

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

October 2024 Newsletter

***“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;
and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”***

-John 8:31b-32

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
 Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

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

The election is fast approaching, and I have early voting on my calendar. The ELCA taskforce for writing a social statement on civic life and faith has received public feedback on its draft of the statement. I'm taking a course titled "American Religious Realities" through Hartford International University, and I'm reading *Rethinking Incarceration: Advocating for Justice That Restores* in an online reading group. Basically, I've spent a lot of time this last month reading and thinking about the intersections of the public and private, and of faith, religion, US history and culture, civic duty, rights v. privileges, and so on. I'm thinking about who's on the ballot and the ways in which their values do and do not align with mine- both professed and lived; I'm thinking about the statewide ballot measure. I rent in Albany, but I know Poestenkill has a Library Funding Proposition on their ballots that will raise taxes by about \$3.92/year for homeowners of houses valued at ~\$200k.

I say, "I'm thinking about" these things. I know who I'm voting for, how I'm voting on the measure, and WHY I'm voting as I am. What I'm thinking about is *how* my own faith and beliefs about God's activity in the world influence my political thinking, and thus how I (will) vote. Does the "yay" better protect and safeguard my neighbor better than the "nay" on a ballot measure, even if it also includes things that I might not want for me, or will never impact me? Does Candidate A or Candidate B (or Candidate C) have the better record or experience on the things that are important to me, like education, healthcare, housing? Who do I think cares more about combatting poverty? Which candidate/s do I think best follow Jesus' acts of compassion to do for the "least" of us as in Matthew 25 and Mark 9 (among other references)?

I know many of you are also asking yourself these and other similar questions. Some you will be or have in the past worked the polls on election day, and/or have served on various community boards and/or local

government. Even if you didn't/don't think about these acts of public service as being part of your faith life, a major piece our Christian vocation is the care of our neighbor- something we can do at all these levels of civic participation: from voting to serving in elected office. As you make your own voting plans and prepare to head to the polls or mail in your ballot, I've included a few prayers from ACS (the purple book), p. 50 for your home use.

Peace,

Pr. Kate Drefke

Prayers for Faithful Living in Society

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Empower us to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable in our midst, and respect for the common life we share, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God, we pray for our public servants [names], that they do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Inspire them to use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life. Guide our leaders to govern in such a way that all people enjoy a peaceful and just society. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Eternal God, your Word brought forth creation, and your Spirit brings order out of chaos and confusion. You breathe upon us, and we are able to hear one another with language we can understand. Pour out your Spirit upon us now, that even when we disagree on the way forward, we may remain united in Jesus Christ, in whom we are known and accepted with a single love.

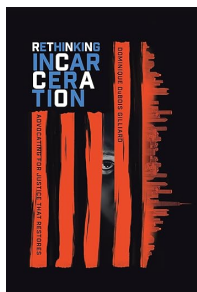
Amen.

God, our gracious giver, your Son Jesus taught us that where our treasure is there our hearts will be also. Teach us to love people more than money, relationships more than things, and you above all, that the way we live will reflect what we truly value and believe. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who emptied himself in love for us, and now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Amen.

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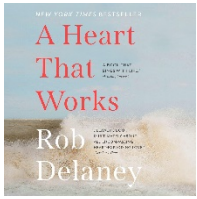
Reading



Rethinking Incarceration: Advocating for Justice That Restores (©2018), Dominique DuBois Gilliard.

I saw on Facebook that Prison Congregations of America was having a book study of this book, so I signed up. It's very interesting. And disturbing some of the things I'm learning. Gilliard cites Michelle Alexander's 2010 *The New Jim Crow: Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* frequently, among other books and research as he explores the history and foundation of mass incarceration, and examines Christianity's role in its expansion. Mass

incarceration is a lucrative industry, and the church is complacent in its expansion, if not also an unwitting collaborator.

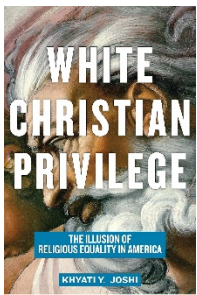


A Heart That Works (©2022), Rob Delaney.

