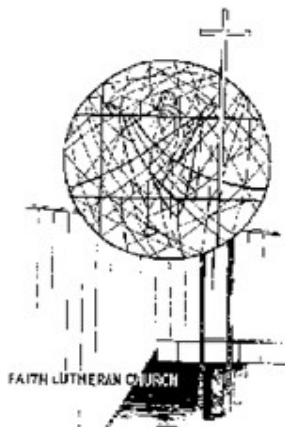


Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

November 2023

***Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.***

Psalm 100:4

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**

Bill Jarosz, President (Property)

Sara Martin, Vice President (Education)

Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)

Linda Hulihan, Treasurer Trainee

Errol and Heather Bull, Financial Secretary

Doug Adamek (Inreach/outreach, Missions, Property)

Katie Bonnier (Inreach/Outreach, Missions)

Errol Bull, (Property)

Evelyn Jarosz (Stewardship)

Dana Cerrone (At Large)

Roberta Hayward, Treasurer trainer, at large

Partnership Council – Linda Hulihan, Bill 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.

Pastor's Desk...

October ends and November begins with back-to-back commemorations and feasts. October 31 is our commemoration of the Reformation, and November 1 is the Feast of All Saints. Both are full of resurrection imagery. In the Reformation, old ways of doing church died (and so did people because war; people *really* dislike change!), and new ways of being church arose. At All Saints we remember our baptisms, how we have been joined with Christ and the saints eternal in death, resurrection, and new life. The promises of Jesus' resurrection are made tangible on this side of the grave remembering and honoring our ancestors in the faith. By living in God and sharing the faith as they shared it, we are their resurrected life in this world.

Politically, of course, with the Medieval period ending and the Renaissance beginning, the average person didn't care all that much about the Church in Rome v. the emerging Evangelical church. In the Reformation it was the elite, like kings and provincial princes, and priests who determined if a territory was Catholic or Protestant. Though Henry VIII's reasons for going "protestant" were different from Luther's followers', there were a couple centuries in Britain where the Crown determined which a person was. (There's even some debate about whether or not Shakespeare was a closet-Catholic, which during his lifetime, it was illegal to be in England.) Going to church when you can't read or write, or barely can in your local language, and the language of the faith is Latin, there wasn't a lot of theological debate. One just went along with whatever the priest said, and they weren't exactly scholars themselves. Luther wrote his catechisms in part because the priests he encountered were woefully uninformed. Those 95 Theses and much of his subsequent work, like translating the Bible into the local language, were to bring people into the theological discussion. In our world today, we grew up learning to read and write. We- or at least most of us who are reading this- also grew up going to church and Sunday School. Think about something you heard or read at church, in Sunday School, that when you went and read it for yourself

you thought something along the lines of, “Oh! I didn’t realize it said *that!*” Go on. I’ll wait. ... Got one? I often think about the flood story. In Sunday School it was “Noah’s Ark.” God told Noah to build an ark and take animals aboard two-by-two. After the flood, Noah released a dove who brought back an olive branch to signal it was safe to get off. Then God put the rainbow in the sky as a promise to never flood the earth like that again. Read the whole story (Gen. 6-9) and you get that God was going to destroy everyone and everything before remembering Noah was a righteous man. Once the rains had stopped, God had to remember Noah again and make the waters recede. After getting off the boat, Noah planted a vineyard, made wine, and got drunk and naked alone in his tent, then cursed his son Canaan. That’s not something we tell kids.

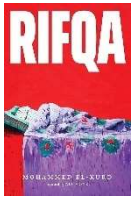
Now trying to find a way back from that tangent... what was my point here? Oh, yeah! In the Reformation, the common person was invited into scripture to read and wonder for themselves. We died to a sort of spiritual ignorance, and rose to new life in the freedom to ask questions. I don’t mean to imply there was no spiritual life for people before; learn about the different people and saints we commemorate throughout the year. But, with a new education, we were born anew, able to read and write, ask questions of one another, and be God’s people in a way we hadn’t before. Our ancestors in the faith, the ones we know in our lives, the ones before us we learn about through family stories, and the ones we never know we never knew, live on in us. We are the faithful ancestors of the saints to come. The Reformations of today will be their spiritual inheritance and we will live on in them, as we are all united with, in, and by God eternally through our baptisms.

