

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

JUNE 2022

***Pentecost! a time to seek the blessings of
the Holy Spirit. May Jesus bless you and
yours with eternal joy, togetherness, and
understanding.***

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

Pastor Kate Drefke
drefkekate@gmail.com
(518) 279 1627 (Voice and Text)
(Observes Sabbath 9:00 PM Thursday thru Friday)
(In an emergency call the number above)

Sunday Morning Worship
In Person and Zoom
10:30 AM at Faith

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Gospel and Sermon Recordings <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>

Church Council Officers

(Committee Assignments)

Council Members

Donna St. John, President (Altar Guild, Dinner Club)
Bill Jarosz, Vice President (Property)
Carol Karpfen, Secretary (Stewardship)
Roberta Hayward, Treasurer
Rich Anderson, Financial Secretary (Interim)

Doug Adamek (Inreach/outreach, Missions, Property)
Katie Bonnier (Inreach/Outreach, Missions)
Errol Bull, (Property)
David Cerrone (Education, Worship)
Diane Dyer (Office Administration)
Sara Martin (Education)
Donna Van Zandt (Worship)

Partnership Council – Roberta Hayward, Bill Jarosz, Carol Karpfen, and Donna Van Zandt
Fred Howard, Interim Newsletter Editor

Virtual Office Hours – By Zoom with video or on Phone without video

I'm going to continue offering "virtual" office hours for anyone who wants to "drop-in" and have a casual chat. This is an opportunity for me to get better acquainted with you and you with me. If you want something more "formal" or at a better time for you, reach out by phone, text, or email and we'll make it happen.

Topic: Pr. Kate's Virtual Office Hours

Time: Tuesdays, 10am-12pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117569411?pwd=eJlVZzdhdOTBjMU4xR1JibERITEU0QT09>
Meeting ID: 861 1756 9411 Passcode: 104197 Join by phone: 646-558-8656

from the pastor...

Pentecost is fast-approaching. It's one of my favorite feast days celebrating the Holy Spirit coming to the apostles, calling and sending them into the world to BE the Church. I love the mystery of the Spirit, who calms troubled waters and troubles calm waters; who comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable. She is Holy Chaos.* At synod assembly during internship, we met briefly in our clusters (conferences); someone said that a major ministry of their congregation "happened by accident" and the cluster dean (also my supervisor) said, without missing a beat, "I think anytime the Holy Spirit hears 'by accident' she clutches her pearls." One of my favorite images ever.

Sometimes Pentecost is called the Church's birthday. Think about how much you have changed in your years of life, sometimes from one birthday to the next. What you were like when you graduated from high school compared to when you left your first job, graduated college, or finished basic training. How you changed over the course of significant relationships- you as a child with your caregivers, your romantic partnerships,

when you became a parent or grandparent. The ways you have grown as a person. The Church is almost 2,000 years old. For an institution to not only last this long, but also thrive, it has undergone a lot of change and growth, has experienced a lot of loss and grief. It has repeatedly listened for and responded to God's call across the globe, seeking to follow the ways of Jesus. It has obviously not always been very Christ-like (e.g.: the Crusades; complicities with evils like racism and genocide; etc.), but I do believe that at the heart of the Christian Church as a whole is a deep desire and yearning to be like Jesus to those inside and those outside the faith. It has had to adapt, grow, and be constantly made new in Christ in order to meet the needs of the always changing world in which it- and we as members of the Body of Christ- find ourselves.

Congregations are small-c expressions of the big-C Church. As members of the big-C Church, we share in the whole Church Christian mission to be like Christ, to follow and live like Jesus, feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, uplifting the oppressed, and rejecting violence (Matt. 5-7, etc.). As small-c expressions, we are called into being by the Spirit who sends us into our communities to walk with our neighbors in valley lows and mountain highs. *How* we are called to walk with our neighbors in God's love and justice changes over our lifetimes. Like we as individuals may be called to multiple vocations (child, teacher, engineer, spouse, barista, parent, accountant, military or other national service, etc.) throughout our lives, so, too, are our congregations called to be new and renewed throughout our/their lives. For example, I know of a congregation (one I attended during college) that was founded to be the Norwegian Lutheran church in its area during a peak time of Scandinavian emigration to the UP. Down the road (2 blocks if that) was the Finnish Lutheran church. Eventually the Norwegian church became less tied up with its ethnic and national origins, and it began to reach out more and more to the neighborhood and surrounding community (including the university situated directly across the street from the Finnish church), and its mission, or reason for being, was renewed, and has been renewed over and over as it responds to the needs of its "members" and the wider community. Because it has both allowed itself to be changed, to grow and actively sought necessary change and growth, it continues to thrive as a center for ministry in the community.

