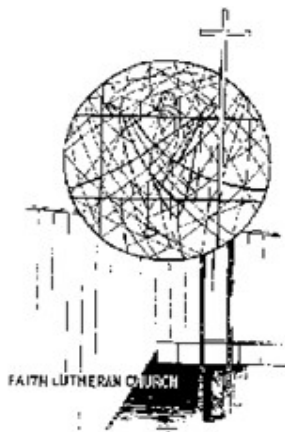
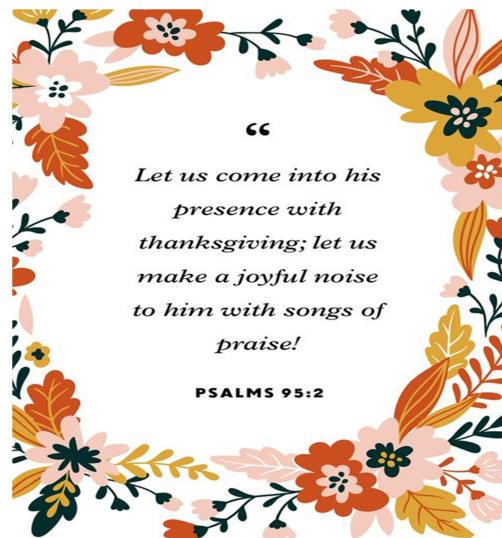


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NY 12180



Following Faith

NOVEMBER 2021



**KATE DREFKE WILL BE OUR NEW
PASTOR!**



**Special Congregational Meeting October 24,
2021
Minutes**

Purpose: to vote on calling Pastor Kate Drefke as Faith's pastor.

Process: President Donna St. John opened the meeting by explaining the purpose of the meeting and summarizing the procedures for voting. Only active members were allowed to vote. Considering the special circumstances caused by the COVID pandemic, members attending via Zoom were allowed to vote with their votes being verified by two witnesses.

Ballots were distributed and counted by Synod representative Linda Zelle.

Result: The vote was unanimous in favor of calling Pastor Drefke. Pastor Drefke accepted the call.

Carol Karpien, Secretary

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Transitional Leader – Pastor Dan May
(518) 795 0964 or pstrdan88@gmail.com

Sunday morning worship – In Person and Zoom
10:30 AM at Faith

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

Hello, People of Faith and Poestenkill!

(Some editorial adaptations have been made to Pastor Kate's introductory note to reflect the actions of our congregations and Pastor Kate on October 24th!)

I am Pr. Kate Drefke, your *newly called* pastor. I have been hoping to meet you all since Pr. Grindle first told me about you back in mid-May. You've gone through a LOT the last several years even before the pandemic. By all accounts given you continue to care for one another and desire to take that concern for neighbor into your communities to grow not just in numbers, but also as disciples committed to sharing God's love and justice, living into God's realm.

I'm a second-career pastor coming from clinical social work. During seminary I did some prison ministry and concentrated my degree in Evangelism & Justice. My internship was split between two unrelated congregations in Anchorage, AK, followed by a residency in hospital chaplaincy. My partner, Lowell (Chilton), and I moved to central PA in July 2019 for our first calls.

It's been a rough couple of years for me in four unhealthy congregations. But those and previous experiences have contributed to me building a broad and varied portfolio full of things and other ideas that I think we could adapt or straight up reuse together, like my introvert-friendly evangelism curriculum, online VBS, book studies, adapting and writing liturgy for local needs, etc. And of course, I'd love to see what we can create together.

My leadership styles are directive and collaborative, which means my first desire is to work together, but I'll make decisions or tell you what to do if/as needed. I'm straightforward and value honesty. I see the Church growing by getting outside its four walls and *being* the Church, the Body of Christ, in the world and for the world. We live in a time of upheaval, change, renewal, emergence, and God has

created and called us to help shape what becomes. It's exciting and scary.

Outside church, Lowell is an excellent cook and I enjoy eating what he prepares. Together we like minor league baseball, college hockey, board games, hanging out with two of our three cats (Worf prefers to be alone), and checking out local breweries, wineries, and distilleries.



Peace,

Pastor Kate

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS - TURN CLOCKS BACK SATURDAY NIGHT!

