

Following Faith

The Monthly Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2014



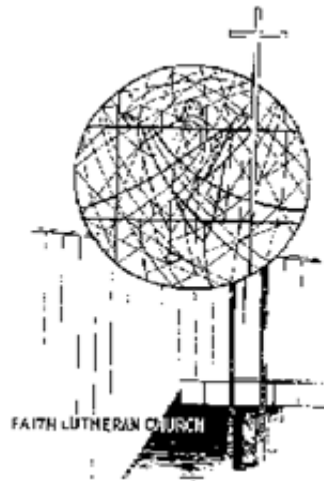
**Joy to the
World**

Consider the story of one young man. Sick and puny as a baby, he remained frail and delicate all his days. Later, as a pastor, his maladies were so severe that he could not serve his growing congregation. Instead he wrote them letters filled with hope and good cheer. Even though his body was frail his spirit soared. He complained once about the harsh and uncouth hymn texts of his day. Someone challenged him to write a better one. He did. He wrote over 600 hymns, mostly hymns of praise. When his health finally broke in 1748 he left one of the most remarkable collections of hymns that the world has ever known. His name? Isaac Watts. His contribution to the Christmas season? Probably the most sung of all the Christmas hymns, "Joy to the World; the Lord is come."

Could Isaac Watts have written so, if his life had been easy? I don't know. It is amazing, though, how often persons who have everything are spiritual zeroes, whereas those who struggle through life have souls with both depth and height. Our appreciation for the light is sharpened by the intensity of the darkness. Or as Watts put it, "No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground he comes to make his blessing flow... far as the curse is found... far as the curse is found."

"Joy to the world!"

Pastor Steve



Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leversee Road
Troy, New York 12182
(518) 237-4641
www.faithlutherantroy.com

Sunday morning worship: 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: 9:15 a. m.
Sunday School: during worship

The Rev. Stephen L. Cordes, Pastor

Church Council Officers:

David Truland (President)
Sara Martin (Vice President)
Barbara Boord (Treasurer)
Joyce Duncan (Secretary)
Fred Howard (Financial Secretary)

Council Members

Errol Bull (Property)
Joyce Duncan (In Reach/Out Reach)
Bill Jarosz (Property)
Bev Lanteigne (Property)
Sara Martin (Education)
Michael Moroskey (Property)
Carol Perrott (Missions)
Carolyn Rouse (History)
Donna VanZandt (Worship)
Stephanie Wagar (In Reach/Out Reach)

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Sick and Recuperating: **Beverly Lanteigne** continues with her regimen of chemotherapy while remaining active pushing onward. Following surgery, **Linda Hulihan** has returned to work and feels almost back to normal. **Bob Gibson** has just completed a round of radiation therapy to relieve pain in his back. **Mildred Lalane** continues to receive treatment from the wound center, making progress slowly but surely. **Arlene Hunziker** has been diagnosed with shingles. **Ben Wagar** will begin another round of treatment in December. Having been diagnosed with lung cancer, **Joe Zepf** appears to be comfortable and continues his days at Albany County Nursing Home.

Baptisms: **Rori Shawn Dugan** was baptized on October 26th. Rori, daughter of Caroline Kelly and Shawn Duggan, was born November 12, 2013. Her godparents are Dayna Cebel and Shane Kelly. **Owen Michael Donohue** was baptized on November 2nd. Owen, born July 22, 2014, is the son of Leslie and Michael Donohue. His godparents are Kristen and Michael Gregor. We welcome Rori and Owen into the family and mission we all share in Christ

COUNCIL SUMMARY

New emergency lights have been installed.

Holbrook Heating and Air Conditioning will install the new boiler and hot water tank starting December 1st with completion to be either the 2nd or 3rd.

A Defibrillator will be purchased soon and be encased in a wall mounted case. Donna VanZandt will gladly give instruction to anyone who is willing to learn how to administer the defibrillator.

The mortgage refinance with First Niagara took place on November 28th.

Next meeting of the Council will be January 6, 2015.

Joyce Duncan, Secretary



Time flies when you are having fun. The Sunday School Christmas events are right around the corner.

We have been busy learning Old Testament stories including Noah's Ark, Moses, the Exodus and the Ten Commandments. The kids have been very happy with the new schedule and have benefitted from their attendance during the last half of the service.

Operation Christmas Child has been successful once again. As of the publication of this newsletter approximately 20 boxes had been collected and we hope to at least double that number as of the due date of November 23.

Hopefully we will see all of you at the Christmas Program (a unique telling of the Nativity story) and Christmas party on December 14th. There will be snacks at coffee hour time and then pizza a little bit later. There will be no Sunday School on December 28.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE 2015:

January 4, 11 and 25
February 1, 8 and 22
March 1, 15 and 29
April 12, 19 and 26
May 3, 17 and 31
Sunday School Picnic TBA

Sara Martin, Education Director

OUR FAITH at WORK

Our monthly mission contributions for December will go to support the Albany Maritime Ministry. As many of you may well know, we have a very active port here in the Capital area. Ships from all over the world arrive with import and export goods each and every day. For years a Christian presence has been made known through the Albany Maritime Ministry. Volunteers and chaplains from all denominations serve to offer a bit of hospitality and service to seafarers from around the world. Your monetary gift will go to support the services that are offered at the center. Communication, transportation, a place of respite and worship, are just a few of the needs that get met through this ministry.