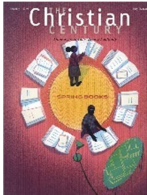
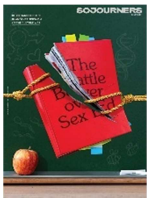
As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we also think about our congregation. ELCP was founded sometime in the 1800s, shortly before or after the US Civil War. What were our ancestors' founding reasons for putting a Lutheran Church in Poestenkill? What was the reason for merging St. John's and Our Savior to be Faith? Our Savior was a Missouri Synod congregation; why the change to be an ELCA predecessor? When Faith was born in 1991, what was its reason for being? What changes has Faith seen, both internally and externally (local community and outwards)? How does Faith understand its calling to respond to the needs of the community? world?

We've said this a lot, and I say it again: the last several years have been full of change and crisis for you and Poestenkill. And then COVID created more upheaval and instability. As we move into the summer, we are going to begin doing some intentional work together to name the losses and work through the grief. Alongside all that hard work, we are also going to be listening together for the Spirit's calling and sending, discerning how we are called TO BE the Church today in our community and world. Exactly how we are going to do these things... tbd. But, as I recall the promises of my own baptism and give thanks for that sacrament which has joined us together with Christ in death and resurrection, I am/ we are assured of new life over and over and over in the mystery of the Divine Three-in-One/ One-in-Three.

In the Holy Chaos of the Spirit,
Pr. Kate

*You can hear more of my Holy Spirit love in my 2021 Pentecost sermon at <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke/episodes/Pentecost-2021-Holy-Spirit-e12opjr>

Reading



Most of June's reading is going to be focused on catching up with recent issues of periodicals- *Sojourners* and *Christian Century*- and preparing for how we will in worship and preaching talk about discerning our reasons for being the Church today, and working through the grief of the last few years. But in between all of that, I am looking forward to reading (ok, I'm going to listen to the audiobook), Katie Henry's latest YA novel, *Gideon Green in Black and White* (2022). I don't even know what it's about (something about a kid who plays amateur detective and love film noir), but Lowell and I have been fans of Henry since August 2019 when we listened to her 2018 *Heretics Anonymous* while driving from PA to IA for his seminary bff's wedding. Henry's protagonists are teenagers figuring out life, and how her characters sort through their questions of family, mental health, friendship, and "meaning of life" feel true, as do the other characters. Whenever she announces a new novel, I pre-order the audiobook and Lowell the hardcover.



[For those of you asking, "didn't you go camping to read?" Yes. Yes, I did. Trashy novels poorly written, which I expected given the quality of writing the Netflix series based on them have.

Sweet Magnolias the Netflix series is not great, but mostly worth a single watch-through. The book ... not so much. I'm not even admitting to the other reading, though it was better written.]

Community Violence...

I started writing my main piece for this newsletter in the hours before news broke of shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX. Still in the wake of the shooting at Topps Supermarket in Buffalo, which was followed the next day by a shooting at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, CA. These were not the only shootings to take place between May 14 and May 24. They were just the best publicized. Which makes sense. They happened in public places- a supermarket; a church; a school. However, mass shootings are often "intermingled with acts of domestic violence" (<https://everytownresearch.org/maps/mass-shootings-in-america/>). Gun violence in DV situations also happen frequently at home, and indeed, the Robb Elementary shooter is believed to have shot and killed his grandmother before going to the school. Where he wiped out the majority of a single fourth grade class.



Like one of my seminary classmates has posted, I, too, fear I am running out of tears. We say, "Kyrie elision. Lord, have mercy." But in despair of ongoing violence, I wonder God can have mercy on a people who repeatedly fail to act against such evil. In our baptisms (or affirmations of), we renounced "the devil and all the forces that defy God;" we renounced "the powers of this world that rebel against God;" and we renounced "the ways of sin that draw [us] from God." We proclaimed to live in God's covenant, "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth" (ELW p.235-7). Have we forgotten?

I know that God is always and eternally faithful to Their people, keeping always the covenants made with us even when we reject God and promote evil.

We can always repent and re-turn to the Divine. But repentance requires we lay down that which hurts and harms, that we admit our wrong-doing and wrong-speaking, and pick up peace, truth, justice. We cannot turn away from sin and turn to God at the same time. We may cry out, "how long, O Lord?" We can be assured that God hears us, and feels our pain, too. Why don't we listen when God responds, "how long, my people?" "How long will you reject my Spirit of peace moving in, among, and through you?"



Lord Jesus Christ, your own mother looked on when your life ended in violence. Our hearts are pierced with grief and anger at the mass shootings at Topps in Buffalo, at Geneva Pres in Laguna Woods, at Robb Elementary in Uvalde. We commend the slain to your wounded hands, and their loved ones to your merciful heart, trusting only in the promise that your love is stronger than death, and that even now and always, you live. Amen. (ACS p.49)

First Quarter Financial Report Summary

Thank you all for your continuing financial support of Faith Lutheran Church during the difficult past two years. Faith, like all of us, is feeling the negative financial effects of the pandemic and inflation caused by a confluence of a number of factors beyond anyone's control. So what does that mean for the church as we look forward?

Good news: We are happy to report that collections for the first quarter of 2022 were \$3,344 higher than the first quarter of 2021 and attendance is increasing. However, we must keep in mind that 2021 was a challenging year and that overall revenues were down during that time.

Not so good news: The projected deficit for 2022 is \$67,000 based upon 2021 contributions. In the short term, the church has assets that can help us offset this deficit. Nevertheless, this is a stark reminder that we have much ground to make up in these challenging times. If the current trend of increased giving continues, we can look forward to a healthier bottom line and a brighter future.

With this in mind, it is most important that we continue to give generously as we are able and build on the progress we have made this year. Please prayerfully consider how together we may accomplish this.

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Our Faith at Work

We will be supporting the Bread of Life Food Pantry for the June 2022 Mission. It is located next to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poestenkill. This Food Pantry is a nonprofit organization helping families supplement their food needs. Our Church has been supporting the food pantry with food donations left in the collection box in the Narthex. A list of most needed items follows and is on the donation box. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are accepted as well to purchase other perishable items.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry accepts nonperishable canned or boxed items. Donations examples include: Fruit juice, canned fruit/ vegetables, stew, hash or chili, baked beans, snacks and baking mixes, sugar and cooking oil, tuna fish, mayo, mustard and ketchup. Non-food items, laundry/ dish soap, toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, shampoo and deodorant.

We will continue to collect Pull-Tabs off soda and beer cans to support the Ronald McDonald House throughout the year. Please leave any you have in the basket in the Narthex. :)

April 2022 Mission collected \$376.00 supporting Lutheran World Relief

Katie Bonnier, Inreach/Outreach

----- Council Meeting Highlights May 2, 2022 -----

Committee Reports

- Inreach/Outreach – Kate Bonnier & Doug Adamek - Bonnier is learning the ins and outs of this committee. She has mailing lists and will get supplies.

- Office Administration – Diane Dyer will help as she is able. Thanks go to her for her past good work on the bulletins and mailings.
- Missions – Kate Bonnier is getting up to speed with the help of Linda Hulihan and Donna St. John.
- Education – Sara Martin, Dave Cerrone - Youth will be meeting with Pastor after church on 5/22. An activity is planned. Martin is hoping to reschedule with ELCP for an education opportunity this summer.
- Stewardship – Carol Karpien, and council collaboration - Karpien will compose a report for the newsletter.
- Property – Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz - Bull will work on options for the front door. Thanks to Katie Bonnier for fixing the wheels on the wheelchair.
- Worship– Donna Van Zandt, Pastor Kate - Work goes on with becoming more familiar with the new setting, and choosing hymns.
- Helen Inglis' Memorial Service will be held May 28th
- Synod conference will be June 5-6th. Pastor Kate and Donna Van Zandt will be attending. Holy Cow donation of \$500 from the congregation was approved. A collection will be taken on Sundays. If the amount is less than \$500, the shortfall will be taken from church funds.
- Media and web presence. Media presence has increased thanks to Pastor Kate. Since our current web site developers are not serving us well, we would benefit from finding someone local to do the work. Dave Cerrone expressed an interest, and perhaps one of the youths in the congregation might be interested.
- Policy writing team
 - Hall Rental agreement. We need a calendar for booking the hall and a new rental agreement.
 - Memorials gift agreement Regional Gift Planner can help with writing a gift policy.