Lowell heard an interview with Delaney on some podcast and decided we should read/ listen to it. The title comes from something Kate Bowler (or Brene Brown?) says: “A heart that hurts is a heart that works.” Shortly after his first birthday, his son, Henry, was diagnosed with a large brain tumor at the base of his brain stem. Delaney recounts in detail, with humor and grief (and a healthy amount of “f*ck you” directed at for-profit medicine), how he and his family lived through nearly two years of cancer treatments and the death of their youngest member, and

how he survives now without his beautiful son.

White Christian Privilege: The Illusion of Religious Equality in America (©2020), Khyati Y. Joshi.



This is one of the assigned textbooks for the course, “American Religious Realities,” I’m auditing. Of the three, I think it is (thus far) the most accessible. The first chapter challenges our US Constitutional ideal of “religious freedom for all,” and provides some history of the phrase “separation of church and state”- NOT part of the Constitution, but from a letter Thomas Jefferson wrote a couple of decades later. It asks us in the religious majority of the US- white and (especially Protestant) Christian- to consider how we have othered religious minorities, like Muslims, Sikhs, Jews, Mormons, etc. in the courts, classrooms, military, etc.

For All the Saints Hymn Sing



Our various hymn sing worship services are generally well received and enjoyed. And, noting that a couple people back in January named a hymn or two that are no longer in our ELW/ACS as all-time favorites, our next hymn sing worship is going to be themed “**Ye Olde Favourite Hymns.**” Because music connects us with the saints across time- the ones we knew and didn’t, the ones still living on earth and those now living in the resurrection- we will have it on **All Saints Sunday, November 3.**

Think about your favorite hymns from when you were younger, and/or the hymns that were the favorites of your loved ones, or that make you think of them, especially the ones that we literally never sing anymore because they aren’t in our current hymnal. Copies of the LBW and the SBH (Service Book and Hymnal, aka “the old red book”) are sitting out and available for you to flip through and refresh your memories. There’s a “request sheet” with the books so we can look up the accompaniment music for Donna and get a one-time hymn booklet prepared ahead of time.

Renovations Ongoing!

Soon the front door, west multipurpose room window replacement, and siding project will be complete. The church will have a new appearance and more importantly areas of the building structure that are failing will be repaired.

The project that was authorized at our special congregational meeting in July is budgeted at \$80,000 that is being taken from fund balances and reserves. We are asking for special contributions from friends and members to help cover some of these costs.

Renovation of some of the ornamental trees and shrubs is also in process.

We have the opportunity to renovate the carillon tower at an advantageous price while our contractor in mobilized on our site. While we have spoken of doing this work ourselves over the years, the probability of this actually happening becomes smaller and smaller.

President Evelyn Jarosz has called a Special Congregational meeting for Sunday, October 13 following Worship Service to discuss and possibly authorization additional work.

Thank you!

**Blood Drive Tuesday, October 15, 2024, Faith Lutheran Church. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Faith will be holding a Blood Drive on the above date and time. We will be looking for a minimum of 30 donors.**

To schedule an appointment, please contact the American Red Cross at 1 - 800 - RED CROSS, visit redcrossblood.org, or, download the Free Blood Donor App. Use sponsor code: troycommunity

Treat yourself! Come to give in Oct. for a \$10 Gift Card by email. See rdblood.org/treat

If you have any questions, leave a message at the church. 518-237-4641

Thank you. Blood is needed everywhere, every day.

----- **September 9, 2024 Council Meeting Highlights** -----
6:30 p.m. - In-Person

Attendance - Diane Anderson, Errol Bull, Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Mike Moroskey, Pastor Kate.

Absent - Doug Adamek, Dana Cerrone, Diana Rieker, Donna VanZandt

- I. President Jarosz called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.
- II, Pastor Kate opened the meeting with prayer.
- III. Approval of the agenda with 1 addition - carried
- IV, Secretary's Report
Motion to approve August's meeting minutes - carried
- V. Treasurer's Report
 - Money has been moved into the checking account to cover the partial payment for the siding project.
 - Linda Hulihan, Treasurer, provided updated account balances for the checking account, savings account, memorial funds, Hudson River account, and the LPL Financial account.