In addition, every year at Christmas time a program similar to Operation Christmas Child has been in force. Perhaps you would like to participate in this project as well? Here's how it works: Find a shoe box and place into it small appropriate items that would be appreciated as a gift and then wrap it. These will then be passed along to seafarers who are away at Christmas. A card and message will be attached to the boxes and the true meaning of Christmas will be shared. You can't imagine what such a gesture means to someone away from home and loved ones at this time of year!

Possible Items to be included in the "Christmas-at-Sea" project (wrapped shoe box):

Knit cap or gloves, work gloves
 Warm socks
 Writing Paper, envelopes, pencils, pens
 Comb or brush
 Book
 Toiletries - razor, shaving cream, After Shave, tooth brush /paste, Deodorant,
 Something indigenous to our area: (someone included maple sugar)
 "AA" "AAA" batteries
 Whatever else you can fit in and you think would be appreciated.

If you prefer to simply supply items and forego the box wrapping the Women of the ELCA will be happy to take care of that part of this project. Thank you for your support and thoughtfulness! Place your boxes and/or items on or near the table in the back of the church.

The Women of the ELCA will make sure your gifts are taken to the Albany Maritime Ministry.

Carol Perrott, Missions

SERVING FAITH In DECEMBER

Dec. 7	Altar	Joyce Duncan and Janet Walsh
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Rich Anderson Errol Bull and Mike Morosky
	Counters	LouAnne Behrens and Janet Walsh
	Coffee Hour	Nadeen Thompson
Dec. 14	Altar	LouAnne Behrens and Karen Cordes
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Aaron Cordes Rikki Franklin and Ron Moss
	Counters	Joyce Duncan and Carol Perrott
	Coffee Hour	Irene Pagel and Carolyn Rouse
Dec. 21	Altar	LouAnne Behrens and Karen Cordes
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Donna Gibson Beth and Joe King
	Counters	Polly and Bob Hayward
	Coffee Hour	Errol and Heather Bull
Dec. 24	Altar	Nadeen Thompson and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bob Gibson Pauline Lupo and Nadeen Tompson
	Counters	Donna and Bob Gibson

Dec. 25	Altar	Nadeen Thompson and Pam Perras
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Fred Howard Roberta and Rob Hayward
	Counters	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
Dec. 28	Altar	Pat Turcotte and Roberta Hayward
	Lay Assistant Ushers	Bill Jarosz B. Morgan, B. Speanburg and B. Stevens
	Counters	Irene Pagel and Carolyn Rouse
	Coffee Hour	Tracie Maloney

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please arrange to trade dates with another assistant. Thank you in advance for your assistance. Donna Van Zandt, Worship Chairperson. Schedule for Altar Guild by Pam Perras Schedule for Coffee Hour by Heather Bull

FLOWERS for DECEMBER

- December 7th** In memory of Harold Behrens.
Given by The Behrens Family.
- December 14th** To the Glory of God
- December 21st** To the Glory of God
- December 28th** To the Glory of God

CHOIR REHERSAL

Choir rehearsals are generally held every Thursday at 7:00 PM for about an hour. Anyone interest in joining is welcome to come and enjoy singing our praises to the Lord.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS for 2014

This year we are helping two local families with the burden of the holidays. Your donations will provide gifts, clothing, and food for local families found struggling in these hard times. Our best gift to them is reminding them they are not alone; someone cares; God.

LouAnne Behrens and I are happy to accept your donation in person, or you may choose to place your envelope in the church offering. Collection envelopes are located in the back of the church. No amount is too small or too large. Together we can make a difference. Also, anyone wishing to help with the shopping, wrapping, or distribution of the food and gifts please touch base with one of us; we welcome the help.

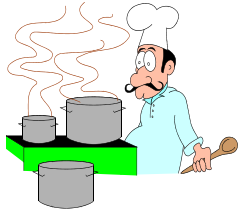
Thank you,
Donna St. John



**WOMEN
OF THE
ELCA**

Women of the ELCA continue using the Bible Study in the Gather magazine. The next one will be at the January meeting on January 20th. This will be the lesson in the October 2014 Gather magazine.

The annual Advent Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 6th at noon at church. Bring a dish to share and join us for a delicious luncheon and our seasonal program. Following the program we will pack Christmas cookies for the shut-ins. Your generous donations are gratefully appreciated. If you can deliver a box of cookies to one of the shut-ins we would appreciate your help in that way as well. We will be collecting items for the Maritime Ministry in Albany and they will be delivered along with the Congregation's donations. Items particularly requested are phone cards, warm socks, hats and gloves or mittens, men's clothes.



DINNER CLUB

Decembers Dinner Club will be on the 13th at 6:30 with dinner served at 7:00. The annual Christmas celebration is planned with everyone bringing a grab bag gift. Everyone is invited to join in on the fun.