In Christ,

Pr. Kate Drefke

Reading

Rifqa (©2021), by Mohammed El-Kurd.



I'm trying to cure some of my ignorance about everything going on in the Gaza Strip. How did this all come to be? What is it like to live in this place as the occupied, as the occupying? I closed my sermon Oct. 22 with El-Kurd's poem, "Born On Nabka Day." (Nabka, Arabic for "catastrophe," "refers to the occupation of 78% of Palestine through ethnic cleansing and massacres and the creation of 'Israel' on that territory in 1948" (p. 4). Palestinians commemorate Nabka on May 15th.)

This moving collection of poetry is named for his grandmother, Rifqa, telling of her exile from Haifa and his family's dispossession in Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem. You can hear him on his spoken word EP, *Bellydancing on Wounds*.

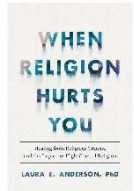
Huge (©2023), by Brent Butt.



Lots of good new books got published in October! This fun read is Butt's debut novel, a "dark thriller." I'm maybe a quarter of the way through so it's not dark yet, but I'm seeing the potential for a good thrill (especially that first chapter's end!) from the Canadian comedian I know best from his TV sitcom, *Corner Gas* (2004-2009). Set in 1994, a couple of comedians on the road are trying to make their money. They're joined by a newcomer and local who says he wants the experience and learning, but that's not true. Something about him feels a bit "off," but it is comedy, so ... [shrug]?

The cover's tagline reads, "In comedy, killing is a good thing."

When Religion Hurts You: Healing from Religious Trauma and the Impact of High-Control Religion (©2023), by Laura E. Anderson, PhD.



Another new October publication, Dr. Anderson looks at trauma as it is formed specifically in/by high-control religions (HCRs). People who come from a HCR may experience things that look a lot like the abuse seen in domestic violence. Dr. Anderson has taken the Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel (<https://www.theduluthmodel.org/wheels/>) and adapted it for Religious Power and Control, adding in things like "spiritual abuse" and "sexuality and gender defining." She defines

abuse as what happens to a person, and trauma as the body and nervous system's response to what happened to them. Many people who experience religious abuse and trauma, and are able to leave those abusive systems, choose not be part of religious communities again, and many point to their abuse as proof that God either doesn't exist, or doesn't care. The ELCA has it's problems, for sure!, but it isn't a HCR. Reading this, thinking about the harms religion has caused to our neighbors, let's ask how we can be and build supportive communities of faith.

Advent is Coming!



As you may remember from last year, Advent is kind of my favorite season of the Church year. In this/ next* year's sermon series we will be talking about Jesus: who we say he is and our sources of influence in how we image and relate to him. To prepare, I need YOUR** HELP. Please complete the survey online (link below), or the bulletin insert version that will be available Nov. 5.

This survey asks you, as Jesus asked the disciples, "who do you say [Jesus] is?" And then think about *why* you say those things- what scripture, music, art, people, etc. have influenced your images and understandings of Jesus throughout your life?

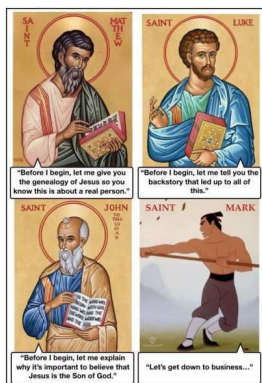
Survey link: <https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/2V5TjqcW>

(Please note: the guidelines of this free survey means it will stop taking responses November 7.)

*because Advent is the beginning of a new Church year

**even those of you that we don't see most Sundays

Gospel Read



In preparation for the new Church year (Advent 1 is Dec. 3), we will gather as we did last year to read through the upcoming year's main Gospel. This time it's Mark, the shortest of the four, so "let's get down to business!"

