one another. E.g.: professional theologians are a benefit to those in the STEM fields- just because we *can* do certain things in science and medicine doesn't mean we *should*, or that we are prepared for the consequences.

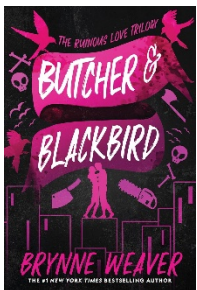
We follow a God who didn't just create us in their image, but *became* and lived as one of us in human flesh, experiencing human life from birth to death- hunger, headaches, eating, drinking, laughing, weeping, love, friendship, grief, anger, hang nails, constipation, boredom, lust, and on and on and on. As we move through this Lent, a season of self-reflection and examination, let us be present in our bodies, honoring the amazing things they do in health and sickness, good and bad times. As we explore our senses in worship, notice how you experience the Divine in this physical world. Reflect on how your own embodiedness influences your thinking about the world at large.

Incarnationally,

Pr. Kate Drefle

What is the Pastor Reading?

I haven't done much reading this past month. Slash thus far this year. I've been doing more TV watching and crocheting. But I did start another book, *Butcher and Blackbird* (©2023), the first volume in Brynne Weaver's



Ruinous Love Trilogy. It's a “dark romance” kind of thing. Rowan and Sloane are serial killers who target other serial killers- the kind of premise that has me wanting to watch *Dexter*. Anyway, they meet kind of by chance and then begin an annual competition wherein his brother picks a target but only gives a location. Then Sloan and Rowan must figure out who they're hunting and the first to kill the target wins. In between they have some contact as they both have feelings for the other but aren't yet ready to admit it. I'm halfway through. Their declarations of love are coming soon.

----- February 3, 2025 Council Meeting Highlights -----

6:30 p.m. – In Person

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

Absent -Dana Cerrone

I. Call to order -

- President Jarosz called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

II. Opening Devotion -

- Pastor Kate shared a reading from Kings I, Chapter 17 followed by a prayer.

III. Approval of Agenda -

- There were no additions to the agenda

IV. Approval of January 2025 meeting minutes

V. Treasurer's Report

- Linda gave a few information points on January 2025 treasurer's report

VI. Financial Secretary's Report

- General Offerings, Benevolences and Missions were up for January 2025.
- Errol attempted to call LPL Finance to become authorizer for the church. Will try again.
- Discussion on how to distribute several Giving Reports.

VII. Pastor's Report

- Pastor will be on vacation next week leaving on the 12th and back on the 18th, Allison Dilyard will be the supply pastor on Jan 16th. Initial planning for Lent is underway.

VIII. President's Report

- Good congregation meeting. Several people asked Mike Moroskey about why the meeting was held in the sanctuary instead of the Fellowship Hall. This is for people on Zoom to hear. Several good ideas brought up to be discussed.

IX. Committee Reports

- Officer Election:
- President: Evelyn Jarosz
- Vice President: Doug Adamek
- Secretary: Diana Rieker
- Treasurer: Linda Houlihan
- A motion was made by Diane Anderson to accept the slate of officers
- Second: Mike Moroskey
- Motion Carried

Committee Assignments:

- Property: Mike Moroskey, Doug Adamek
- Nominating Committee: Diane Anderson, Doug Adamek
- Missions: Diane Anderson
- Church Life: Evelyn Jarosz
- Education: Doug Adamek, Evelyn Jarosz
- Partnership – Linda Houlihan, Diane Anderson, Evelyn Jarosz, Doug Adamek
- Stewardship/Finance: Errol Bull, Linda Houlihan, Fred Howard

Worship – joint committee with Poestenkill – Faith members Donna Van

Zandt and Pastor Kate

- Property Committee Report - Door on handicap restroom doesn't close right. Mike has an idea on how to fix it. Mike wants to paint trim in the fellowship hall. Discussion on what to do with the burn pile. Update on plan for the sign.

X. Old Business

- None

XI. New Business

- Fred Howard would like whatever is collected for a mission to go to the mission. The council discussed that if the amount collected is less than \$250, then send a minimum of \$250, if more than \$250 collected, the full amount will be sent to the mission. The Council decided to hold off on Red Cross as a mission until later in the year. The Boys and Girls club has an immediate need for planning summer activities.
- Lunch and snacks for the next Red Cross blood drive will be covered by the church

- Super Bowl donations will be collected for the entire month of February. Donation will be to Poestenkill Bread of Life Food Pantry.

- 2025 Goal – Reaching out to the community

XII. Joys and Concerns

- Evelyn's friend had heart surgery and is doing well

- Mike's friend broke their femur and now needs a hip replacement

XIII. Next Meeting - Monday, March 3, 2025 - 6:30 - in person

XIV. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

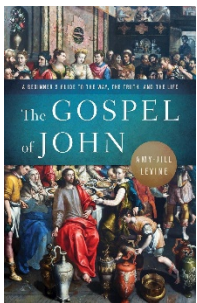
----- **End of Council Meeting Highlights** -----

Mission of the Month

The Mission for March 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.

Diane Anderson, Missions

Lent is Coming!



Ash Wednesday worship services will be **March 5**

1pm at Poestenkill

7pm at Faith.

This year's midweek book study by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine is The Gospel of John:

A Beginner's Guide to the Way, the Truth, and the Life (©2024). Copies of the book available to pick up at Poestenkill for \$13 (Kate will bring some over to Faith.)

Starting Wednesday, March 12, we'll meet **in person at 1pm** at Poestenkill, and on **zoom at 7pm** (Meeting ID: 823 7842 7045 Passcode: 103601

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82378427045?pwd=bnow6hEgd7Y797LqMzAWIEv8qtxo6M.1>)

Please try to read chapter 1 before we meet the 12th.

SERVING OUR FEBRUARY SUNDAY PROGRAMS

Lay Assistants

Mar 2 Fred Howard
Mar 5 Evelyn Jarosz
Mar 9 Dave Truland
Mar 16 Deb Keegan
Mar 23 Rich Anderson
Mar 30 Donna Truland

Coffee Hour

Mar 2 Walsh & Keegan After
Mar 9 VanZandt During
Mar 16 Anderson During
Mar 23 Vumbacco & Maselli During
Mar 30 Peters During

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

NOTE: Starting March 9, Sunday morning Lenten worship will take place in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be back in the sanctuary for Palm/Passion Sunday (13 April) and Resurrection Sunday (20 April).

Counting Team

Mar 2 Jarosz
Mar 9 Anderson
Mar 16 Howard
Mar 23 Bull
Mar 30 Jarosz

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

Altar Guild

March 2 Roberta Hayward
March 5 (Ash Wed) Dana Cerone
March 9 Dana Cerone
March 16 Diana Rieker
March 23 Diana Rieker
March 30 Diane Anderson
April 6 Diane Anderson

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

Mark Your Calendar!

Faith will be holding its second Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 18th, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. You can schedule your donation appointment by calling 1-800-RED-CROS (733-2767) or online at redcrossblood.org
Let's beat our goal of 18 pints!



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.

Mike Moreskey'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. Brenda Speanburg Stevens has retired and moved to Colorado and is living in an apartment in the home of her daughter Molly and enjoying taking care of her grandchildren some of the time. Finally, Bonnie Speanburg Snyder has recovered from a serious bout with Covid and has returned to the treatments that are keeping her cancer suppressed.

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

Prayers for strength, healing, and continuing support for Nancy Johansen as she lives with chronic conditions and disabilities.

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 April 2025 newsletter is **Sunday, March 23, 2025**. Please email your letters or articles to Pastor Kate Drefke, drefkekate@gmail.com, and put "March 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.