

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NEW YORK 12182



Following Faith

MARCH 2021

The Lord's Prayer

The Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.
Your Kingdom come, your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.



Dear friends,

I have been remiss in not sharing some news with everyone in the newsletter. So I want to tell you here that I am planning to retire at the end of May. Even when I came to this call, it was not my intent to retire early (at age 63 ½). But some events in Steve's and my life have created an opportunity that we decided to take on now. I hope that the next three months can continue to be fruitful and faithful as we move towards this transition together.

Part of our faithful walk together comes in this already-begun season of Lent. As we hear gospel readings on Sundays from Mark – and a couple from John also – we will be reminded of God's faithfulness in the promises that God has made and continues to hold to for us.

By the end of March and into the first few days of April, we will arrive at Holy Week and hear the stories of Jesus' final meal with his disciples, his arrest, and his death on the cross. I hope that you can take time to hear those familiar stories again, and to find something new that has meaning for you in your faith journey.

Looking forward in hope,

Pastor Judy

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

**Sunday morning worship: 10:30 a.m.
Virtual Only**

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)
Carol Perrott (Inreach/Outreach)
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

Confirmation Class Update

Our confirmation class began (again) in October with classes that are recorded on Zoom each week. Eight students in the class have opportunity to watch the recorded class and answer questions via email to me.

We began with a section of curriculum on the Bible and the Creeds. After Christmas we have taken up the life of Jesus and some lessons on Discipleship. Our last section will cover other questions – things like ‘why are there so many Christian churches’ and ‘why does God let bad things happen.’

After Easter I will be ‘meeting’ with each student to talk about their faith understanding. We’re planning on an Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) service on May 23rd. More information to follow!

Pastor Judy

Council

The Council held its organizational meeting on February 8, 2021. Officers were elected for the coming year with Donna St. John accepting the office of President. Committee assignments were made as reflected on the first page of the newsletter.

The minutes of the January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting were approved.

Church finances were discussed. Efforts to consolidate our various accounts are ongoing with good progress in that area. Donations for the month of January were down from the previous year.

An area not for profit organization has expressed interest in using our facilities for a preschool. Two council members agreed to investigate the proposal in greater detail and will report back to the full council in the future.

The Worship Committee is discussing service format – both virtual and in person – and

exploring the possibility of having an outdoor service in our parking lot for Easter.



OUR FAITH at WORK

Missions for March

The featured mission for the month of March will be in support of the work of **Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County**. Through our donations, Literacy Volunteers provide tutoring in Reading/Basic Literacy and in English as a Second Language to approximately 250 teens and adults. One-to-One and Small Group Tutoring help individuals learn to read, to write, and to speak English, and to improve their math skills. Tutoring is free and confidential. Students and tutors work together for an average of 2 hours per week to meet students' goals. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Barbara and Larry Boord are now living in South Carolina. Their new mailing address is 2732 Desert Rose Street, Little River, SC 29566

We are asking that your prayers be with Polly Hayward as she rehabilitates from a serious fracture at Heritage House. Pray also for Bob during this difficult time.

Eugene and Donna St. John are filled with joy as they expectantly await the arrival of two new grandchildren.

Key March Dates

March 2 - Partnership Council at 7:00 p.m.
on Zoom

March 3 - Lent Study at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00
p.m. (Zoom)

March 7 - Sunday worship on Zoom at 10:30
a.m. / Lent 3

March 8 - Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. on
Zoom

March 10 - Lent Study at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00
p.m. (Zoom)

March 13 - Dinner Club at 6:00 pm. on Zoom

March 14 - Sunday worship on Zoom at
10:30 a.m. / Lent 4

March 17 - Lent Study at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00
p.m. (Zoom)

March 21 - Sunday worship on Zoom at
10:30 a.m. / Lent 5

March 22 - recording of Palm Sunday
reading at 7:00 p.m.

March 24 - Lent Study at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00
p.m. (Zoom)

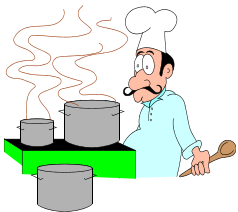
March 28 - Palm Sunday/ Passion Sunday
worship at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom

In this week's *Christian Century* I came across this poem by J. Barrie Shepherd, a Pastor who and ministered to me when I was a seminary student. I wanted to share its gentle advice in the hope it will be a welcome balm for you.

This Lent

Focus on the silences, this time around,
the changes in the light, the way
the sun breaks through,
and last night's frost arrays itself,
the liquid shapes the ebbing tide creates
along the sandy shore,
a February wind cutting sharp
and clean across my tender cheek,
the warmth of scarves and gloves,
the winter gear.
And, every now and then,
those unknown folk who pass on by,
a nod, a smile, a wave, no more—but then
no less—and the way all this bears gratitude,
and even grace to life.

--J. Barrie Shepherd



DINNER CLUB

In March, the virtual fellowship will take place on Zoom at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to join in and enjoy an hour of conversation with friends that we miss so much during these times of isolation. Each participant is responsible for preparing their own meal which may be eaten before, during, or after the meeting.

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:
farmerf169@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 April 2021 newsletter is Monday: March 22nd. 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. Leave a voice mail if there is no answer.