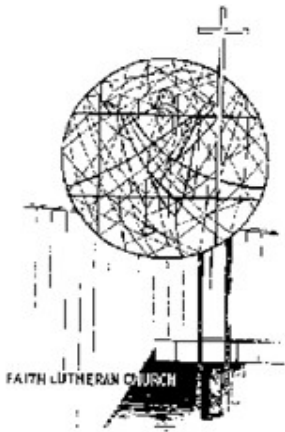


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

May 2021



*For those who have fallen
and for those who have stood to fight
May God bless and keep you safe
throughout each day and night*

Happy Memorial Day

A Mother's Day Prayer

Happy Mother's Day
In the name of
JESUS CHRIST,
we lift up all
MOTHERS today.



We thank them for their
sacrifices so that we can
have a life of contentment.
Grant them favour, Lord
and may they have a
wonderful place in existence
in Your heart of **GRACE**.

benjoycreations.com



Dear friends,

As I write this short message, the weather outside my window continues to remind me that Spring is still struggling to assert itself in our area! The calendar may indicate that we're nearing the end of April, but sometimes the day's weather is more like early March!

In our worship however, we are dancing through the wonderful 'week of weeks' – the 50 days of Eastertide. During this time, we hear about the many appearances of Jesus after his resurrection and dwell on his words to those who followed him as disciples. Throughout the first weeks of May we will move toward his ascension – and then the arrival of the promised Advocate, the Holy Spirit, on Pentecost (May 23rd).

I pray that you are dancing (in some way!) as we move together through this celebratory season!

In gratitude to God for our life together,

Pastor Judy

**Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, New York 12182
(518) 237-4641**

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Sunday morning worship: See Below

Rev. Judith Converse, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

**Donna St. John (President)
Bill Jarosz (Vice President)
Carol Karpien (Secretary)
Roberta Hayward (Treasurer)
Rich Anderson (Financial
Secretary)**

Council Members/Committee Assignments

**Rich Anderson (Stewardship)
Errol Bull (Property)
David Cerrone (Education, Worship)
Diane Dyer (Office Administration)
Roberta Hayward (Stewardship)
Linda Hulihan (Missions)
Bill Jarosz (Property)
Carol Karpien (Stewardship)
Sara Martin (Education)
Diana Rieker (Inreach/Outreach)
Donna Van Zandt (Worship)**

**R. Hayward, B. Jarosz, C. Karpien,
and D. Van Zandt (Partnership
Council)**

Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

Worship Schedule through the Season of Easter (until Pentecost on May 23rd)

Worship will follow this schedule on Sundays:

9:00 a.m. – Worship via Zoom

10:30 a.m. – Parking Lot Worship with Holy
Communion alternating between Faith and ELCP

May 2 – Evangelical Lutheran

May 9 – Faith Lutheran

May 16 – Evangelical Lutheran

May 23 – Faith Lutheran

May 30 – To Be Announced

This schedule allows us to continue to offer a worship service for those who cannot or are unable to attend worship at the church. The later time for the outdoor, parking lot service gives us more time to set up and possibly a warmer outdoor temperature!

Affirmation of Baptism (a.k.a. Confirmation) will take place during the 10:30 worship service on May 23rd. Eight young people have been involved in the past year's confirmation class via Zoom, and are ready to affirm their baptismal promises. Our service will be held in the parking lot at Faith Lutheran, and refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome!

Pastor Judy, Sara Martin, David Cerrone

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Prayers of patience, wisdom and encouragement for our two councils as we begin the process of calling our next Pastor.



OUR FAITH at WORK

The featured mission for the month of May will be in support of the work of Unity House.

Unity House is a nonprofit organization that provides a wide range of services to meet the otherwise unmet needs of people in our community. Unity House assists those who are living in poverty, adults living with mental illness or HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, and children with developmental delays.

Linda Hulihan, Missions

April 5, 2021 Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report: Roberta Hayward reported that the ELCA quarterly commitment was paid in March. A comparison of the 2020 to the 2021 1st quarter offerings showed that contributions are down by \$3,335.73 or about \$1,100 per month. This is a concerning trend.

President's Report: Donna St. John reported that the Easter parking lot service went well. She thanked all who helped make it possible.

