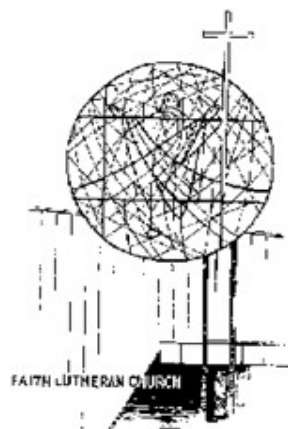


Faith Lutheran Church  
50 Leverage Road  
Troy, NY 12182



# ***Following Faith***

**SEPTEMBER 2022**



**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 1627 (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**

Bill Jarosz, President (Property)

Vacant, 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**

These are being discontinued during the summer. See phone contact information above

**From the Pastor's Desk...**

As we come to the end of summer 2022, we are also this year are coming to the end of our two special series. In the first we've been talking about mission and discernment. The Triune God calls to us to join in Their divine dance of ongoing creation, compassion for the neighbor, and holy liberating chaos freeing all peoples and living things from oppression and injustice. We've asked the question, "Who is the church?" and talked about how we in our baptisms have been joined with Christ in life, death, and resurrection; we are the many members of the Body of Christ. And in our third installment, we talked about how we discern our place in the Body, and our gifts for ministry. The bulk of what follows now is "gifts" portion of that sermon edited for readability here.

Let's talk about gifts now. These are sometimes just innate or natural skills, the things we are "good at." For example, we might say someone has a gift for numbers and understanding finances; it's as if they don't even to try! Or someone else is a gifted teacher sharing a love of learning with their students, making obscure concepts easy to grasp.

But these natural talents also require work to develop. Serena Williams, who just announced her retirement from professional tennis in early August, is obviously a very gifted athlete, but she did not achieve her wins and #1 ranking by luck or chance; she gave hours upon hours to training, developing her serve, backhand, ... all those other tennis things I don't know. Another athlete, at least early on, may have put in the same or more time as Serena, but lacking the same gift for the game, they did not achieve the same professional heights.

The Spirit has gifted each of us for work in the C/church, the Body of Christ. These gifts are entrusted to us to develop and share with the world, like humanity was given all the earth, all life of land, sky, and water was entrusted to our care; not for us to dominate and destroy, but for our mutual nurturing and growth, to learn from and with. We- all living things and our environments- are interconnected systems, like the members, parts, of a body.

Think for a moment about some of your gifts. What are they? How did you first realize them? How have you tended to these gifts, developed them? How have you used them? For whose gain?

Unsure what your gifts are, what you have to offer the Body of Christ? There are lots of different tools out there to help you. At the end of this is a link/web address for one through the ELCA. You can complete it online (yay computer “scoring”!) or print and “score” it yourself.

Paul wrote to the Roman community (Rom. 12:1-8) about “sober judgment” and not being conformed to the ways of the world but to be transformed by the renewing of the mind and to use the gifts of God as we are members of one body together in Christ. Paul knew that the people then, like people now, are sometimes- often- afraid to use their/our gifts, to be who they/we are in the Body of Christ. The world makes it easier to hide, to conform to a “path of least resistance” that serves idols over God. It is easier to stay silent than to speak out against injustice. It feels safer to let someone else risk their safety while we reap the benefits of their protest.

God called Moses (Ex. 3:7-12), saying, “I have seen the oppression, the injustice, the violence done to my people. You will go and set them free.” And when Moses said, “who am I that you send me?” God replied, “I will be with you. I’ve got your back. You have and will be given what you need to liberate my people.”

Paul wrote about the life of Jesus, how following him, transforms us away from the ideas and false teachings of this age, and towards community in God’s infinite diversity found in all peoples regardless of color, culture, or language. One Body. Many Members.

God calls us, too, to dismantle systems of injustice and liberate God’s people from oppression and violence. In faith we trust that when we ask, “who am I?” that God says to us, “I will be with you. I’ve got your back. You have and will be given what you need to liberate my people.”

How do you hear God calling?

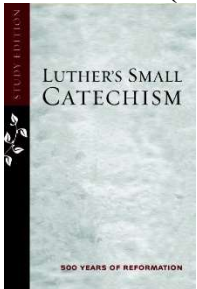
How has God gifted you for the holy work of being human?

Yours in Christ,  
Pr. Kate

Sometimes we find it difficult to name our gifts and talents. Sometimes we can name several, but still not realize others. Here’s spiritual gifts assessment tool from the ELCA that I used with groups before. If you need a hard copy printed for you, let me know (or have a friend print it for you and have fun comparing).

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools>

### **Catechism! (for the already confirmed) \***



Let’s have some fun doing our own catechism class! Faith formation is lifelong and there are always new things to learn, even about the stuff you learned once upon a time. We’ll do a 2-year cycle, meeting weekly-ish from October thru May. You can “commit” to both years (recommended, obviously), or just for the stuff that interests you.

For this first year, we’ll start with the Small Catechism then move into things about Church and Lutheran history, the church year, worship, etc., including focusing on whatever questions you bring.

Year 2 will look at the Bible, then other writings from the early church and beyond.

*If interested please let Pr. Kate know and what day/s and time/s you would like to meet. The sooner there’s a few people saying the same day and approximate time, the sooner we can announce something more concrete and get started.*

**Day and time:** TBD Tuesday or Wednesday mornings? Early afternoons? 60-90 minutes

**Location:** Poestenkill and Faith will each host a couple of months at a time

**Book:** Obviously you'll want to bring your Bible. We'll also use *Luther's Small Catechism, Study Edition* as our "base" text.

\*The "non-confirmed" or "not yet" confirmed are also very welcome and if interested, will affirm their baptisms Pentecost 2024.

## Reading Watching

I've been bad about reading this past month, but Lowell and I have been watching some good TV and movies as I crochet, and I'd like to recommend a few.



*A League of Their Own* (2022- present, watch on Prime Video)

Yes, like the movie of the same name, this is about Women's Professional Baseball during WWII, centering the story on a fictionalized version of the Rockford Peaches. The characters are different, coming with more complex backstories. The show does a decent job of showing the different realities of women and racial minorities. I'm hoping for a second season!

*For All Mankind* (2019- present, watch on Apple TV)



Some/many of you lived through Space Race of the 1960s, witnessing in real-time the first man on the moon. This speculative historical show asks, "What if the Soviets had gotten the first man on the moon instead of the US?" Among some of the first season's spoilers: the US is the first to build a base on the moon; a Russian woman getting into space pushes US bureaucrats to send US women to space; and Ted Kennedy is president. Each season takes place about 10 years from the last and there are "news clips" summarizing each year in the alternate timeline, followed by the real history.



*Good Luck to You, Leo Grande* (2022, watch on Hulu)

Nancy is a widow, a retired religious education teacher, and has never had an orgasm. Having lived a sheltered life, but wanting something more, to experience things she thought she never could, she nervously hires a male sex worker. Meeting in a hotel room over a few sessions she opens up to herself and begins to question some of her long-held assumptions about the world and other people, including her relationship with her daughter.



*Jerry and Marge Go Large* (2022, watch on Paramount+)

Based a true story, Jerry is retired from the local Kellogg factory before he wanted to be. Always good with numbers he finds a way to beat the lottery. When his wife finds out they join forces, win big, then share their method with their town co-op style. The movie asks questions about community and demonstrates a difference between sharing and hoarding wealth.

## Ask the Pastor

It's been requested that we add a little feature to the newsletter called "Ask the Pastor" where you can submit questions (email, text, grab me after worship and say, "for you next...") that I answer here. And the first question is...

"Why do you say, 'Jesus the Christ'?"

I say "Jesus the Christ" because Christ, like Messiah, is a title. Christ comes from the Greek *Christos* and Messiah is from the Hebrew *Mashiach*. Both mean "anointed one" or "one who is anointed." In the ancient world people like kings and priests were anointed as a show of divine promise. So, Jesus is the anointed one. Saying either "Jesus Christ" or "Jesus the Christ" is correct, and comes down to a personal preference or piety. You will likely hear newer pastors (those ordained in the last ~10 years) say "the" more than pastors that have been around longer.



## **Our Faith at Work**

### **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.

July Mission Collection was \$223 (for Young Women's Christian Association YMCA

Thank you!

Katie Bonnier, Inreach/Outreach.

### **Council Meeting Highlights - August 8, 2022**

Opening Devotion                      Pastor Kate opened with a prayer and group discussion of our stewardship of the earth and how we pray for creation.