November Mission of the Month

The featured mission for the month of November is **Joseph's House**. Joseph's House, located in downtown Troy, provides emergency shelter and/or support services to an average of 1,000 men, women and children yearly. Central to Joseph's House mission is to provide non-judgmental services to end homelessness. Treating each person with dignity & respect, and promoting self-determination empowers guests and tenants to make healthier choices. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Oct 4, 2021 Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report

As of June, the balance in the Memorial Acct. is \$19,653. Memorials for Larry Boord have been coming in. Go Fund Me Collection for Pastor Jennifer is approaching \$1000. We have \$41,491 in our savings account, which could be used for paving and other projects. A total of \$38,000 was approved by the Congregation for repairs and upgrades. We are still waiting for information from Synod concerning other investments. Motion to Approve (Jarosz, Hulihan). *Carried*

Financial Secretary's Report

- Motion to Accept (Hayward, Dyer). *Carried*

President's Report

- The Fall Cleanup and 30th Anniversary celebration went well.
- The call process is going forward.

Pastor's Report

- Many meetings have taken place and the call process is going well.

Committee Reports

• Inreach/Outreach – (Diana Rieker) Cards are being sent to members.

• Office Administration – (Diane Dyer) Bulletins are being done and distributed.

• Missions – (Linda Hulihan) August and Sept. checks have been mailed.

• Education – (Sara Martin, Dave Cerrone) Martin shared that children would like to help with Oct. 24 meet-and-greet.

• Stewardship – A quarterly report will go out in next newsletter. (Anderson and Karpier with council input)

Old Business

Capital Improvement Plan Items:

• Door replacement: In process.

• Repair/Replacement of parking lot asphalt. The motion that was approved at the last meeting was amended to reflect the correct price. Donations have been received to offset the additional cost.

Motion: Hire Smith Paving to do options 1 & 2 as listed on the (Jarosz, May). *Carried*

Sexton duties

• Purchasing a new vacuum- .

Motion: Spend up to \$500 on a new commercial vacuum if needed. *Carried*

New Business

Speigle Seniors - Sent us a note they will no longer be needing the building. They have grown too big.

Celebration of Helen Inglis life - Her daughter contacted us. She would like to hold on 2022 Memorial Day weekend. This will be put on the church calendar.

The call for a pastor process: We met the candidate via zoom, voted to move forward,

and Pastor Kate accepted our invitation to meet and preach for the congregations.

- Pastor May explained in detail the voting procedures with emphasis on how Zoom voting will be done. Two witnesses must record Zoom votes.
- Votes will be tallied by the Synod representative. Only active members can vote. A 2/3rds majority vote in favor of calling Pastor Kate is needed.
- Laptop: Rieker recommended a Dell laptop costing \$699. Further research is needed to determine if we need this much computer.
- Pastor Dan will share the name of a professional to address our Wi-Fi and Zoom needs.

Next regular meeting, Monday Nov 1, 2021, at 7:00pm;

Joys and Concerns,

Concerns: Kathy Adamek, Sara Martin's friend.

Joys: Linda Hulihan's daughter's marriage.

Third Quarter Financial Update

The third quarter report shows an increase in collections of \$1,305 over last year's report. While this is good news, we must keep in mind that the circumstances of last year caused an overall decrease in giving. It is important that we continue to give generously and build on this progress as we will have a full-time pastor soon. Let us prayerfully considered how together we can continue to move in the right direction.

Monday Quilt Group

The Monday Quilt Group met Oct. 4th to put the finishing touches on the pictured quilt pieced by Stephanie Wagar. The ladies had a lovely day of fellowship and sharing memories of Stephanie.

We quilters like to share our craft. Anyone wishing to join us may do so by speaking with Donna Gibson 518 833 7471, Evelyn Jarosz 518 618 9151, or Janet Walsh 518 235 3245.



Altar Guild

With regular church services resuming, we would like to set a schedule for altar volunteers.

If you are interested in continuing to serve on the altar guild or would like to become an Altar Guild member, please contact me at 518-526-2545 or 518-274-3539.

Thank you,

Donna St. John, Altar Guild Leader

Leading Our November Worship

In the Pulpit

Nov. 7 - Pastor Dave Presinger

Nov. 14. - Pastor Chris Hoyer

Nov. 21 - Pastor Jim Hulihan

Nov. 28 - SAM Janice Walz

Lay Assistant

Pat Turcotte

The Bulls

Diane Dyer

Fred Howard

Flowers for the Altar

Nov. 7 - In loving memory of Arthur and Hedwig

Ude. Given by Barbara Morgan

Nov. 14 - In loving memory of Bill

Maloney. Given by Karen and Gary James.

Nov. 21 - In loving memory of Pastor

Cordes. Given by Fred and Michele Howard.

Nov. 28 - In loving memory of Dick Walsh and

Donna Brombacher. Given by Janet Walsh.

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar at any time during the remainder of 2021, please fill in the flower chart hanging in the Narthex. Your name along with who the flowers are in memory of or in honor of would be helpful. The cost continues to be \$20.00 per bouquet.