New Business

- Approval for Altar purchases/memorials. The Altar committee is researching replacing the candles

Motion: The Altar committee is authorized to spend \$400 for 2 new altar candles and a new engraved pattern from Memorial Funds (\$5,000) from the Helen Inglis Estate. Approved

Next regular meeting Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 7:00pm. - Zoom

Special meeting to be called by the President, at the request of Pastor Kate. Date to be announced.

A special joint council meeting to discuss worship times is suggested for 7:00 pm Monday, May 23 at ELCP. More information will follow.

----- *end of council meeting highlights* -----

May 23 Joint Councils Meeting

The councils of ELCP and Faith met for a joint meeting on Monday, May 23 to discuss a proposal from the Partnership Council adjusting each congregation's worship time.

The meeting began by giving Pr. Kate more information on the history of the Faith/Evangelical partnership and thinking about what it means for the congregations to be yoked under a Covenant agreement. Pr. Kate mentioned that she is planning in this summer's preaching and worship to help each congregation discern how it is called to be the church in their community. (*More on this in From the Pastor's article above.*)

The discussion of worship times started with an historical overview. After Pr. Steve's death, Faith's worship start time continued to be 10:30 until in January 2017 when, at the urging of the interim pastor, it was changed by the Faith Council to 11:00 without seeking input of the congregation. The distressing and unsettling nature of this change on Faith was acknowledged.

At the time that the revised Covenant agreement was signed by both congregations (October 2017), ELCP agreed to a starting time of no later than 9am, which it had been since the congregations were first yoked in 2004. Faith agreed to a starting time no earlier than 10:45, that was 15 min earlier than Faith's 11:00am starting time in effect at the time the revised agreement was approved.

(During the Covid period there was major disruption leading to various configurations and combinations of all virtual and virtual/in person service formats. See the following history of Faith's service times taken from our Newsletters.)

The partnership council's recommendation was then discussed: for the purposes of giving more time for the pastor and organist to make it safely between services on Sunday morning, and to give the pastor a few minutes to talk with people after worship at Poestenkill, the partnership council's recommendation was to adjust each service time by 15min so that Evangelical would begin at 8:45 and Faith at 10:45, which is in keeping the worship time currently agreed to in the Covenant Agreement. After several minutes' discussion, each council voted. Though not required, the councils agreed to a 2/3 majority requirement for adoption. Evangelical's council unanimously voted to change worship to 8:45. Faith's council had a simple majority but not the required 2/3 majority and the motion failed.

So for now, worship times will stay remain at 9am and 10:30am, and the councils will discuss independently how they wish to proceed in ways which respect the needs and good order of each congregation and the partnership.

Historic Service Starting Times from Newsletters on Faithluthroy.com

The official service starting time, while Pastor Cordes was Pastor, was 10:30. However, due to the length of commute from ELCP, the actual starting time was often closer to 10:45 as I recall.

November, 2015	Pastor Steve Cordes	10:30
	Transitional Leader - Supply Pastors	10:30
June, 2016	Pastor Jennifer Wegter-McNelly	10:30

At Pastor Jennifer's request, to allow adequate time to close out at ELCP, travel to Faith, and center for the FLC Worship service the FLC Council approved a service starting time of 11:00.