Please let the club Officers' know if you can attend. Hope to see you there and don't forget to bring your best Christmas singing voice.

LANSINGBURG CHOIR CONCERT

The combined churches of Lansingburg will present a Choir Concert, ***Come to the Light Our Savior***, on Saturday, December 6th at 7pm at Cornerstone Community Church, corner of 115th St. and 3rd Avenue. Eight of our choir members are participating. Come join in an evening of song and fellowship.

TEXT TASTINGS

"O taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8)

If you've ever sat in church and wondered what a scripture reading had to say to you, then here is an opportunity to find an answer. (Pastor) Jim Hulihan and his wife, Linda, would like to invite anyone interested to join them at their home to discuss the weekly lectionary scripture texts. Don't worry; this is not intended to be a dry exercise in Bible Study. It's envisioned as a kind of "fireside chat" to explore personal meanings that arise through friendly conversation.

Questions that would get us started might be these: what is happening in the text? Where do you see this in the world around you? How do I know that story in my life? Experts need not apply. The only expectation is that you bring an open heart and an inquiring mind.

We will be "tasting" texts for the Season of Epiphany. Each week we will meet on a

Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. in order to review the readings for the upcoming Sunday. We will also be "tasting" light snacks, compliments of the Hulihanans.

We will meet each Wednesday, beginning January 7th, and conclude on February 11th. The exception will be **Wednesday, January 21st**, when there will be **no meeting**.

Please call or speak to (Pastor) Jim at church to find out more information (326-3685). The Hulihanans live at 106 Brunswick Road, Brunswick (just outside Troy's city limit, caddy-corner to where So. Lake Ave. "Ts" into Route 2). They are the ranch house on the corner of Rt. 2 and Farnam Lane.

OUR SINCERE THANKS

Thank you from the family of Douglas Kurick. We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and support though our difficult time. We are surely blessed with such a beautiful church family.

The St. John & Kurick families

BARBARA BOORD ACTING NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COORDINATOR

Barbara Boord is coordinating the Newsletter efforts. Hard copies of the Newsletter will be available at church for pick up when you are present.

You may go to the web site at:

www.faihlutheranchurchtroy.com any time and see the newsletter there.

We will email you a copy if you send your email address directly to Barbara at her email address shown below.

At your request, we will be happy to send you a copy via the USPS.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The January newsletter deadline is Monday December 22st. Please email your articles to barbboord@hotmail.com by Monday morning.

I can definitely use some assistance with the January Newsletter as I will be traveling to Florida from December 17th through the 26th for Christmas with our youngest daughter. I can put the Newsletter together but would need to e-mail it to someone to have it copied and distributed. Please let me know if you can help with this process. If you can help contact Barbara, or if you have information to get into the newsletter, her email address is: barbboord@hotmail.com.

JOIN US IN WISHING PASTOR CORDES AND FAMILY A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our traditional monetary gift will be presented to Pastor at the Christmas Eve service. You may contribute to this gift any time between now and Sunday December 21st with any member of the congregation council.

David Truland, Sara Martin, Barbara Boord, Joyce Duncan, Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz, Bev Lanteigne, Michael Morosky, Carol Perrott, Carolyn Rouse, Donna VanZandt or Stephanie Wagar

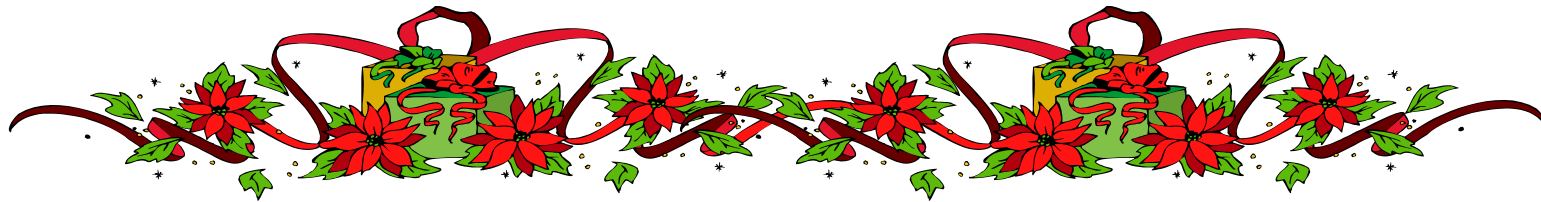
Thank You



December 2014



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Choir 7:00 PM Home Bureau 2:00PM - 4:00PM	5	6
7	8	9	10 Speigle Elders 10:30AM - 2:30PM	11 Choir 7:00 PM	12	13 Dinner Club 6:30 PM
14	15	16	17	18 Choir 7:00 PM Home Bureau 2:00PM - 4:00PM	19	20
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM Speigle Elders 10:30AM - 2:30PM	25 Christmas Service 10:30 AM	26	27
28	29	30	31			



POINSETTIAS

Once again we will have poinsettias adorning the Altar for Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in loving memory of or in honor of someone, please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt by December 14, 2014. (If possible please fill out a separate order form for each plant.)

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) at \$10.50 each in loving memory of or in honor of:
