

Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, NY 12182



# ***Following Faith***

## ***September 2024 Newsletter***

***“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”***

***Philippians 2: 3-4***



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

**Pastor Kate Drefke**  
[drefkekate@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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**

There are certain words that we hear and think, “ooh... can we ... just... you know, maybe not... talk. about. that? Please?” A big one is “stewardship.” I promise, it’s not a dirty word. Admittedly, we do hear it, and tent do think, “money. I’m about to be asked for money.” While money is a significant part of stewardship, especially in the church world, it’s not the whole. Stewardship is caretaking, and, as one of the books on my shelf (or currently loaned out, I don’t remember) says, it’s also a way of life. Good stewards care for the people and things in their charge as if they were their own. Tending to the needs of our neighbor and our neighbor’s stuff comes from *who we are*- not what we do. Throughout our lives we are entrusted with the care of children, homes, confidences, money, public spaces, relationships, etc.

As I said, we do tend to emphasize the money aspect of stewardship in church-speak. But take a moment to think about the other ways our congregations have seen stewardship in action. The stewardship care involved in Sunday morning worship happening- altar guild, ushering, cleaning, etc., all the “behind the scenes” stuff that happens throughout the week, throughout the month. Recently, we’ve been focused a lot on the stewardship of our buildings and properties. Both congregations had special summer to discuss and approve money for building projects. We’re signs and siding, updated heating, and having trees taken down fall in storms and cause other property damage. Special gifts have fixing our front doors and the chimney at Poestenkill, and we have gift at Faith that will help in the replacement of our front doors. year, different small groups have been working on cleaning out rooms and outdoor spaces, helping to make our facilities more



*I Bulletin board @ELCP after Ladies' Aid cleared out the undercroft and refreshed the bulletin boards.*

meetings this getting new before they paid for a memorial Over the last different inviting,

more readily usable by us and community groups. As congregations, we've been entrusted with the care and maintenance of these properties. We are responsible for making sure that they are physically safe and in good repair for as long as we have them.

We're small congregations. *Very* small congregations. That's just a fact. We, like everywhere, have seen a Sunday morning decline. Conversations about that, and how to change, "grow," and so on are happening everywhere. Important conversations, too, but not what I want to emphasize today. Our tiny size does not limit our vitality.



2 Sunday School classroom @Faith cleared out by Creative Threads. Photo cred to Evelyn J.

Good stewardship of our properties helps make it possible for us to do our various ministries- our Sunday worship (of course), Bible studies, food pantry, quilting, safe meeting- and storage- space for community groups. It helps to provide us with a secure and central point for looking beyond our walls and into our communities, identify the needs of our neighbors, and thus expand and grow our ministry presence in our communities.

Now for the part a lot of us would like to not talk about: money. Good stewardship of our properties does require money. Sometimes it's smaller amounts, like for a new lawn mower.

Other times, it's a large amount, like for siding. Neither of our congregations is rollin' in the dough. We also have the money in our accounts to take care of the projects we've approved, and none of these are frivolous projects, but are necessary for the good stewardship of the properties entrusted to our care. I see other examples of good stewardship of our properties supporting these larger projects- like painting, clearing out stuff, and so on. I see the fruits of your stewardship every time I drive up, unlock the doors. Thank you all for your care, past, present, and future.

Peace,  
Pr. Kate Drefke

## Reading

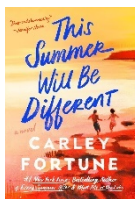
Most of my summer reading was binge-reading the DD Warren and Will Trent series (all caught up on WT, except for #12 which *just* came out (20 Aug) and I'm 52<sup>nd</sup> 50<sup>th</sup> in line for one of the library's e-book copies). I did get in and start a couple of other books.

*Scum of the Earth* (© 2023) by Alexander C. Kane, read by Scott Aiello.



This was our vacation driving listen because we've enjoyed Kane's Andrea Vernon and Orlando People series. This was fine. Ezra Barker works for a senator who oversees the day-to-day of a territory after the Merg have taken over earth, strip-mining away the planet's resources. He's a collaborator. There are others who really believe in their work for and the promises of the Merg. Then one day, Ezra ends up... captured by a resistance group and his real loyalties are tested. What's going to happen to earth? to humanity? to the Merg?

*This Summer Will Be Different* (© 2024) by Carley Fortune.