When: Nov. 19, 1-3(ish) pm

Where: Poestenkill undercroft

Bring: your Bible, and a treat to share if so desired

----- End of From Pastor's Desk -----

Letters to the Editor

None this month.

October 2, 2023 Council Meeting Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Bill Jarosz.

Pastor Kate's opening devotion was a reading from Psalms followed by a prayer.

Motion to approve the agenda. Carried

Motion to approve minutes of September 11 as written. Carried

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Carried

Motion to accept the Financial Secretary's report: Carried

President's Report:

Dana will give the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall an extra cleaning in anticipation of Bishop's visit Sunday, October 15th.

The family worship service seemed to be enjoyed by those who attended.

The Catechism class will begin the fall and winter session October 3rd.

Pastor's Report:

Bishop Miller will attend the family worship Sunday, October 15th. He will deliver the sermon for discussion.

Pastor will be attending Synod Pastor's Restored Ministerium Conference October 23rd.

Partnership Council will meet in October at a date to be announced.

Committee Reports:

Missions – Katie presented options to expand and/or replace designated mission giving for 2024. Some of the suggestions to include in 2024 giving are: Rensselaer County Search and Rescue, Troy Foundation for excellence in Education K-12 in Troy School District, Hope & Community Center, Rensselaer Land Trust and Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, True Purpose Academy, Troy Area United Ministries

Motion to keep the October, November, and December mission giving as listed was made by Evelyn Jarosz, second Doug Adamek and carried.

A discussion followed regarding a procedure to allocate missions for 2024. It was decided by consensus to choose mission giving for the first quarter at the November meeting.

Stewardship: Evelyn will meet with Pastor October 10th to discuss a stewardship campaign for 2024.

Property: The toilet in the lady’s room has been repaired. The old tractor has been offered to Mike Moroskey. Errol and Ryland will replace burned out lights in the exit signs. Erroll and Ryland removed branches damaged in the summer storms.

Worship: Investigating ideas for the Advent season. Pastor noted that the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve Sunday are the same Sunday. Pastor is suggesting having shared services in the morning and the evening with ELCP.

Partnership Council: will meet in October

Finance/Investments: no report

Old Business:

Church Audit has been mailed to Synod.

Financial Secretary replacement: The president is pleased to inform the council that Heather and Errol Bull have offered to fill the position.

The envelopes for 2024 have arrived.

Fred Howard will purge the Newsletter mailing list shortly.

New Business:

Roberta Hayward and Doug Adamek have begun the review of the church constitution.

Joys and Concerns: Linda will be having knee surgery October 11th, Katie’s husband will have shoulder surgery, Sara’s parents are maintaining their health status, the missing girl, Charlotte Sena, has been found.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 with the Lord’s prayer.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 6, 2023 on Zoom.

Acting Secretary,
Evelyn Jarosz

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

Stewardship - Count our Blessings

How is it that God has blessed our congregation in the last year?

We are a small congregation that over the years have developed in faith and fellowship working and studying together for the mutual benefit of all.

Faith Lutheran Church has the blessing of a young, energetic pastor, Kate Drefke. Our pastor, along with the Worship Committee, have developed an idea for a new and exciting worship service the third Sunday of each month. It is clearly a work in progress but observing the attendees after service one will notice the conversations continuing along the lines of the service theme for that Sunday.

A Catechism Bible class was formed which included members of Faith and ELC of Poestenkill. Beginning in September of 2022, the class studied "Luther's Small Catechism". It was both informative and helpful in our faith's journey. October 3, 2023 the Catechism class began a Bible study "The Greatest Story - Bible Introduction" using the Lutheran Study Bible the New Revised Standard Version.

This past summer Faith, ELCP, and Gilead shared a worship service and church picnic hosted by Gilead. This was an idea presented by the Multi-congregational Committee. A wonderful potluck lunch was shared by the three congregations.

