

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 LEVERSEE ROAD
TROY, NY 12180



Following Faith

SEPTEMBER 2021

God Specializes in the

IMPOSSIBLE...

Have faith!



My favorite Staples commercial used to air about this time of year. It was one of the old crooners singing the Christmas song “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year.” The video showed parents happily buying school supplies while the kids sulked. It was brilliant!

This year, with school most likely happening “in-person,” I think it is the students who are as excited as the parents for “Back to School” time. They have missed their friends, the whole school environment, gym class, band and chorus and orchestra, and other hard to duplicate at home aspects of school. I think many have even missed the bus rides!

It is a wonderful time of the year. I love fall, the change of weather, the cooler weather (I hope!), and maybe, just maybe, it will stop raining one of these days. (I type this as Henri blows through our neck of the woods...) I also know there is some concern among many of you as COVID lingers and/or rages in parts of our state and nation and world. We do still have to be careful. You have heard of the breakthrough cases where fully vaccinated people end up with COVID. It ain't over yet! Please be careful. Wash your hands. Wear a mask. Limit large gatherings.

We might have to change more about how we worship. I don't foresee going only to live streaming in the near future, but we will if we must. I know many of you don't want to do that, nor do I, but we will be careful no matter what.

Nothing will stop us from worship, though. We can gather in our homes or yards and pray and praise and worship God no matter what. We can talk on the phone and pray together. We can worship via YouTube—not just watch the service, but WORSHIP! We can share prayer concerns with other sisters and brothers in the faith and then keep praying for them!

This is a wonderful time of the year. So much to do, so many gifts from God to do them! So be careful, not fearful. Keep up the good work! Be generous in

your sharing of time, food, and other resources. Pray for your church, Council, Call Committee, and all who are doing God's Work here!

-Pastor Dan

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

www.faithlutherantroy.com

**Transitional Leader – Pastor Dan May
(518) 795 0964 or pstrdan88@gmail.com**

**Sunday morning worship – In Person and Zoom
10:30 AM at Faith**

Church Council Officers:

**Donna St. John (President)
Bill Jarosz (Vice President)
Carol Karpfen (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 Karpfen (Stewardship)
Sara Martin (Education)
Diana Rieker (Inreach/Outreach)
Donna Van Zandt (Worship)**

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

Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

Pastoral Call Progress!

The call committee (consisting of 4 Faith and 4 ELCP members) attended a service on August 22, 2021 where the call candidate delivered the service. Following the service an in-person interview was held. After the three-hour interview and private committee discussion afterwards, we unanimously recommend calling the candidate as our minister. The candidate is also happy to move the process forward.

A joint council meeting including the entire councils of Faith and ELCP was held on August 30, 2021. The council members were given an opportunity to share thoughts and questions with the call committee. The decision was made to continue with the next step of the call process.

A date will be set up for the councils to meet the candidate in person. Thank you to Ruth Frazee from ELCP and co-chair, for all her hard work and expertise.

Please continue to pray for God's leadership throughout this process.

Donna St. John, Council President

Faith Lutheran is now 30!

There will be a 30th Anniversary celebration of Faith Lutheran Church on September 19th, following the 10:30 church service. All past, present, and future members are invited.

Come catch up with old friends and make new memories!

If you have pictures or story to share please send it to Donna St. John before September 13, 2021.

We hope that you will join us for a light luncheon following the service that morning.

Jennifer Wegter-McNelly

As most of us know, Jennifer was our Transitional Pastor in 2016 and early 2017. Her Pastorate was cut short by serious cancer and she has been in treatment managed by Dana Farber since then.

In a recent Caring Bridge Post, her husband Kirk wrote in part, "Thank you for all of the cards you've sent. It is a real gift to Jen and the rest of us to hear about all or the ways in which she has been important in your lives. And thank you, too, to those of you in a position to help with the cost of Jen's health aides.....Your show of support has been equal parts humbling and uplifting. I continue to focus on keeping Jennifer comfortable, content and safe at home until she passes."

In a later note he added, "Earlier this year I hired a wonderful group of local Pentecostal Guyanese women to help care for Jen. They're covering the daytime hours, and various family and friends are helping with the nighttime hours. It's tough, but it is working. Keller has been understanding about the Grand Central Station atmosphere in our home these days, and he's very tender and loving towards Jen."

