

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

MAY 2024 Newsletter

“ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them and All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:3-4

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)****Council Members**

Evelyn Jarosz, President, (Finance, Inreach/Outreach)

Diana Rieker, Vice President, (Property, Stewardship)

Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)

Linda Hulihan, Treasurer

Errol Bull, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek (Education, Finance)

Mike Moroskey, (Property)

Diane Anderson (Missions, Stewardship)

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. *(See her out of office schedule and Pastoral coverage at the end of From the Pastor’s Desk)*

Pentecost

May 19th – Coffee Hour Service. **BE SURE TO WEAR RED!**

From the Pastor’s Desk

Full transparency: I’m ripping off my sermon from Sunday (21 April), and repeating a lot of things I’ve said before. During my first year of seminary, I attended a panel discussion at the Center of Jewish Studies. I forget the details of the talk, but I have *always* remembered, and now quote it out frequently myself, “Every act of translation is an act of interpretation.” I most recently explained this by talking about the fluidity and aliveness of language, and reminded us about the lack of word-for-word between languages. For example (again), German has “die,” “der,” and “das” all translated into English as “the.” Greek has “eros,” “philia,” and “agape” which all get translated into English as “love” even though each of the Greek words is a very different affection- romantic or sexual, brotherly and friendly, and Godly, respectively, leaving us to inelegantly say things like, “I love my spouse and love my kid, but not in the same way.” We’ve also talked about translating the same language across time- ever try reading Old English? “*Fæder ūre þū þe eart on heofonum,*” is “Our Father, who art in heaven” after a word-for-word translation of “Father Ours, thou which art in heavens,” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_English). And we won’t even get into ancient Greek v. modern Greek.

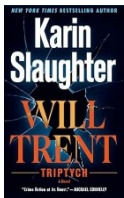
Our psalms were written in ancient Hebrew, a language that didn't have vowels. Translate that into a modern language with vowels, and different rules for capitalization and punctuation, etc. On Sunday, we read Psalm 23 for the second or third time this lectionary year, and we'll get it at least once more before the year is done. This, of course, does not count however many funerals we will each attend and hear it at. I'm not dissing on Psalm 23; I just wish that the committee who put the lectionary together would have remembered there are another 149 psalms for us pray, sing, learn; and in a three-year cycle, with 52 Sundays, we could get at least part of each one and have six Sundays leftover. But I digress.

Psalm 23 is obviously very well-known, much loved, and some of you even memorized it as children. So, challenge what you "know" or take for granted. In a spirit of curiosity, grab a couple of Bibles and/or head to biblegateway.com. Look up different translations of Psalm 23. Mark or jot down different words/ phrases that strike you in some way. Compare and contrast across translations. What words or phrases really resonate with you? How do these compare with what you've "always" known (or are just plain used to)? How do these nuances of translation help you to think anew about the psalm in part or in whole? Repeat this with another well-known passage of scripture (e.g.: Matthew 6:9-13, aka The Lord's Prayer). Really challenge your scriptural curiosity with a passage you're struggling to understand.

Faith is curious and it asks questions. It challenges us to move beyond what we've "always" known, and engage anew with scripture, theology, images of God in our neighbor and creation. It's Eastertide, the season of resurrection and new life. What a perfect invitation for us to ask questions, be curious, explore our faith and its foundations.

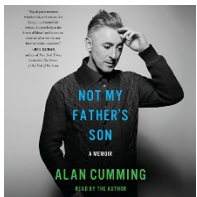
Peace,
Pr. Kate Drefke

What's the pastor reading?



Last January, 2023, *Will Trent* premiered on some network (ABC? we watch it on Hulu). We enjoyed the first episodes so much that I ordered a copy of the first book of the series the TV show is based on. I finally read it in January. And now I've gotten through the first four novels and am looking forward to reading the fifth (shoutout to our local library system letting me check out ebooks at 2am). They aren't the best novels, but I'm liking the development and story work Karin Slaughter puts into a lot of the characters, and it's fun to compare how they're presented for television. E.g.:

Will Trent in the books is a 6'3" white guy, and in the show a short Latino.



