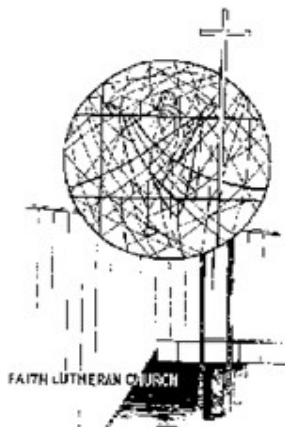


Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, NY 12182



# ***Following Faith***

**NOVEMBER 2022**

*Let us come before his presence with Thanksgiving  
Ps. 95:2  
Happy Thanksgiving!*



**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)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
In Person and Zoom  
10:45 AM at Faith

[www.faithlutherantroy.com](http://www.faithlutherantroy.com)

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

### Church Council Officers

### (Committee Assignments)

### Council Members

Bill Jarosz, President (Property)  
Vacant, Vice President (TBD)  
Carol Karpien, 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 Karpien, 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.

### Pastor's Desk

It feels too early for me to write about *how excited* I am for Advent, even though it's coming at us soon. So, a brief spoiler: this coming year our gospel readings will come primarily from Matthew, and even though we don't really read it as part of the assigned readings, Matthew opens with a genealogy of Jesus that is many, many, many generations in length. But within the line of men from whom baby Jesus is descended, Matthew's writer names four women (before his mother, Mary). The hearers of this gospel would have heard Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and known their stories. We will spend time this hearing and learning their stories, and- from our Christian how they each point to Jesus as the Messiah. What exactly the worship and mid-week study looks like is still being worked out, am *super excited* to share time with all of you exploring these stories. Advent is a season of hopeful anticipation and for THE Divine Liberator in a human world of injustice and prayer for us all as we approach the season is that we, too, will be courageous, hopeful, righteous, and faithful like our Advent Mothers.  
In peace,  
Pr. Kate Drefke



*Genealogy of Christ* by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman. Used without permission from <https://sanctifiedart.org/poster-prints/genealogy-of-christ>

PS Yes, I know that was really short. But I wrote a lot about a lot of things I was trying to be mindful of not making the newsletter

original and Advent perspective- rest of our but, again, I women's preparation despair. My be Mothers.

of other too long.

## Ask the Pastor

*Why is there a single pink candle in the Advent wreath?*

Excellent question! First, the Advent wreath with its four candles for each week of the season, or five candles if you add a “Christ candle” for Christmas, is used for our personal or communal piety. Basically, some of us really like to have one to help us center our prayer and devotion throughout the Advent (and sometimes Christmas) season(s). Used in worship, it’s symbolic rather than a requirement of corporate worship. To address the candle color question, some people like to use all blue (this is my preference), and some people like to use three purple and one pink. Blue is the liturgical color of the season symbolizing things like penitence,\* hope, and royalty. The purple (or violet) candles symbolize repentance and fasting, while the pink (or rose) candle represents joy. In the Catholic Church (and some Lutheran, other mainline protestant denominations), the third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete (Latin for “rejoice”) Sunday, so that’s when the pink candle is lit. If there’s a fifth candle, it’s white symbolizing Christ and is lit during Christmas. When used in congregations, the white/center candle is usually the big, formal Christ candle.



If you are going to make/use an Advent wreath at home, you can use any colors you want. I like blue. Lowell likes the purple and pink combo. I have an old, round, metal one wreath that holds five tapers (pictured; it looks like 10y ago I had 3 blue and 1 pink. I don’t know why). At one point Lowell had a glass tea light holder that was five spots in a line so he could order them however he wanted (e.g.: center the white, put the white at the end, etc.). You can use single candle holders arranged (and re-arranged) on an end table.

\*We tend to emphasize Advent as a season of preparation and hope more than its older meaning of introspection and penitence.

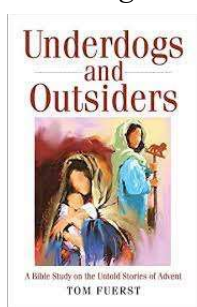
## “What’s with this new purple book?”