Pastor's Report: Pastor thanked those who helped with the Easter service, with a special thanks to the young people who participated. Thanks to Dave Cerrone who donated the FM transmitter. For the next seven weeks, two services will be held (one Zoom at 9:00 and one parking lot service at 10:30 that will alternate between the Faith and ELCP).

Confirmation will be held at Faith on the 4th Sunday in May in the parking lot. In case of inclement weather it will be a Zoom service.

New Business

Starting the call for a pastor process:

Joint Faith ELCP council meeting – Plans need to be made for a joint council meeting to discuss our way forward. Donna St. John will contact Ruth Frazee of ELCP about her discussion with Gilead and a possible coordination of ministries.

30th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran Church

The Merger service of Our Savior's and St. John's took place on September 15, 1991. The congregation needs to plan a September Event to celebrate this significant anniversary.

A New Outreach Opportunity?

Recently Faith has been approached by TSL (Togetherness, Sharing, and Learning) Adventures about establishing a nursery school at Faith. Faith would enter a rental agreement with TSL that would allow them to use the nursery room and outdoor play space, and occasionally the kitchen and fellowship hall.

Should this plan be approved, TSL would offer morning and afternoon sessions that would follow the school year calendar. TSL carries its own insurance, handles its own registrations and fees, and hires its own certified staff.

The Church Council sees this as an opportunity to serve the community and welcome new people. With that said, the Council is currently considering several concerns about how this venture would affect our overall mission and how it would impact building maintenance and cleaning. We welcome any input from the congregation. You can contact Donna St. John (518) 526-2545, Carol Karpfen (518) 674-3193, or Pastor Converse (978) 808-6780. For more information about TSL, please visit their website:

<https://www.tsladventures.net/nursery-school.html>.

Stewardship Summary: First Quarter 2021

In an effort to keep the congregation informed of the financial health of the church, the Stewardship Committee will be sharing periodic financial status reports. As we all are aware, the past year and the first quarter of this year have brought many challenges, not the least of which is financial.

We all are very grateful for and applaud the continuing, generous support of so many as we deal with the pandemic. Nevertheless, income has declined compared to the first quarter of 2020, and expenses have increased in areas like supplies, postage, salaries and benefits. Please prayerfully

consider how we might work to overcome this situation.

Collection Statistics Comparison:

First Quarter 2020	First Quarter 2021
\$17,304.06	\$13,968.85*

*Contributions are down by \$3,335.73 (about \$1,100 per month) as compared to last year

St. John's Cemetery – Melrose

The St. John's Cemetery in Melrose (Schaghticoke) is a cemetery that was 'used' by St. John's Lutheran Church, most recently sited in Melrose. Since that church closed in 1969, the cemetery has not been cared for, and it has become overgrown and unsightly. Since the last members of St. John's joined Our Savior's Lutheran (a church that then formed Faith Lutheran), there seems to be some connection and possible responsibility for the cemetery by Faith Lutheran.

Cleaning up and learning more about the restoration of the cemetery is a project that Pastor and Steve Converse would like to take on through the summer and into early Fall. They are hoping to spend a day/week clearing the overgrown areas and removing fallen limbs, etc.

We'd also like to coordinate a monthly work day for those from Faith Lutheran or other groups who might be interested in helping. Beginning in May, they will be at the cemetery on the third Saturday of the month between 9 and 2 to work with others there. Please join them for work if you're able – or just come by to see what's happening and partake of some cold lemonade and cookies! Concerning St. John's Cemetery, Pastor and Steve Converse will coordinate an effort to clean up the property over the summer months.

Planned summer Saturday work days.

May 15

June 19

July 16

August 21

September 18

Pastor Judy and Steve (978) 808-6780.

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Fred Howard is coordinating the Newsletter efforts on an Interim basis.

You may go to the church web site at:

www.faithlutheranchurchtroy.com any time and view the newsletter.

You can change your current delivery option by sending your preference to: farmerfl69@aol.com or contacting Fred by phone at 518 421 4576. Leave a voice mail if there is no answer. News Letter Delivery option (USPS, email, or unsubscribe) can be communicated either way.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletter item deadline for the May 2021 newsletter is Monday, May 24, 2021. Please email your 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.