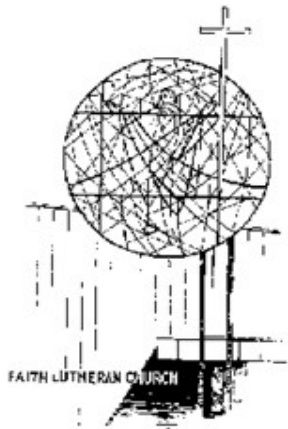


Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

February 2022



From Pastor Kate

When was the last time you considered the Lord's Prayer?

It's an important part of our worship, when we collectively call God ours, asking that the Divine's will be done on earth- with us!- as happens in the divine realm, asking and trusting that God will provide us with what we need each day, and to forgive us when we sin... as we forgive those who may harm us. I know several congregational councils close their meetings praying it. In times of acute stress or grief, we often find comfort in it and are able to center ourselves with God in the whole thing or just a couple words. And at the end of days, when the physical presence of others barely registers, one's lips will move, emitting noise, praying the familiar words with you.

We all have different experiences of it, too, from the places where we are rooted and the places we travel. (Did you also grow up with the words hanging somewhere in your house?) I lived in London for about a year when I was 21 and attended a very international church- the senior pastor was originally from Latvia (a country I had not previously even heard of), and 3-4 continents represented in worship every week. When we prayed the Lord's Prayer, Pr. Jana would always invite us to pray in either the modern or traditional form, and in "whatever language is closest to [our] heart." The Spirit was certainly present and active when in as many as 20 different languages we prayed together... paused... and said "Amen" as one.

(continued below.....)

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Pastor Kate Drefke

drefkekate@gmail.com

518-279-1627 (call/text) **NEW** this month
sermon recordings: <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>

**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

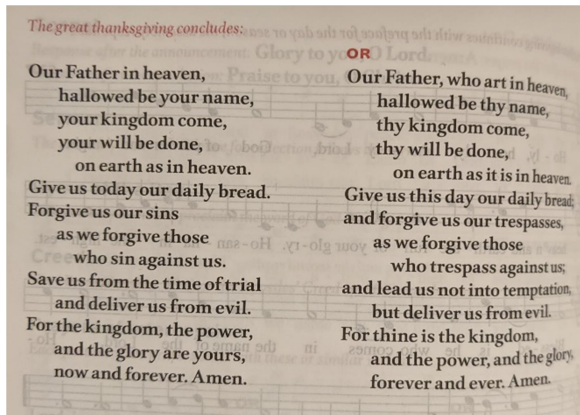
**Errol Bull (Property)
David Cerrone (Education, Worship)
Diane Dyer (Office Administration)
Roberta Hayward (Stewardship)
Bill Jarosz (Property)
Carol Karpien (Stewardship)
Sara Martin (Education)
Donna Van Zandt (Worship)**

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

Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

Continued from Pastor Kate....

Maybe you've noticed when we pray the Lord's Prayer in worship that I tend to be a bit... off in my praying with you. That's because I am either reading the "modern" form or reciting a mish-mash of the "modern" and



the "traditional" (see p.208 of the ELW). The traditional says things like, "who art in heaven," "thy name," and "thine is" instead of the modern "in heaven," "your name," and "are yours." It's the language of ye olde England instead of mid-twentieth century English. Ultimately, I'm not pushing one form or over another. The Spirit knows, even if we aren't quite in synch, or even when we change things up more radically than "traditional" versus "modern," like my teaching parish which had studied and rewritten the prayer together to say the same things, but in the language of that community, e.g.: "Holy Mother, Holy

Father" and "help us keep your name sacred."

When was the last time you thought about the Lord's Prayer?

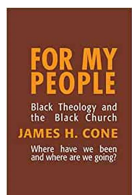
Peace,
Pr. Kate

Pastor's February Reading List

Admittedly, I have not done a lot of reading this month. But on the list for February:

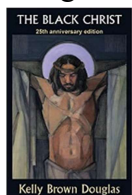
Christian Theology; African American Demographic Studies; Inspiration & Spirituality

For My People: Black Theology and the Black Church (1984) by James H. Cone.



I'm reading this for an online reading/study group focused on the legacy of James Cone. I read the 2013 reprint of his 2011 book, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* a few years ago and it was one of the best things I've ever read. *For My People* is one of his earliest books and is written for and to black people, each chapter focused on a different aspect of black theology from its inception out of the black power movement, to doing black theology in the third world.