Way back in the days of early European immigration to North America, the Lutherans were known as “people of the book” because even though there wasn’t much of anything they could bring with them on the boat, they made room for their hymnals. Depending on your particular interests and curiosities, the history of Lutheran hymnals in North America is kind of fun to learn. But keeping it super short... back in 1978, after many years of collaboration between a few different Lutheran bodies, the LBW\*- the green book- was published. It contained a couple of liturgies (settings) for communion, a few hundred hymns and became the standard worship resource for almost everyone that had participated in its creation, and then the ELCA when it was formed by merger in 1987. In 1995 the ELCA published WOV- the blue book- as a supplement to the LBW. It added a couple new liturgies and just under another 200 hymns. A few years after that, work began on a new hymnal/ worship book, and in 2006 the ELW- the “cranberry” or “new red” book was published. Its 10 communion settings and several hundred hymns are comprised of roughly 80% LBW and WOV material, plus another ~20% “new” material. Over the last 10-15 years it has become the standard resource for ELCA worship and nearly every ELCA congregation uses it today. (There are still some using the LBW; but, really, get with this century already.) In late 2020, the ELW got its own supplement, the ACS, or “the purple book.” It gives us a couple new settings, including one written with evening worship in mind, and ~200 new hymns and songs. Its content was put together keeping in mind the need for more worship material to address things like communal grief (see p.61-66). There are far more



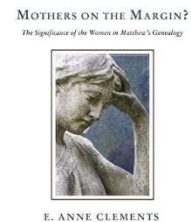


*Underdogs and Outsiders: A Bible Study on the Untold Stories of Advent* (2016), by Tom Fuerst.



*Mothers on the Margin?: The Significance of the Women in Matthew's Genealogy* (2015), by E. Anne Clements.

Both these books are re-reads of a sort as I prep for Advent preaching and midweek study. Both cover Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba from similar and dissimilar perspectives. Fuerst's book is Advent specific. Part 1 of Clements' book is primarily about these five mothers, while Part 2 is about the collective significance of women in the gospel narrative.



## **Stewardship Committee Report - Fall 2022**

Thank you all for your continuing financial support of Faith Lutheran Church during these difficult times. That said, most of us are keenly aware of the effects of recent inflation on our households. While we are reminded of this every time we purchase groceries or fill up our gas tanks, it may be less obvious that inflation is negatively affecting our church's financial health. Heating, electricity, and general operating costs are increasing. At the same time, weekly offerings are less than is needed to meet our budget.

Offerings have declined significantly over the summer and have not increased as they usually do in the fall. In fact, September's offerings were \$1000 less than August's. Clearly this is not where we want to be.

With this in mind, it is most important that we continue to give generously and regularly as we are able. Please prayerfully consider how together we may accomplish this.

## **Our Faith at Work**

### **November Mission of the Month**

The mission for November is Joseph's House. Joseph's House, located in downtown Troy, provides emergency shelter and/or support services to an average of 1,000 men, women and children yearly. Central to Joseph's House mission is to provide non-judgmental services to end homelessness. Treating each person with dignity and respect, and promoting self-determination empowers guests and tenants to make healthier choices. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

September Mission Collection was \$228 (for Habitat for Humanity)

Thank you!

Katie Bonnier, Inreach/Outreach.

## **October 3, 2022 Council Meeting Highlights**

Opening Devotion - Pastor Kate opened with a reading from *Luther's Small Catechism*

Treasurer's Report - No report due to illness. We will receive the report at November meeting.

President's Report – Bill Jarosz reported that more people are attending via Zoom. The new new hymnal is working out well. He appreciates the work done by Council members.

Pastor's Report - Pastor reported that she officiated at her first wedding at ELCP. She will attend the Synod-wide ministerium on Oct. 17 & 18. The Partnership Council will meet on 10/25 (ELCP @ 7:00 pm) Catechism classes will start at 10am on 10/05.