Driving to and from Montreal for vacation Lowell and I listened to Alan Cumming narrate his 2014 memoir, *Not My Father's Son*. The first part, and majority of the book, goes back and forth between things from his childhood and the spring - summer of 2010 when he is filming a celebrity genealogy show. Right before he starts filming the show, with the intention of answering a family mystery about his maternal grandfather, his older brother calls him and gives him some disturbing news from their abusive father. Now, in front of the cameras, Alan is learning shocking things about a grandfather he never met, and off-camera trying to sort through a personal crisis.



I applied to and was accepted into a cohort program for preaching this year, The Bridge for Early Career Preachers. Back in January or February, we all got a box of books and other swag (Faith people- you've maybe seen me use the coffee mug at coffee hour worship). Among the books is *Know Your Story and Lead with It: The Power of Narrative in Clergy Leadership* (©2009), by Richard L Hester and Kelli Walker-Jones. I've finally started reading it. The intro shows the book's (and the authors'?) age (things move SO FAST), but the second chapter gives some good examples of a cohort clergy program that I see echoes of in The Bridge. And that's as far as I am in it thus far.

First Lutheran, Albany Book Club



The May book will be *Worth Fighting For: Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty is Trending* by John Pavlovitz. Pavlovitz's essays will guide us in conversation about how to find and live our calling as people of faith with courage and compassion when these are out of favor with the world at large. Lowell got a preview copy from the book club

manager at The Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza because she thought he would be interested, which he was. And because I think some of you might be interested, too, we're invited to join their discussion. If you pick up the book from The Book House, mention you're getting it for First's book club and you'll get a 20% discount off the cover price.

Tuesday, May 28, 7pm on Zoom: <http://FirstLutheranChurch.org/Zoom>

Holy Spirit, Albany Anniversary

On May 19th, 2024, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. Please join us for special worship service at Holy Spirit, followed by a banquet at Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post located at 4 Everett Road Extension, Albany, NY. Bishop Miller will also be here to celebrate with us and share in the banquet after worship.

The cost for the banquet is \$28.00/person and reservations are required. When making your reservation, you will have the option to choose either roast top round of Beef or roasted sliced breast of Turkey. Your entree includes a tossed salad, potato, vegetable, dinner rolls, coffee and tea, or there is an option for vegetarian lasagna with tossed salad. There will be a cash bar available with very reasonable prices. Hors D' Oeuvres will be served at Noon, followed by the meal at 1PM. Dinner will be followed by cake. Paid reservations are required by May 1st, 2024. Prior to this date, there will be a form in the bulletin as well as in the Spirit Newsletter.

First, Albany Anniversary

See the accompanying flyer or go to http://firstlutheranalbany.org/375_invite for more information.

First Lutheran, Albany is celebrating their 375th anniversary on **May 19, 4pm** with worship and a reception. Bp. Lee Miller II will be preaching.

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

Letter to the Editor

None this month.

March 4, 2024 Council Meeting Highlights

Attendance -

Diane Anderson, Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Mike Moroskey, Diana Rieker, Donna Van Zandt, Pastor Kate Drefke

Absent - Doug Adamek, Dana Cerrone

Call to Order -

The meeting was called to order by Interim President Donna Van Zandt at 6:34 p.m.

Opening Devotion - A reading and prayer shared by Pastor Kate.

Approval of this month's agenda

Election of Officers -

President - Motion to nominate Evelyn Jarosz as President for 2024 - Carried.

Vice President - Motion to nominate Diana Rieker - Carried.

Secretary - Motion to nominate Donna Van Zandt - Carried.

At this point President Jarosz took over the meeting.

Secretary's Report -

Several corrections were made -

- Diane Anderson is Missions only
- Diana Rieker and Mike Morosky should be the only people listed for Property
- Motion to approve with corrections - Carried.