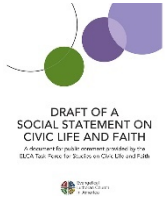
August is "Read-A-Romance Novel Month" (at least according to bookshop.org), so this is the one I selected from their sale options. It's the "best friend's younger sibling" trope, and a quick, fun read taking place in Toronto and Prince Edward Island. Lucy and Bridgett meet at work in their early 20s and then grow up together, bonding over *Anne of Green Gables* (the books and the 1980s CBC movies). The first time Lucy goes to Bridget's PEI home, she unknowingly hooks up with the latter's younger brother. Promising not to do it again, they do.

*Jesus for Everyone: Not Just Christians* (© 2024) by Amy-Jill Levine.



By now we all know I love A-J. This one covers a variety of topics: economics, enslavement, ethnicity and race, health care, family values, and politics. Originally this was going to be *Jesus for Atheists*, but writing in her introduction, she says that as she worked on the chapters, she realized that Jesus, a man of his time and place, has something to say for everyone- atheist, Christian, Jewish, etc. She also claims that Jesus isn't the "radical" "feminist" that he is sometimes cast as today. He taught within the confines of his Jewish heritage, in Galilee, under Roman occupation. And then the gospels were written after, in other places. What did those stories of Jesus mean then? What do they mean for us today?

### Draft of a Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith



Last spring (2023), a group of us met and did a study on Civic Life and Faith as prepared by the ELCA task force for the topic. Feedback surveys were completed and returned from across the denomination and a draft statement was written. Public comment/feedback is due by Sept. 30. It's a long statement (55 pages with cover, glossary, etc.), but the first several pages are a shortened version hitting the highlights. (Similar to the draft and final of the 2019 statement on Gender and Justice.) You can find a copy of the study here: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Civic-Life-and-Faith>

or ask me to print you off a copy at Faith's office.

Let's review the document and submit our feedback!

Read the "Short Statement" and/or the "Full Statement" and join me for discussion! Copies of the feedback survey will also be available and I'll mail them all out together.

**Sunday Sept. 15, 12:30pm at Faith** (this is after coffee hour worship, but with some time for us to mentally shift from worship to study and maybe get some more substantial food).

A second opportunity (before or after) can be scheduled by request.

### Shared Worship Giving Thanks for Creation



**SEASON OF CREATION**

Our two congregations will join First United Presbyterian at **Prospect Park** (in Troy), **10:30am** for a Creation-focused worship and potluck picnic. All of the hymns we've picked are known and liked by us all! Come enjoy some ecumenical worship and

fellowship! (There's a picnic pavilion that will protect us in the event of rain.)

### Pulpit Swap



The Rev. Josh Evans and I will be doing a pulpit swap on Sept. 22. You'll get to see one of our other local pastors in Sunday action, and St. John's in Albany (where Pr. Evans serves) will get to see me. Welcome, Pr. Evans!

[For the curious: this came about because I was attending an event at St. John's and one of his council members said they want to hear me preach- "just trade one Sunday!" So we are.]

### 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, especially the ones that we literally never sing anymore because they aren't in our current hymnal. Later in September, I'll start having the LBW and the SBH (Service Book and Hymnal, aka "the old red book") available to flip through so you can refresh your memories. We'll start a list of requested hymns then so we can look up accompaniment music for Donna and get a one-time hymn booklet prepared.

Hello 7<sup>th</sup>+ graders and parents/ guardians!

**The Rite of Confirmation** is also known as **Affirmation of Baptism**. In the Lutheran and other Churches that practice infant baptism (e.g.: Catholic), parents and godparents make promises for their kid and raising them in a life of faith. When a person is confirmed, they affirm those promises and take responsibility for their ongoing faith development and Christian education.

Confirmation classes have traditionally been ... awful. I hated mine, and consequently hated church.

I'd really like that to not be your/ your kid's experience.

As we look to the fall and starting to hold catechism (confirmation class), I'd like to meet with all interested parties (students, parents and whoever is going to typically be driving) to go over what needs to be taught, other expectations, what you want to learn, and how we're going to do all that to engage every student's curiosity. I'm planning on a two-year cycle that can be taken in either order (so this year's 6<sup>th</sup> graders can start when they're in 7<sup>th</sup> grade). I expect with everyone's schedules that our meetings will be a mix of Zoom and in-person, a couple time a month. Flexibility is key!