January, 2017	Pastor Jennifer Wegter-McNelly	11:00
May, 2017	Transitional Leader - Supply Pastors	11:00
October, 2017	New Covenant Agreement - FLC & ELCP. FLC service to start no earlier than 10:45.	11:00
	Transitional Leader - Supply Pastors	11:00
December, 2019	Pastor Judy Converse	11:00

Era of Covid 19

April, 2020	Zoom only. Zoom starting time did vary.	10:00
April, 2021	Alternating FLC - ELCP parking lot communion, Zoom at 10:30	10:30
May, 2021	Confirmation, Pastor Judy Retires	10:30

Post Pastor Judy and Call of Pastor Kate - In person and Zoom

June, 2021	In person resumes - plus Zoom	10:30
	Transitional Leader - Supply Pastors	10:30
November, 2021	Pastor Kate Drefke + Zoom	10:30
May, 2022	Pastor Kate Drefke + Zoom	10:30

Fred Howard, Interim Editor

ADVENTURE WITH BLOCKS

The quilt featured this month is the first quilt pieced by Diane Anderson. Diane is new to quilting. She learned how to thread the sewing machine, choose fabric, cut the fabric, and construct a quilt. Joining our quilt group is easy. Diane can tell you her experience being a novice quilter in a group of experienced quilters.

This colorful quilt will be included in our donation of quilts to St. Paul's Center.



Evelyn Jarosz, Master Quilter

Pastor Kate's May 1 Installation

Thank you! My installation as your pastor was a wonderful occasion. I remain thankful for this call to be your partner in ministry and look forward to our mutual discernment of the Holy Spirit's work in, through, and among us.

Thanks!

Pr Kate

Helen Inglis (September 18, 1926 – April 18, 2020) May 23 Memorial Service

A moving and fun time together took place on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend as the 5 Inglis children shared their adventures growing up under Helen's firm, focused, loving and determined mentorship. Members of the extended Inglis family from across the country were present and shared wonderful memories. Daughters Mary Chris Brauchli and Nancy Russell did a splendid job of organizing the service with Pastor Kate and hosting the luncheon that followed. Thanks for the wonderful remembrances of Helen, a long time pillar of St. John's Lutheran and then of Faith!

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

We ask that the Holy Spirit guide Pastor Kate and each of us as we discern and move forward in the coming years together!

Prayers of supplication for people suffering in war torn counties. 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 leading to the terror of destructive violence.

Continued prayers for healing and recovery for Larry Lansing.

Paul Haas who continues to do well at Van Rensselaer Manor. He has his cell phone 518-892-2231 and enjoys telephone calls from his friends.

Prayers of healing for Dimitri Cerrone who suffered a serious knee injury that will probably require surgery to repair. Pray that recovery will be complete and that he will be able to again participate in sports next year!

Prayers of healing for Bob Hayward as he recovers from a badly broken arm.

Prayers for renewal of our Congregations as we move into a new journey of faith, service and outreach in our communities.

Prayers of thanksgiving for Rev. Jim Hulihan, as he celebrates the 49th anniversary of his ordination on June 10th, 1973.

Leading Our June and July Worship

Lay Assistants

June 5 - Diane Dyer
June 12 - Evelyn Jarosz.
June 19 – The Bulls
June 26 - Bill Jarosz.

July 5 – Fred Howard
July 10 - Rich Anderson
July 17 – Carol Karpien
July 24 - Diane Dwyer
July 31 – Evelyn Jarosz

Pentecost – June 5

As we have done in the past, flowering plants will be bought and placed on the Altar for Pentecost. Shortly after this service, the plants will be planted outside to enhance the beauty of our Church grounds. If you would like to contribute to this program please pass on your donations to Donna Van Zandt. Thank you in advance for your donation!

Flowers on the Altar

June 19 – In loving memory of Kevin Morgan given by Barbara Morgan.

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, fill in the flower chart hanging in the Narthex Bulletin Board. Please fill in your name along with who the flowers are in memory 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.

We Are In Need of YOUR Help!

Come One, Come All! Faith is looking for help on Sundays. All generations are welcomed. Experienced or Inexperienced does not matter. We just need a little bit of your time and help. From time to time, would you be willing to share your help and/or your thoughts? Would you consider being a lay assistant, or would someone in your family be willing to be a lay assistant? Your spouse or significant other? One of your children or a grandchild? The church is also looking for members to sit on the Worship Committee. Come and help with the decisions that are made for our worship services.

If you or someone you know is willing to help, please let me know. Any and all questions can be addressed either by email or by speaking to me in person following one of our church services.

I ask that you give these requests some prayerful thought. Thank you.

God's Peace,
Donna Van Zandt

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the July, 2022 newsletter is Sunday, June 26, 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=ZVJDL3FxBjZSN2ZHTTFlUGo3TVVmdz09>

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>