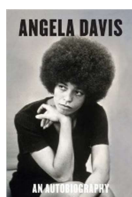
Religion/Christian Theology/Christology; Liberation; Theology



The Black Christ 25th Anniversary Edition (1994, 2019) by Kelly Brown Douglas.

From the back cover: "...Douglas offers a compelling portrait of who Jesus is for the Black community, from the times of slavery to the struggles of the present day. [...] The "Blackness" of Christ has more to do with commitment to Black freedom than appearance.

Autobiography/Social Activists

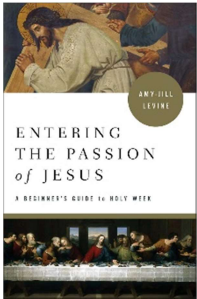


Angela Davis: An Autobiography (1974, 1988, 2021) by Angela Y. Davis.

I first heard about Angela Davis in a play when the speaking character said she was her hero with a great afro... and then kept talking about their own stuff. I've since learned she's been in prison, on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list, an academic, political activist, and prison abolitionist. I'm looking forward to reading what she calls her "political autobiography."

Lent!

Lent is fast approaching! *We will have Ash Wednesday services March 2 at each congregation, per the previously established rotation: 4pm at Faith and 7pm at Poestenkill.*



We will spend the season examining Holy Week with a study of *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. From the back cover:

From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his prayerful agony in Gethsemane, Levine brings forward aspects and details that open doors for beginners as well as seasoned readers of the Bible. She shows how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

The book is about \$13, depending on where you purchase/order it. You can get the book yourself (order online or from your favorite local bookseller), or sign-up with Pr. Kate to get it ordered for you.

Study schedule (what day/s and time/s) is yet to be determined. Stay tuned for those announcements!

January 30, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting was held following service on January 30th. Among the actions taken were:

- Election of Council members took place with Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz, Sara Martin, and Donna St. John being elected to new two year terms. There are currently three vacant positions on the council, and if any member would like to serve as a council member they should let Donna St. John or another council member know. Assignments for the 2022-23 sessions will be determined at the Council's organizational meeting on February 7, 2022.
- Reports on our finances from the Treasurer and Financial secretary. We have been running on a deficit for several years and the proposed 2022 Budget includes a deficit of \$67,250. \$35,000 of this is for capital improvements/repairs to our church property. While we have adequate reserves to carry this, it was noted that we need to

work to increase our income thru stewardship programs this coming year.

- Various committee reports were received including our monthly mission contributions and our Inreach/Outreach programs, and our quilt ministry.
- We look forward to the New Year with our new pastor, Pastor Kate. Keep your eye on our monthly newsletters for worship, learning, sharing, and service opportunities – both virtual and in person – that will be available to us all in the year to come.

Souper Bowl Sunday – February 13

Since 1990, over **\$170 million** has been reported donated to local food charities across all fifty states with over **300,000** unique groups participating. We will have our traditional soup pot available for your collection on February 13, and if you are not able to attend in person, special donations to this worthy cause can be mailed to the church ahead of this day that will be included Faith's contribution to this worthy cause.

February Mission of the Month

Wycliffe Bible Translators in partnership with SIL International celebrated a milestone of the dedication of the 1000th New Testament translation! One hundred thirteen Scripture publications were completed which means more communities are now able to know the Scripture in a language and form they clearly understand. Wycliffe Bible Translators set a goal of starting a Bible translation project in every language still needed by 2025.

January 4, 2022 Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report Synod has begun paying Lord Abbot Account dividends from 2020 and still owes the 2021 dividends. KeyBank accounts have been closed. 2021 expenditures are \$15,717 more than our revenues.

President's Report. It was noted that R. Anderson, L. Hulihan, and D. Rieker, and possibly S. Martin are going off the Council. They will form a committee to recruit new candidates for council.

Pastor's Report Pastor reported that Lent begins March 2 and asked how Lenten services have been scheduled in the past. She would like to schedule a youth event after church in the near future. She also asked if the congregation might want to remember the 2-year anniversary of the pandemic in special way. Adult Bible Study was also discussed.