Faith is taking a special collection and making a special donation to Jen and her family to assist with the cost of care and other financial burdens that the family is experiencing. ***Please help if you are able noting on your check or donation envelope "For Jennifer".***

September Mission of the Month

The featured mission for the month of September will be in support of **Habitat for Humanity**. Habitat for Humanity has been providing home opportunities for families in need of decent housing for more than twenty-five years. Our support helps many families obtain their own home, which goes a long way toward building stability and independence in their lives. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

August 2, 2021 Council Meeting Highlights

President's Report

Donna St. John expressed her appreciation for Zoom participants but noted that we are having trouble with the quality of music on Zoom. The council is investigating sources of technical help in improving the Faith Zoom experience.

Covid Protocols.

In light of the increase in Delta variant cases in Rensselaer County and the surrounding area, changes in our current Covid protocol were discussed. It was decided that masks will be required at all in-person services and meetings and that social distancing will be encouraged. Gloved communion distribution will continue with spacing of glasses on wine trays. These protocols will be revisited as conditions and infection rates change.

Pastor's Report

Pastor May is reaching out to Larry Lansing and is working on setting up a communion distribution class. He had several suggestions for things that should be done to assist a new pastor upon arrival.

Committee Reports

The Call committee will meet with the candidate on Aug. 22. A joint Council meeting with ELCP will be scheduled to meet with the candidate.

The Faith Lutheran 30th Anniversary Celebration. Merger service of Our Savior's and St. John's took place on September 15, 1991. Celebration of Faith's formation will take place on September 19 after church.

Monday Quilt Group

We are back sewing together on Mondays after a hiatus during COVID. The virus may have kept us from sewing together but didn't stop us from quilting. We are busy tying quilt tops made over the last year; making them ready to be delivered to St. Paul's Center.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, it is easy to do by getting in touch with Janet Walsh 518 235 3245 or Donna Gibson 518 833 7471.

Altar Guild

With regular church services resuming, we would like to set a schedule for altar volunteers.

- You may have served in the past and would like to continue.
- Maybe you can assist with setting up on Saturday.
- Or maybe you are only available to help with the clean up after service.
- You might just want to hear more on what we do behind the scenes.

If you are interested in continuing to serve on the altar guild or would like to become an Altar Guild member, please contact me at 518-526-2545 or 518-274-3539.

Thank you,
Donna St. John, Altar Guild Leader

Leading Our August Worship

Supply Pastor

Lay Assistant

Sept. 5 - Pr Christopher Hoyer
Sept. 12 - Pr Christopher Hoyer
Sept. 19 – TBD
Sept. 26 - SAM Janice Walz

Fred Howard
Pat Turcotte
Heather or Errol Bull
Diane Dyer

Flowers for the Altar

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar at any time during the remainder of 2021, please fill in the flower chart hanging in the Narthex. Your name along with who the flowers are in memory of or in honor of would be helpful. The cost continues to be \$20.00 per bouquet.

Cash or check made out to WELCA is accepted. See Donna Van Zandt for questions and/or payment.

St. John's Cemetery – Melrose

The St. John's Cemetery in Melrose (Schaghticoke) is a cemetery that was 'used' by St. John's Lutheran Church, most recently sited in Melrose. Since that church closed in 1969, the cemetery has not been cared for, and it has become overgrown and unsightly. Since the last members of St. John's joined Our Savior's Lutheran (a church that then

formed Faith Lutheran), there seems to be some connection with Faith Lutheran.

Cleaning up and learning more about the restoration of the cemetery is a project that Pastor and Steve Converse are coordinating through the summer and into early Fall. They are hoping to spend a day/week clearing the overgrown areas and removing fallen limbs, etc. They, along with the St. Johns, are also coordinating a monthly work day for those from Faith or other groups who are interested in helping. They will be at the cemetery on the third Saturday of the month between 9 and 2 to work.

Remaining planned summer Saturday work day:
September 18

Pastor Judy and Steve (978) 808-6780.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletter item deadline for the October 2021 newsletter is Saturday, September 25, 2021. 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.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Larry Boord passed away on August 24 in McCloud Seacoast Hospital in Little River, SC. Prayers of comfort for Barbara and his entire family in this time of sorrow.

Prayer for healing for Larry Lansing who is undergoing Chemo therapy for cancer affecting his jaw. Our prayer is for healing and recovery.

Remember Paul Haas who is doing 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 of renewal for the Congregations of Faith and Evangelical as we move into a new journey of Faith, service and outreach in our communities.