

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

November 2024 Newsletter

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast”

-Ephesians 2:8-9

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)

Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)

Linda Hulihan, Treasurer

Errol Bull, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek (Education, Finance)

Mike Moroskey, (Property)

Diane Anderson (Missions)

Dana Cerrone (Inreach/Outreach)

Partnership Council – Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Doug Adamek, and Donna Van Zandt

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's Desk

Have you ever thought about how weird the ordering of time is in the church? E.g.: our church calendar runs from Advent 1 through Reign of Christ Sunday (and then through the week, but we don't talk about that). Against our secular calendar, we're about a month or so ahead of everyone else saying, "Happy New Year!" Depending on the congregation, the fiscal year either follows the wall calendar, Jan 1 to Dec 31, but I've known a few that are July 1 to June 30, or something like that. We hold our annual congregational meetings in January, reviewing the January through December of the preceding calendar year. All Saints Sunday remembers especially those who have departed this life and live now in the resurrection since the last All Saints. Our "program year" of Sunday School, Confirmation classes, Bible and book studies, etc., tends to follow the academic calendar, roughly September through May.

We have a lot of "endings" and "beginnings" in the church, and in our lives. The "BIG" ones of birth and death. Relationships that begin and end; baptisms; first communions; first days and graduations, retirements, terminations; diagnoses, remissions, and the exhaustion of options; getting the driver's license! and surrendering it. Our roles as children and parents shift and change with time and the needs of the generations before and after, bringing beginnings and endings we don't always recognize at the time. Obviously, not every ending is happy. Nor every beginning- like the beginning of a pandemic, a prison sentence, an addiction. I think we hope all the more for a happy ending when the start is so clearly bad.

I don't know that this message has a point. It's more fall-time musing as I see the leaves changing colors and falling, and I argue with Lowell about whether or not it's time to take the AC units out of the windows. "But it's going to be almost 80 again next week!" Winter is allegedly coming. The seasons represent a cycle of endings and beginnings, like the setting and rising of the sun, the phases of the moon. Humans keep time in a variety of strange ways. And then we add so-called "Daylight Savings Time" to it because we like to really mess with peoples' rhythms.

This coming Sunday is our celebration of All Saints' Day (Nov. 1), when we remember especially those who have died this past year, but we also take a moment to remember and honor others who have touched our lives. Ideally, we remember those who made positive impacts, the people we loved and who loved us. We pray for them, or speak to them on the wind, or any of a thousand other things that speak to their existence, the meaning of their life. We don't really honor those who caused us harm. But sometimes, we can also remember something good about them, and we give thanks for at least that moment.

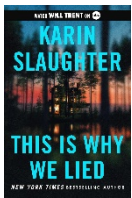
Beginnings, endings, seasons, phases, rises, fallings, rotations... I pray you hear God, feel the joy of the communion of saints, as you make your own autumnal musings, hear the apocalyptic words of scripture as this church year comes to a close.

Peace,

Pr. Kate Drefke

What is the Pastor Reading?

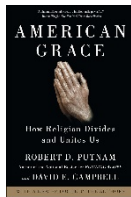
This is Why We Lied (©2024), Karin Slaughter.



I literally just read the prologue of the latest installment of the Will Trent series last night. I put a hold on the ebook through the library back in... July? ahead of its release. SO excited that I came up early in the queue! I thought I'd be reading this over Christmas. Anyway, if you're in Poestenkill and haven't voted yet... support your library!

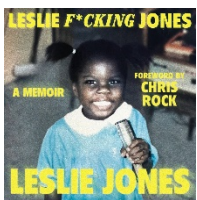
Campbell.
This is a
read- lots
might

American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us (©2012), Robert D. Putnam & David E.

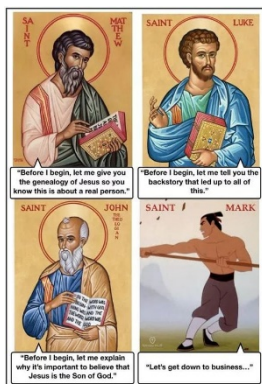


hefty tome. Thus far, we've only read the first few chapters for my class. It's a dense of stats- but also interesting as it talks about the ways in which religion- particular Christianity- has influenced US politics, national identity, and so on. E.g.: some of you remember what a BIG DEAL it was to elect a Catholic President in the 1960s (Kennedy), but when Kerry ran in 2004, it was kind of a non-starter. The book was published during Obama's second term, so it doesn't talk about President Biden's Catholicism, but I don't remember that being a factor.

*Leslie F*cking Jones: A Memoir* (©2023), Leslie Jones.



I liked Leslie Jones on the few episodes of SNL I watched during her run (I really liked her castmate, Kate McKinnon, and I REALLY enjoyed both of them and others in the 2016 film, *Ghostbusters*), and in the couple of things I've seen her in since. So, I thought her narrating the audiobook of her memoir would be a good listen. So far, I'm right. Christ Rock gives the forward and then they each have notes or interruptions of the other in a way that advances or compliments the narrative.