Meeting Minutes            *Correction of September meeting date – September 6*

Treasurer's Report

*Roberta Hayward is catching up on billing ELCP. She reported that we are still not getting our investment dividends (Zeisser Fund) from Synod. We are owed all of 2021 and 2 quarters of 2022.*

Financial Secretary's Report    *Income slightly better.*

President's Report                      *Jarosz reported that the congregation enjoyed the hymn sing Sunday. Zoom participation is holding steady. Bill expressed his gratitude for the life and dedication of Bob Hayward. He explained that Bob was one of the reasons he and Evelyn made Faith their church home.*

Committee Reports

- **Inreach/Outreach** – Kate Bonnier & Doug Adamek-  
*Kate Bonnier and Pastor are sending cards and reaching out. Bonnier will share contact info in the next newsletter.*
- **Office Administration** – Diane Dyer  
*Pastor requested approval for the purchase of a new office printer.*
- **Education** – Sara Martin, Dave Cerrone  
*Martin will resume work after the summer hiatus. Sue Decker is our liaison with ELCP.*
- **Property** – Errol Bull, Bill Jarosz
- **Worship**– Donna VanZandt, Pastor Kate  
Van Zandt reported that Hymn  
Sing Sunday went well and she, Pastor and ELCP continue to collaborate on worship.
  
- Business at Hand            **Possible clean up and paint day**

*Jarosz is planning a work day in early September and hoping to get a dumpster for major cleaning.*

- **Policy writing team**

  - Hall Rental Agreement**

  - Memorials gift agreement**

  - Karpien attained a copy of an extensive policy, which can be reviewed with Faith's needs in mind.*

- **Roberta will be retiring as treasurer this September.**

  - Unless we have a volunteer, we will need to hire an administrative staff/bookkeeper. Jarosz may learn the position as a trainee while he continues as acting President until the end of his term. ELPC will be contacted as to whether they would be able to take over payroll. We should continue to look for a bookkeeper.*

**New Business** None

Next regular meeting **Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2022, at 7:00pm. - Zoom**

**Joys and Concerns**

Roberta and Rob Hayward have a new granddaughter, Katelynn Carol. Blessings to the family.

Closing with Lord's Prayer

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



This month's featured quilt was pieced by Evelyn Jarosz.

The quilt consists of hundreds of 2 1/2" squares to create this colorful quilt. It took many pleasurable hours of sewing and fellowship to complete.

The quilt groups meeting on Mondays in member's homes and Saturday at Cornerstone Community Church would welcome you to join us. This quilt will keep someone warm at St. Paul's Center this winter.

The quilters send a welcome to anyone who would like to join us - from beginner to experienced quilters and all levels in between. We meet Mondays and Saturdays.

Evelyn Jarosz, Master Quilter

### 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 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.**



## Leading Our September Worship

Lay Assistants

Sept. 4 - Carol Karpien  
Sept. 11 - The Bull's  
Sept. 18 - Fred Howard  
Sept. 25 - Diane Dyer

## Flowers on the Altar for September

Sept. 11 - In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Moroskey, Sr. Given by Mike Moroskey, Jr.

## Truth in Story: a look at the Parables of Jesus

### A Shared Opportunity Invitation

Reading and Discussion of the Parables

- What makes a story memorable and meaningful?
- How were the parables shocking?
- What do they say to me today?
- Lots of other questions!

### Let's explore together.

Wednesdays at 3:00 pm

Beginning September 14th

Gilead Lutheran Church

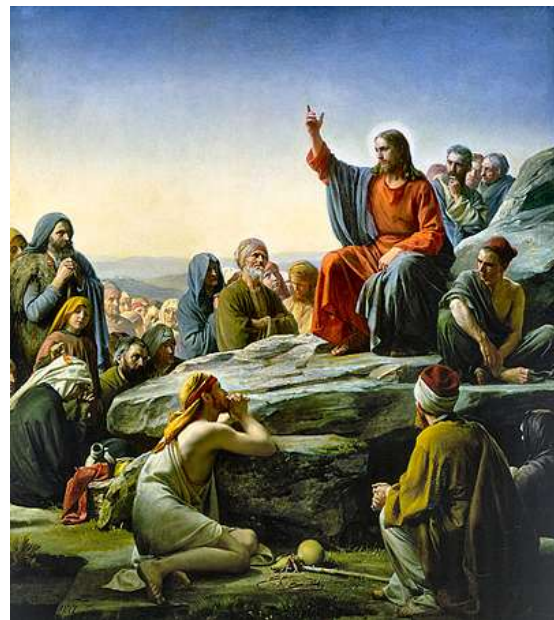
308 Brick Church Rd., Troy

(Town of Brunswick)

Sept. 18 - In loving memory of Celia Boomhower. Given by Bob and Joyce Duncan.

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.



## Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter item deadline for the September, 2022 newsletter is Sunday, August 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.