Treasurer's Report -

- The report shows that a \$940. gift was received. This should be \$640.00 instead.
- Pastor's Kate's expense for continuing education will be posted in the March report.
- Missions to Wycliffe - We will make up the difference so Wycliffe receives a donation of \$500.00 from Faith.
- Discussion on the order of new envelopes. Can we go generic with our offering envelopes to save money? Can we go generic with ELCP and save more money?
- Under Pastors salary it says 'A' gross salary. Is this a typo, or should this be a different category? Linda will check into this.

Motion to approve - Carried.

Financial Secretary's Report

- There appears to be a discrepancy on missions.
- Motion to approve - Carried.

Pastors Report

- Performed a funeral (outside of Faith)
- The current in person book study is going well. At this time, there are no Zoom participants.
- An Albany music group will be storing some of their filing cabinets in one of our Sunday School rooms.
- Our joint Council Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2024. At ELCP from 9:30 - 3:30. Lunch provided.
- Maundy Thursday will be at Faith at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday will be at ELCP at 7:00 p.m.
- Pastor will be on vacation from April 2 - 8. Pastor Jim will be our supply on April 7th. Pastor Josh will cover any emergencies.
- The Spring Assembly will be on April 21st at ELCP. 2:00 p.m. A new Dean will be elected.
- April 23 - 26 - Bridging Training - Due to this either Pastor Becca or SAM Will Platnick will be our supply. Faith is not responsible for this salary payment.
- During May more professional development will be happening but this is online.

President's Report - Nothing at this time.

'Committee' Reports

'Inreach/Outreach'

- Diane A., Evelyn J., Diana R., and Pastor Kate participated in an online program focusing on 'Small Churches' This program shared several suggestions (some very good) on what even the smallest of churches can do.

- As a result of this program, President Evelyn shared two different thoughts for Faith. One was to involve our youth in an AI project. The other suggestion was for Faith to look into the possibility of holding a blood drive.
- Donna Van Zandt was asked to look into the process for running a blood drive.

Missions

- Discussion was held regarding various missions that we would like to support.
- After this discussion the following was decided.
- For the month of April, we will support both Unity House and the Sidewalk Warriors.
- For the month of May, we will support Lutheran World Hunger.
- During June we will support the Bread of Life Food Pantry and the Lansingburgh Boys and Girls Club.
- On 'Souper' Bowl Sunday we collected \$190.00. It was decided to kick up this up to \$200.00 and donate it to Lutheran Disaster Response. (Domestic)

Property

- A list of possible projects around the church was presented by Mike Moroskey. Most important is the replacement of the front sign on facing Rte. 40. The cost of a digital sign is extremely expensive. After looking into both digital and changeable signs it was agreed to pursue a changeable sign. National Signs Co. gave an estimate of 18,000.00. Fast Signs (a local company) gave an estimate of \$3,500.00.
- Fast Signs is currently working on a proof.
- Contacting the City of Troy will also occur to check on the necessity of a building permit.
- The Front Doors are also a concern. They need replacement.
- The toilet in the Library needs repair. Mike M. will be working on this.
- The church received a courtesy call from the City of Troy regarding garbage lying around the church. Mike Moroskey stated that this issue is no longer an issue.
- Carillon - In need of repair sooner rather than later. We would need a lift, and a crew, but we could replace the wood and paint if we come together to complete.
- Roof Shingles - A few need to be replaced. Mike M. is willing to take this on.
- Paint Building - The outside of the entire building is in need of painting. Do we take on painting or do we look into vinyl siding? With vinyl siding we could still put in a thin coat of insulation and fix some of the windows.
- Why are the bathrooms so warm? It was suggested to speak to Fred Howard regarding this concern.
- The fire extinguishers need to be inspected in the very near future.
- The storage area near the boiler room needs to be cleaned. It was suggested that paper products be moved to the first Sunday School Room. Both Mike Morosky and Dana Cerrone have offered to work on this.
- Slowly various light bulbs are being replaced.