Committee Reports

- Inreach/Outreach – (Diana Rieker) Donna St. John reported that cookie and poinsettia distribution to shut-ins went well. Pastor made calls and is in contact with Kay Young's family as Kay is in Hospice care.
- Office Administration – (Diane Dyer) Bulletins are done and being sent electronically as well as printed.
- Missions – (Linda Hulihan) Only the December check is outstanding.
- Education – (Sara Martin, Dave Cerrone) Dave and Pastor will set up a meeting to discuss education programs.
- Stewardship – (Rich Anderson, Carol Karpfen, and council collaboration) Although we have considerable savings,

we need to increase giving as we are running at a deficit. We need to keep the congregation informed. Roberta Hayward will emphasize this at the annual meeting.

- Property – (Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz) Information about new front doors will be presented at the annual meeting. Carol Karpfen will contact Blackfly Mountain Woodworking about another quote for the doors.
- Partnership Council (Carol Karpfen, Roberta Hayward, Bill Jarosz, Donna Van Zandt) A Zoom meeting will be held January 17 to discuss Pastor's installation.
- Zoom and Technology upgrade Planning meeting on Jan 9th in Fellowship Hall. This will include zoom, website, media, and new computer purchases. Rob Hayward called our web designer and will work with Dave Cerrone and Pastor Kate on updating our web presence.
- Preparation for annual meeting - Jan 30th Reports are due to Donna St. John by next week. She will assemble the information packet, including the budget, and Roberta Hayward will arrange printing. Packets should be distributed to the congregation by Jan 15.
- Sculpture donation by Gary James The Council would like to see a picture of the sculpture. It was noted that it would be good to have a written gift policy.
- Hiring administrative staff member, part time. Roberta has started the list of duties. Set up committee for discussion. Tabled.

Altar Guild

If you are interested in serving on the Altar Guild, please contact me at 518-526-2545 or 518-274-3539.

Thank you,
Donna St. John, Altar Guild Leader

Leading Our February Worship

Lay Assistants

February 6	Bill Jarosz
February 13	Fred Howard
February 20	Errol and Heather Bull
February 27	Rich Anderson

Flowers for the Altar

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar at any time during 2022, please fill in the flower chart hanging in the Narthex. Please fill in your name along with who the flowers are in memory of or in honor of.

The cost continues to be \$19.00 per bouquet. Cash or check made out to WELCA is accepted. See Donna Van Zandt for questions and/or payment.

Dinner Club

February Dinner Club Annual Banquet is planned for February 12th, 2022 beginning at 5:30 PM at Moscatiello's restaurant, 99 North Greenbush Road (Rt. 4) in North Greenbush near HVCC. The cost is \$35 per person. Make your reservations with the St. John's (518 2743539) soon! Everyone is invited.

Kay Young's Passing

Our beloved sister in Christ, Kay Young, 95, died Monday evening January 10. Her family was thankful to have been able to gather at her bedside in prayer and memory sharing as her life came to an end.

~Eternal God, your love is stronger than death, and your passion more fierce than the grave. We rejoice in the lives of those whom you have drawn into your eternal embrace, especially today, our sister Kay. Keep us in joyful communion with them until we join the saints of every people and nation gathered before your throne in your ceaseless praise, through Jesus the Christ, our Lord. Amen.~ (from ELW p.82)

Pr. Kate

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

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

Continued prayers for healing and recovery for Larry Lansing.

Prayers for Pat Turcotte who is improving and recovering in Florida.

Paul Haas who continues to do 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 for renewal of our Congregations as we move into a new journey of faith, service and outreach in our communities.

Beat Back the Winter Blahs!

People can beat back the winter blahs by visiting the Sand Lake Center for the Arts "Festival of One-Act Plays" (there are eight of them!) on the following dates:

February 11th & 12th 8 p.m.

February 13th 2:30 p.m.

Cost \$20

They are mostly written by local playwrights with a great deal of wit and good humor.

For more information, visit online at slca-ctp.org/one-actfestival-2022.

PS – Our Congregation's thespian, Jim Hulihan will be performing!

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the March, 2022 newsletter is Thursday, February 24, 2022. 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.

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>

Learning and Growing Opportunity:

"Faith Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action"

MONDAYS, 7-8:30PM, via Zoom

FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28

FACILITATED by Pastor Lori Kochanski

Sessions led by leaders from across the Church

Description: In 2019 *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* was voted on by the church wide assembly and is our newest social statement. Using the new study guide we will explore the ways we are called to action regarding faith, sexism and justice.

SIGN UP

HERE: <https://forms.gle/gY6NoQ7vRnZxCfSGA>