Cash or check made out to WELCA is accepted. See Donna Van Zandt for questions and/or payment.

Dinner Club

We plan to hold a meeting on November 13 which will be Hybrid – with the meeting conducted virtually, but with the dinners delivered to participant's homes in person. Discussion will be held as to format for the December Christmas meeting, and plans discussed for participating in church outreach activities during the upcoming holiday season. Contact officers for reservations: Howard (518 421 4576); Jarosz (518 618 9151); or St. John (518 526 2545). All are welcome!

Invitation to Installation of Rev. Dr. Rahel Hahn

After long restriction on large in person gatherings, the formal installation of our friend Pastor Hahn will take place at the **Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, 57 Hurlbut Street, Albany, NY**

12209, on December 5, 2021, at 3:33 PM in the afternoon. All are welcome to attend and there will be a fellowship period following the installation.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the December 2021 newsletter is Saturday, November 27, 2021. 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.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Prayers of Thanksgiving for the blessing of a new Pastor. We ask that the Holy Spirit guide Pastor Kate and our congregations as we move forward in the coming years together!

Continued prayer for healing for Larry Lansing who is undergoing Chemo therapy for cancer affecting his jaw. Our prayer is for healing and recovery.

Remember Paul Haas who is doing 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 renewal for the Congregations of Faith and Evangelical as we move into a new journey of Faith, service and outreach in our communities.

HOLIDAY SEASON SHARING

Thanksgiving and Christmas Family Baskets

We are asking for monetary donations to support this holiday outreach that helps families in our community struggling to make ends meet. Please see the form at the end of this newsletter to mail in with your donation or to drop in the collection plate at Sunday Worship. Let us thank God for the abundance and blessings that he has showered on us, sharing with others as we are able.

Christmas Cookies for Shut Ins

We are planning on taking cookies to our shut in members and friends as usual. Our goal is to have some goodies this year that are appropriate for folks on sugar restricted diets too. Contact Evelyn Jarosz for additional information.

ALBANY MARITIME MINISTRY

Christmas-at-Sea 2021

**(A ministry that was nurtured for many years by
Pastor Hempel)**

We received the following note which is reproduced below in part.

Albany Maritime Ministry's "Christmas-at-Sea" program places an assortment of small items in a wrapped package aboard ships for distribution among seafarers away at sea and far from home and loved ones on Christmas Day. We're asking you to help gather a few gifts for our port volunteers to bring to the seafarers before their ships head for oceans far and wide over the Christmas holiday. Even though the crews are confined to their ships while unloading and loading in the Port of Albany, we can deliver some Christmas joy to them. The look of joy that sweeps over the seafarer's face upon receiving an unexpected Christmas gift from a stranger in a distant land is almost impossible to describe, but you can imagine!

A Dutch captain wrote from sea, "Amongst ourselves, in the middle of the ocean, during severe

weather conditions, you really made us feel welcome and appreciated."

Faith Lutheran will again be preparing gift boxes which will be dropped off for distribution to ship crew members. We have pre-ordered materials for 15 gift boxes. Each will contain: Knit Watch Cap, Work Gloves, 2 pair Warm Socks; Writing Paper, envelopes, pen, pencil; Comb, tooth brush and paste, razors, shaving cream, deodorant; and an adult activity book (Word Search, Sudoku, and Crossword)

The cost of a whole box is \$40; of a half box is \$20; and of a quarter box is \$10. If you are able to contribute towards this loving outreach your donation would be welcome. Dinner Club is spearheading the effort, but volunteers who would like to be involved are welcome to help pack and wrap the boxes.

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS GIFT BASKETS

Enclosed please find my/our donation in support of the Thanksgiving and Christmas gift baskets for area families in need. (Cash or check made out to Faith)

\$ _____

Donor Name _____ (so that your Giving Record can be properly credited.)

Thank you! Please mail your donation to the church or place it in a separate envelope in the collection plate at Sunday Worship.

_____ I would like to help with preparing the gift baskets. Please contact me.

----- cut along this line -----

ALBANY MARITIME MINISTRY - Christmas-at-Sea 2021

Enclosed please find my/our donation in support of the Christmas at Sea. (Cash or check made out to Faith)

_____ Whole Box \$40 _____ Half Box \$20 _____ Quarter Box \$10 _____ Other

Donor Name _____ (so that your Giving Record can be properly credited.)

Thank you! Please mail your donation to the church or place it in a separate envelope in the collection plate at Sunday Worship.

_____ I would like to help with preparing the gift boxes. Please contact me.