Gospel Read!

Continuing the tradition, we'll read the Gospel According to Luke in preparation for Year C- our upcoming lectionary (readings) year.

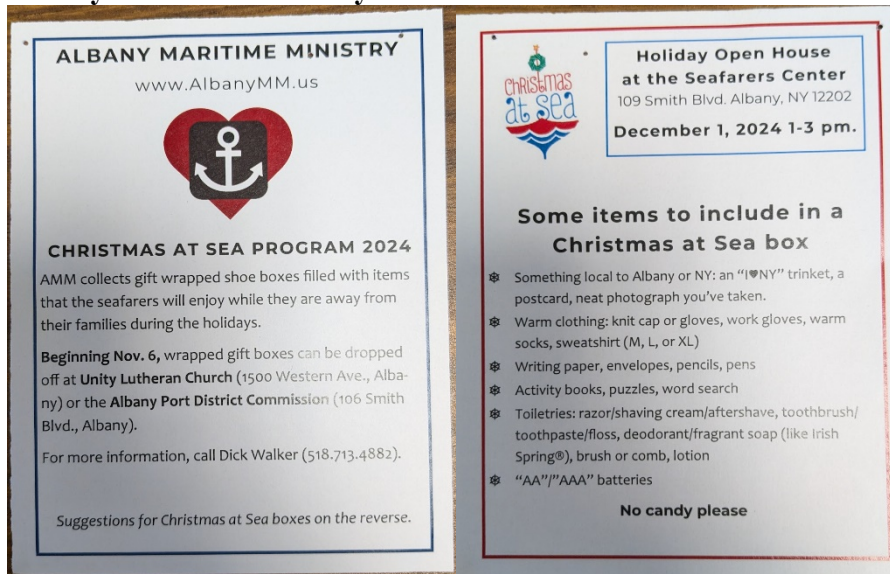
Bring your/a Bible (or borrow one of Kate's dozens), any English translation. We'll take turns reading through Luke's first 24 chapters (Acts is too long to include), and maybe enjoy some snacks since Luke is a bit wordy.

WHEN: Nov. 17, c. 1pm until done (we'll take breaks to check football scores)
WHERE: Faith, fellowship hall

BRING: a Bible, maybe a snack to share

[Text of Image: St. Matthew "Before I begin, let me give you the genealogy of Jesus so you know this is about a real person." St. Luke, "Before I begin, let me tell you the backstory that led up to all of this." St. John, "Before I begin, let me explain why it's important to believe that Jesus is the Son of God." St. Mark, "Let's get down to business."]

Albany Maritime Ministry Christmas at Sea Boxes



Both congregations have a sign-up sheet for collecting items for a goal of 12 boxes. Poestenkill will put theirs together during the Nov. Ladies' Aid meeting, Faith after worship Nov. 17.

Faith Outreach

On Tuesday, October 15th Faith held its very first Blood Drive, and it was a success! As a first-time location, our goal was to donate 15 pints. As a result, we had 23 people arrive to donate, and of those 23, 21 were accepted! Thank you to everyone who donated and thank you to all who helped with the Blood Drive. With this successful event, we hope to do this again in the Spring of 2025.

Continuing with our Outreach program, the Holidays are quickly approaching.

- The hope is that we will be able to provide Thanksgiving Dinner to two local families in need and at Christmas to provide a meal as well as some gifts to two local families in need.
- Monetary contributions for Thanksgiving and Christmas are welcomed at any time between now and December 15th. In early December there will be a list of gifts that we will need to provide for the Christmas families as well.
- As we have in the past we will be providing 12 Christmas at sea gift boxes distributed through the Albany Maritime Ministry at the Port of Albany. There is a sign up sheet posted in the Narthex with suggestions of things to be donated for the boxes. The deadline for physical (or monetary) donations is November 17, 2024.

Thank you in advance to all who are willing and able to help with these Outreach Projects.

Should you have any questions, speak with Donna Van Zandt. All donations can be given to Donna as well.

Renovations Completed!



Replacement of the front door, west multipurpose room windows, renovation of the carillon tower, and siding project are complete. The church has a new appearance and more importantly areas of the building structure that were failing have been repaired.

The project that was authorized at our special congregational meeting in July was budgeted at \$80,000 that was taken from fund balances and reserves. Additional authorization for carillon tower renovation took place at the Special Congregational Meeting on October 13, 2024.

We have received generous special contributions from friends and members to help cover some of these costs; and are still asking for additional special contributions.

Special thanks for all who worked in various ways to make this project a success but especially to Mike Moroskey and Bill and Evelyn Jarosz who spent much time on site while construction was ongoing.

Thank you!

----- October 7 Council Meeting Highlights ----- 6:30 p.m. – Zoom

Attendance – Diane Anderson, Errol Bull, Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Mike Moroskey, Diana Rieker, Donna Van Zandt, Pastor Kate

Absent – Doug Adamek, Dana Cerrone

- I. Call to Order President Jarosz called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.
- II. Opening Devotion Pastor Kate shared Sunday's Prayer of the Day.
- III. Additional Items/Approval of Agenda Additional Items - We have two people who wish to join the church. We may need a new coordinator for our monthly newsletter. Motion to approve with the

addition of the two items. Carried.

- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes Motion to approve the September minutes as submitted. Carried
- V. Treasurer's Report - Prior to paying the September bills we had \$12,000.00 in the checking account. After paying the bills we have \$3,300.00 Motion to approve as presented. Carried
- VI. Financial Secretary's Report - General Offerings, Missions, Benevolence donations are holding their own. It's looking good. Vanco - There are 4 couples giving online. Motion to approve – Carried
- VII. Pastor's Report - September was very busy, October not quite so busy. It appears that there are no MS-HS candidates for confirmation.
- VIII. President's Report - The recent Congregational Meeting to retain Pastor Kate went well. From Faith the vote was 14 in favor, 1 abstention, and 1 valid vote (ELCP voted 13 yes to retain Pastor Kate.) Pastor Kate accepted and will continue to serve Faith and ELCP. This information has been reported to SYNOD.
 - Another Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Oct. 13th. This meeting is for a vote to spend \$1000.00 more from the siding project to have the base/wood of the carillon repaired. (replacement of wood, painting, etc.)
 - The Sunday School Room is almost completely clean.
- IX. Property Report - Diana Rieker shared that the siding and front sign are a continued work in progress. - Mike Moroskey said that the siding and the new doors are 99% done. He is very pleased at this point. The door bell will be repaired soon
 - There was a drainage problem in the furnace room. This has been repaired. - Diana Rieker asked if we want to put up a temporary sign out front. After discussion it was decided to put something up temporarily, but we should start working on a new, permanent sign again.
 - Mike shared that the shed needs to be painted or with go with vinyl. Everyone agreed to go with painting it. Thank you to the Property Committee for everything that you are doing.
- X. Old Business - Blood Drive - Scheduled for Oct. 15th. This is a work in progress. We need more donations.
 - Maritime Baskets - Another work in progress. We need donations of supplies, along with shoe boxes.
- XI. New Business - We may need a new newsletter editor. Is there someone who can do this? Perhaps Pastor Kate???
 - Deb and Jim Keegan would like to become members of Faith. The Council certainly approves this. Pastor Kate will speak with them.
- XII. Joys and Concerns - Pastor Kate accepted our call to her. - The new siding looks very nice!
- XIII. Adjournment Motion to adjourn at 7:39 - Carried

Our next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 4th - In person beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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

Missions of the Month

The November Mission is in support of the Albany Maritime Ministry. The Albany Maritime Ministry is an ecumenical group of volunteers who offer a warm welcome and a variety of support services to seafarers that dock at the Seafarers Center in the Port of Albany. Most Seafarers have been at sea for weeks or months. The Albany Maritime Ministry welcomes seafarers, offers a clothing bank, helps them contact loved ones, conducts Christmas at sea program, provides bible and devotional materials, pastoral counseling and van transportation. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Total contributions of \$250.00 were received in support of our October mission to St. Paul's Center for Women and Children.

Diane Anderson, Missions

Creative Threads

The collection of quilts pictured this month have been the quilts featured each month for the past year in the newsletter.

These quilts have been donated to St. Paul's Center in Rensselaer. It is so amazing how well the quilts are received by the residents of the St. Paul's Center.

Evelyn



Serving our November Sunday Programs

Altar Guild

The scheduled people for November are:

November 3 Dana Cerrone
November 10 Dana Cerrone
November 17 Roberta Hayward
November 24 Roberta Hayward

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

Lay Assistants

Nov. 3 - Rich Anderson
Nov. 10 - Diana Rieker
Nov. 17 - Tim Lund
Nov. 24 - Carol Karpfen
Dec. 1 - Errol Bull

Altar Flowers for November

November 10 - In loving memory of Arthur and Hedwig Ude. Given by Barbara Morgan.

November 17 - In loving memory of Pastors Cordes, Pastor Hemple, and Pastor Wegter-McNally. Given by Grateful Members

Dec 1 Jarosz After

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

Counting Team

Nov 3 Errol Bull
Nov 10 Ev & Bill Jarosz
Nov 17 Rich & Diane Anderson
Nov 24 Fred Howard
Dec 1 Errol Bull

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

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.

Coffee Hour

Nov 3 Vumbacco, Maselli After
Nov 10 Jim Peters After
Nov 17 Cerrones During
Nov 24 Howards After

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.

The Coleman/Lansing family is thankful for the healing of matriarch, Carolyn, who has recovered from serious conditions that arose last week. Also, remember Steve who is in a nursing home Larry who continues to struggle with his chronic conditions.

Prayers for the Speanburg extended family. For Bill and Carolyn who have both had medical issues and for the rest of the family who are supporting and helping with care and doctor appointments.

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.

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 December newsletter is Friday, October 25, 2024. Please email your letters or articles to Pastor Kate, drefkekate@gmail.com. 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.

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=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://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>