Old Business

- Although the Constitution and By-Laws need to be looked at, this will take the back burner for now.
- Council Retreat - Both ELCP and Faith Councils will meet together on Saturday, March 16 from 9:30 - 3:30. Lunch will be provided.

New Business

- Synod Reps are needed for both our local Hudson-Mohawk section as well as the Upper NY Synod. Preferable one male and one female. Evelyn expressed some interest in our H-M section. Donna Van Zandt said she would be the female rep. for both conferences if no one else steps forward. The H-M meeting will be at ELCP on Sunday, April 21. The Upstate NYSynod Conference is scheduled for June 3 and 4 in Syracuse.
- A list of Council meeting dates were proposed. (previously distributed) At this time we will not have meetings in April or June unless they become necessary.

- Mission Statement - Postponed until a later date.
- Do we have any 2024 graduates? We don't want to forget them.
- Pastor Kate's partnership with Faith. This is the 3rd year of our 3 year agreement. A new agreement/renewal/open ended relationship will need to be considered this year. Nothing can be done with this until the next meeting of the Partnership Committee which occurs later in March. (Pastor Kate would prefer an open ended renewal.)

Next meeting(s)

- Mar 16, 2024 - Council retreat at ELCP - 9:30 - 3:30
- May 6, 2024 - In person at Faith - 6:30 p.m.

Joys and Concerns –

- nothing shared

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer - Carried at 8:30 p.m.

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

May Mission of the Month

The May Mission is in support of ELCA World Hunger. Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Total contributions of \$500.00 were received in support of our April missions Unity House and Sidewalk Warriors.

Diane Anderson, Missions

Creative Threads Stars and Stripes

The quilt featured this month has been donated to Creative Threads by Evelyn Grassman.

This lovely quilt top was pieced by Evelyn and finished by the ladies of Creative Threads. It's a lovely quilt pattern featuring stars and stripes.

A recipient at St. Paul's Center is going to be so lucky to have this quilt to snuggle under this winter.

Evelyn



Serving our May Sunday Programs

Altar Guild

May 5 Diane Anderson
May 12 Diane Anderson
May 19 Dana Cerone
May 26 Dana Cerone
June 2 Roberta Hayward

Lay Assistants

May 5 - Errol Bull
May 12 - Tim Lund
May 19 - Evelyn Jarosz
May 26 - Fred Howard

Flowers on the Altar for May

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.

Pentecost and Flower Donations

As we do each year, donations for annual flowers are now being accepted. These flowers will be planted on the church grounds enhancing the beauty of the church shortly after Pentecost Sunday which

is May 19th this year. Monetary donations will be gratefully received and may be given to Donna Van Zandt.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Coffee Hour

The coffee hour service on the third Sunday continues this month.

May 5 Diana Rieker
May 12 Errol and Heather Bull
May 19 Janet Walsh & Deb Keegan
May 26 Donna Van Zandt
June 2 Diane and Rich Anderson

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

Counting Team

May 5 Rich & Diane Anderson
May 12 Fred & Michele Howard
May 19 Errol & Heather Bull
May 26 Joyce Duncan & Janet Walsh
June 2 Ev & Bill Jarosz

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

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Prayers of sympathy and support for the Cerrone and Phillips families on the passing of Jerry Philips, 63, after a brief illness. Jerry was Dana's brother.

Also, prayers of sympathy and support for the Hayward and Brenenstuhl families on the passing of Betsy Brenenstuhl, 89, after a brief illness on Easter Sunday. Betsy was Roberta's mother.

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.

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 June, 2024 newsletter is Monday, May 27, 2024. Please email your letters or articles to: farmerfl69@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=ZVJDL3FwRjZSN2ZHTTFlUkVmdz09>

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>

Invitation

On May 8, 2024 a NARCAN training session will be held at ELCP at the church in Poestenkill at 6:00 PM. Free pizza will be provided. For more information go to:

nopiatesevents@gmail.com