**What if you/ your kid hasn't been baptized?** No worries. I understand that parents have their reasons for not getting their kid/s baptized as babies. You/ your kid can be a full part of confirmation classes intending to be confirmed, or just to get an idea of what this whole church thing is all about. As applicable, we can do baptisms this summer and fall, OR we can do this second century style and be baptized after. (In the early church, people were catechized *before* baptism, and there was no confirmation.)

**What if I'm in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade? Or I've already graduated high school?** I'm glad for your interest! Let's talk and figure out together your various catechism needs and wants, then create a more adult group for you.

**Questions?** Please let me know! Because I don't have everyone's contact info (especially for the more traditional confirmation age people), I'm asking you to contact me (info below), and then I'll work on coordinating an initial info and planning meeting. Joining that meeting does NOT commit you to anything other than that hour.

I'm really looking forward to what we will create together! I hope you're looking forward to it- at least a little bit- too.

Peace,

Pr. Kate Drefke

518-279-6127 (text/ call)      DrefkeKate@gmail.com

## Renovations to Begin!

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. **Please see the last page of this newsletter to see pictures of what repairs are so critically important and to find a form that you may choose to use to use to file with a special capital contribution.**

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

Thank you!

## **Blood Drive Tuesday, October 15, 2024, Faith Lutheran Church, 1:30 p.m. – 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.**

**Registration along with other information will be available in the October Newsletter. Should you have questions prior to the October Newsletter, feel free to contact Donna Van Zandt - 518-496-8935**

### ----- August 5, 2024 Council Meeting Highlights ----- August 5, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. - In-Person

Attendance - Doug Adamek, Diane Anderson, Errol Bull, Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Mike Moroskey, Diana Rieker, Donna Van Zandt, Pastor Kate.

Absent - Dana Cerrone

- I. President Jarosz called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- II. Pastor Kate opened the meeting with prayer. (next Sundays' Prayer of the Day)
- III. Approval of the agenda with 2 additions  
Carried
- IV. Secretary's Report  
Motion to approve the regular June meeting minutes - Carried  
Motion to approve the June 23rd Special Congregational meeting minutes – Carried



V. Treasurer's Report

- Money has been moved to the checking account as there was only \$25.00 in this account at the end of June.
- Considerable discussion was held on our various accounts. As we move on, Linda Houlihan, Treasurer, will share updates on our Checking account, Savings account, Memorial funds, Hudson River account, and the LPL.

Church Trac and Vanco accounts will be on the Financial Secretary's report.

Motion to approve - Carried

VI. Financial Secretary's Report

- Errol shared several comparison charts with the churches giving.
- Some discussion held to clarify -Carried

VII. Pastor's Report

A written report was shared.

- Highlights include -
- Participation in the Collar City Pride event
- Worship Planning Committee meeting held prior to this meeting
- Confirmation classes are a work in progress for our h.s. Students
- Adult Bible Study will begin again in October. Details TBD
- A funeral planning sheet has been established. People interested in this should contact Pastor Kate.

VIII. President's Report

- President Jarosz was glad to have spent 2 weeks on vacation to rejuvenate - The front sign and the siding project are works in progress.

IX. Committee Reports

- Property -

Diana shared that she pulled the plug with our new sign. Numerous issues, the sign was not up to code, etc.

Diana asked for a refund of \$1,523.00. It has been received and turned over to the treasurer. At this point we don't know where we are going in regards to the sign. After considerable discussion and possible ideas, it was decided that we would have the Property Committee come up with a plan.

The Siding Project is a work in progress. A down payment for the new doors windows has been requested.



We will probably need to rent a lift to do some painting prior to the siding be put on. Hopefully, some painting can be done on the carillon as well. While we have the lift we may look into taking down a couple of dead spruce trees.

The three hemlock trees on the front side of the church may need to be removed for the siding project.

- Missions -

Diane A. asked if we should reduce our missions giving due to all of our current expenses/projects. (Thus \$250.00 per month vs. \$500.00)

After considerable discussion the following was decided.

- October mission would go to St. Paul's Center.
- November missions will go towards the Thanksgiving Baskets and the Maritime boxes.
- December missions will go to our Christmas Families and ELCA Disaster Relief.

- Worship -

- A meeting was held just prior to this meeting.

For the Fall we will continue to use the booklet format with most service materials and music coming from Setting 10.

Hymns for the month of September have been chosen.

The month of September services are a bit different.