Motion to approve - Carried

- VI. Financial Secretary's Report
- Errol shared several comparison charts for the years 2022 - 2024 showing the church's donations.
 - Motion to approve - Carried
- VII. Pastor's Report
- September 8 - The shared service with First Presbyterian Church at Prospect Park was well attended. Discussion was held concerning repeating this event next summer.
 - September 15 - There will be an after church discussion on "Draft of a Social Statement on Civil Life and Faith."
 - September 22 - Pastor Kate and Pastor Josh will be switching positions/churches. (A pulpit exchange)
 - September 22-24 - Pastor Kate will be attending the annual NAMMA Conference in New Jersey.
- Pastor Kate will be taking a course called American Religious Reality in September.
- VIII. President's Report
- President Jarosz reported that she opened and closed the church from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for the siding contractors.
- IX. Committee Reports
- Property
 - Mike reported the front doors had to be reordered.
 - The siding project is coming along very well.
 - Did not rent a lift as previously decided to do some of the painting, a ladder was used instead.
 - Heavy equipment will be needed in order to remove the shrub roots located by the old sign.
 - The new sign has been put on hold due to Diana being on vacation.
- X. Old Business
- Gift bags for our high school/college graduates - All gift bags have been handed out and were very much appreciated.
 - Maritime boxes - Evelyn and Diane will be starting soon to put together 12 shoe boxes with necessities for these people. The shoe boxes will be delivered sometime in November. Donations will be requested.
 - Blood drive will be held Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at Faith Lutheran Church from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Will follow-up next month with more information due to

Donna being on vacation.

XI. New Business

Pastor Kate's call vote - The Council has voted unanimously to keep her permanently as our pastor. There will be a congregational meeting after church on September 29, 2024 for the congregation to vote.

XII. Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. via zoom.

XIII. Joys and Concerns

Mike Moroskey is pleased that the siding project is progressing.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer

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

Missions of the Month

The October Mission is in support of St. Paul's Center for Women and Children. St. Paul's Center, located in Rensselaer NY, provides emergency and transitional housing for homeless mothers and their children. St. Paul's assists the residents with moving on to independent living, they also receive support and services in counseling, parenting, homemaking, budgeting, literacy, pediatric care, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence education, job training and placement and permanent housing. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Total contributions of \$500.00 were received in support of our September missions Tunnel to Towers and Habitat for Humanity.

Diane Anderson, Missions

Creative Threads

The fall is a colorful time of year. This month's featured quilt certainly features the colors of fall.

Quilt blocks often have a specific name. Diane Anderson chose the Jacob's Ladder block to make this beautiful quilt.

Evelyn



Serving our October Sunday Programs

Altar Guild

The people scheduled for October are:

October 6 Diane Anderson and Janet Walsh
October 13 Diane Anderson and Janet Walsh
October 20 Diane Anderson
October 27 Diane Anderson

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Lay Assistants

Oct. 6 - Tim L.
Oct. 13 - Errol B.
Oct. 20 - Evelyn J.
Oct. 27 - Donna Truland
Nov. 3 - Rich A

Altar Flowers for October

September 22 - In loving memory of Helen Inglis and her birthday. Given by the Inglis Family

October 6 - In loving memory of Bob and Polly Hayward. Given by the Hayward Family.

October 20 - In loving memory of Mike Maselli. Given by Mary Maselli.

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

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Oct 6 | Bulls | After |
| Oct 13 | Walsh, Duncan | After |
| Oct 20 | DonnaVan Zandt | During |
| Oct 27 | Andersons | After |
| Nov 3 | Vumbacco, Maselli | After |

If you would like to be a coffee hour host, please see Fred Howard.

Counting Team

| | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Oct 6 | Errol & Heather Bull |
| Oct 13 | Ev & Bill Jarosz |
| Oct 20 | Rich & Diane Anderson |
| Oct 27 | Fred & Michele Howard |
| Nov 3 | Errol & Heather Bull |

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

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 asks for prayers for their matriarch, Carolyn, who is in St. Peter's Hospital being treated for 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 requiring hospitalization this past spring; for Bonnie Speanburg-Snyder who is being treated for cancer; 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.

Continued prayers for Larry Lansing, suffering from chronic conditions. We ask for continued healing and a return to better health.

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 September newsletter is Friday, October 25, 2024. Please email your letters or 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=ZVJDL3FxRjZSN2ZHHTTFIUGo3TVVmdz09>

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>