Coffee hour has been brought back following the Covid shut down. The In Reach/Out Reach Committee has experimented with holding coffee hour before and after the service.

Have you noticed the theme of the last year seems to be "Fellowship"?

Each month, the Mission Committee sends funds collected in our mission offerings to designated missions. Because of your giving to these missions our church reaches out to our community and the world.

The Property Committee is dedicated to the upkeep and maintenance of the church properties.

Faith has the blessing of church committees reaching out to the congregation, the community and the world spreading the "Good News" God is Alive. Surely, God is present and at work in our church as we explore ways to move into our future.

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 \$160 (for Habitat for Humanity)

Katie Bonnier, Missions

Thanksgiving Baskets

As Faith has so generously done in the past, we are looking for monetary donations to provide Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets for some of our local community families in need. It is my hope that we will be able to provide an enjoyable Thanksgiving dinner for 4 local families. Due to the generosity of Carolyn Coleman and her family, the turkeys will be provided. All of the extra trimmings will come from your donations. Monetary donations of any kind will be appreciated. Cash or check is fine.

Thank you in advance for anything you are able to contribute. Should you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Donna Van Zandt.

Creative Threads – Quilts for St. Paul’s Center

The month of October our congregation is sending support to St. Paul's Center in Rensselaer. This year Creative Threads is donating 7 quilts as part of this mission.

Diane Anderson chose the fabrics and constructed the beautiful quilt pictured which is included in our donation.

Our group welcomes new members of any skill levels. We love to pass on the love of quilting.

Evelyn Jarosz, Master Quilter



Serving our November Sunday Programs

Lay Assistants

- Nov 5 - Carol Karpien
- Nov 12 - Fred Howard
- Nov 19 - Diana Reiker (coffee hour service)
- Nov 26 - Bill Jarosz

Flowers on the Altar for November

- Nov 5 - All Saint’s Sunday
- Nov 12 – In Memory of Arthur & Hedwig Ude given by Barbara Morgan
- Nov 19 – In Memory of Pastor Cordes, Pastor Hempel, and Pastor Wegter-McNelly
- Nov 26 – Christ the King Sunday. In Memory of Dick Walsh & Donna Brombacher by Janet Walsh

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, fill in the flower chart hanging on 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

Coffee Hour

The coffee hour service on the third Sunday (November 19) continues this month.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Nov. 5 service | Errol & Heather Bull – after |
| Nov. 12 service | Ron & Pat Turcotte – after |
| Nov 19 Coffee Hour | Fred & Michele Howard –
Service in Fellowship Hall |
| Nov 26 service | Dave & Dana Cerrone – after |

There is a signup sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex if you would like to be a coffee hour host.

Counting Team

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Nov 5 | Ev & Bill Jarosz |
| Nov 12 | Rich & Diane Anderson |
| Nov 19 | Fred & Michele Howard |
| Nov 26 | Errol & Heather Bull |

If you would like to volunteer to help with counting and depositing our weekly offering, please see Bill Jarosz or Errol Bull.

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, or by phone at 518 421 4576 and leave a voicemail if there is no answer.

We ask that the Holy Spirit guide us all as we discern and move forward. We pray especially for individual guidance as we commit to personal participation in our congregation's future thru sharing our time, talent, and treasure.

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.

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

Prayers for Nadeen Thompson, who is rehabbing from a broken hip, for encouragement and success as she works to regain full mobility.

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 are leading to the terror of destructive violence.

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

Prayers of thanksgiving for Linda Hulihan who is making recovery successful knee surgery.

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.

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.

POINSETTIAS

Again, this year, we will have poinsettias adorning the Altar for Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in loving memory of or in honor of someone, please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than December 17, 2023.

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) at \$13.00 each in loving memory or in honor of:

Given by:

My plant(s) may be given to the sick or shut-ins. Yes _____ No _____

Please make checks payable to WELCA

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the December, 2023 newsletter is Monday, November 27, 2023. 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=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>