Sept. 1 - A regular service

Sept. 8 - A shared service with First Presbyterian at Prospect Park. Lawn chairs will be needed, a Picnic to follow. Congregants will be asked to bring a dish to share

Sept. 15 - A Coffee Hour service in the Fellowship Hall

Sept. 22 - Pastor Kate and Pastor Josh will be switching positions/churches.  
(a pulpit exchange)

Sept. 29 - A regular service

## X. Old Business

- AED update.

New pads have been ordered.

The AED we have is no longer available. At some point (hopefully a couple of years from now) we will need to purchase a new AED.

- Gift bags for our high school/college graduates. This was organized with various Council Members donating 'little things' to our youth.

XI. New Business

- Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets/Families

Donna Van Zandt has agreed to oversee these two tasks, with the help of Heather Bull.

- Maritime Boxes - Our goal is to pack 12 shoeboxes with necessities for these people. Donations will be requested. More information to come.
- Executive Session - Tabled

XII. Next Meeting -

- Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9th. 6:30 p.m.  
In person.

XIII. Joys and Concerns -

- Evelyn shared that her Granddaughter's husband has been dealing with some major health issues for some time. Finally, a diagnosis was made and he is doing much better.
- Mike M. shared that his niece has graduated and is now a Physician's Assistant.
- Pastor Kate's sister has recently graduated from college.

XIII. Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer

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

**Missions of the Month**

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The September Missions are in support of Tunnel to Towers and Habitat for Humanity.

One of the featured missions for the month of September will be to support Tunnel to Towers. This organization was formed to honor the sacrifice of firefighters and first responders who laid down their lives to save others on September 11, 2001. Our support helps build specially-adapted "Smart Homes" for severely injured service members and first responders. The needs of catastrophically injured service members and first responders are unique. A "Smart Home" is designed to meet the specific needs of its recipients by incorporating a myriad of features such as automated doors, lighting and special showers to accommodate wheelchairs. These homes enable our most severely injured heroes to live more independent lives. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The other featured mission is 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.

Total contributions of \$500.00 were made in support of our August missions Ebenezer Foundation and Capital Roots.

Diane Anderson, Missions

### Creative Threads

Turquoise and purple. Diamonds and squares. A perfect combination of colors and shapes for this month's quilt recipient at St. Paul's Center.

Evelyn



### Serving our September Sunday Programs

#### Altar Guild

The scheduled people for September are:

September 1	Roberta Hayward
September 8	Evelyn Jarosz
September 15	Evelyn Jarosz
September 22	Diana Rieker
September 29	Diana Rieker

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

#### Lay Assistants

Sept. 1 - Bill Jarosz  
Sept 8 - No assistant will be needed as our service will be at Prospect Park with First Pres. (more information to be shared)

Sept. 15 - Carol Karpien  
Sept. 22 - Fred Howard  
Sept. 29 - Dave Truland

Oct. 6 - Tim Lund  
Oct. 13 - Errol Bull

#### Flowers on the Altar for September

No Memorial Flowers scheduled for September.

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

Coffee hour will resume with our September 15 coffee hour worship service.

September 15	Fred and Michele Howard
September 22	Evelyn and Bill Jarosz
September 29	Diane Rieker
October 6	Errol and Heather Bull

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

## Counting Team

Sept 1	Errol & Heather Bull
Sept 8	Joyce Duncan & Janet Walsh
Sept 15	Ev & Bill Jarosz
Sept 22	Rich & Diane Anderson
Sept 29	Fred & Michele Howard

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.**

**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 Wednesday, September 25, 2024. Please email your letters or articles to: [farmerf169@aol.com](mailto: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=ZVJDL3FxRjZSN2ZHTTFlUGo3TVVmdz09>

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>





## SIDING AND CONDITION ISSUES REQUIRING OUR ATTENTION AT FAITH



General condition of siding is not good. Siding has been rained several times, but is deteriorated to the point that this is no longer an option.



Two windows facing Leverage Road are rotted and structurally unsound. Must be replaced.



The South Wall (wall facing the bank) of the Multi-Purpose Room is in particularly bad condition.



Second view of the South Wall of the Multi-Purpose Room. These windows have been previously replaced.

**Turn Page Over for Contribution Form**



**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF REPAIRING ROT, INSTALLING  
NEW MULTIPURPOSE ROOM WINDOWS, INSTALLING NEW FRONT DOORS, AND VINYL  
SIDING OVER THE ENTIRE BUILDING**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contribution** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you and may God Bless you!**