#### Committee Reports

- **Inreach/Outreach** – Kate Bonnier & Doug Adamek  
Bonnier is sending out cards and asks that people share information about happy events to increase outreach.
- **Missions** – Kate Bonnier - September's mission contribution was \$243 to Ebenzer Trust School and Orphanage in Zambia. Unity House mission contribution was sent.
- **Education** – No report
- **Property** – Bill Jarosz: We are waiting on information about the doors. It is anticipated that Fane will continue to plowing for us.
- **Worship** – Planning continues and new music is being introduced.
- **Partnership Council** – October 25 @ ELCP. Budget and Holiday services will be on the agenda.

#### Business at hand

- **Policy writing team**
  - Hall Rental agreement
  - Memorials gift agreementJarosz, Bonnier, and Karpfen met and worked on drafts of both agreements. The Council did a first reading and discussed what changes might be necessary. Karpfen will contact Ryan Ebner at Synod for permission to use language and content from the sample gift policy he sent. Adamek will see if we have a list of procedures and policies for hall renters.

#### New Business **Roberta will be retiring as treasurer.**

She will be contacting two individuals who may be interested in collaborating on Treasurer's position.

#### Old Business

Pastor continues to research printers for the office.

Next regular meeting **Monday, November 7, 2022 at 7:00pm. - Zoom**

Joys and Concerns - Kathy Adamek is doing well. Prayers for Pastor's father-in-law who is having knee surgery and for the victims of hurricane Ian.

Closing with Lord's Prayer      Adjournment: 8: 10

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



### Stars, Stars, and more Stars

The quilt featured this month was planned and constructed by Diana Rieker.

Diana especially likes to create beautiful quilts with fabrics from her stash that she has saved from previous projects.

Our quilt group welcomes new members. We'd like to have you join us. We meet Monday and/or Saturday mornings which ever fits your schedule best.

Evelyn Jarosz, Master Quilter

### AMONG OUR PEOPLE

*If you have a special Joy or Concern that you would like to have included in this section, please email your item to: [farmerf169@aol.com](mailto:farmerf169@aol.com) by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if he is unable to answer.*

**We ask that the Holy Spirit guide us all as we discern and move forward in the coming years together!**

**Bonnie Speanburg-Snyder has recently been diagnosed with cancer. The operation to remove the pancreatic cancer and other affected tissue was successful and is believed to have removed all of the cancerous sites. She is currently undergoing chemotherapy. Please pray with her and her family that she makes a complete and successful recovery.**

**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 a new cell phone number - 518-203 6547 - and enjoys telephone calls from his friends.** His address is the same: 85 Bloomingrove Drive, Unit B – room 318A, Troy, NY 12180.



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

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

**Leading Our October Worship**

Lay Assistants

Nov. 6 - Fred Howard

Nov. 13 - Diane Dyer

Nov. 20 - Evelyn Jarosz

Nov. 27 - Rich Anderson

During November the new Flower Chart will be hung on the bulletin board in the back of the Narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the Altar during 2023, locate the date, and fill in the line. (Who the flowers are being dedicated to as well as who is placing the flowers on the Altar. 'In loving memory of, or in honor of \_\_\_\_\_'. Given by \_\_\_\_\_!'

**Flowers on the Altar for November**

Nov. 13 - In loving memory of Arthur and Hedwig Ude. Given by Barbara Morgan.

Nov. 20 - In loving memory of Pastor Steve Cordes, Pastor Bill Hempel, and Pastor Jennifer Wegter-McNelly

Nov. 27 - In loving memory of Donna Brombacher and Dick Walsh. Given by Janet Walsh.

The price of each bouquet will continue to be \$19.00.

Checks should be made out to WELCA. See Donna Van Zandt for payment and/or questions.

The Holiday season is quickly approaching, and it's time to start thinking about the poinsettia orders. Later in November and then in the December Newsletter, a form will be made available for you to place your order. These flowers will be placed on the Altar shortly before our Christmas services and after.

**Newsletter Deadline**

The newsletter item deadline for the December, 2022 newsletter is Monday, November 28, 2022. Please email your 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=ZVJDL3FhRjZSN2ZHTTFlUo3TVVmdz09>

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>