

The Lutheran Contact

January 2019

Maria Knight, Editor

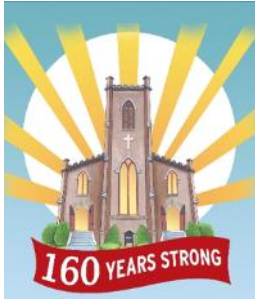


*May the
Joys
of
Christmas
Remain in
your Hearts
all Year !*



We celebrated the First Sunday of Christmas, with carols accompanied by Susan Russell and John Knight. Afterwards, we gathered by the Christmas Tree for a group picture.





First Evangelical Lutheran Church

325 Mill Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



The Reverend Deborah Hafner DeWinter—Pastor

Deacon Peter Slingerland
Mr. Eric Hepp—Music Director
Mrs. Maria Knight—Office Administrator

The Reverend Donald McCoid, Interim Bishop
Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA <http://www.MNYS.org>

The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America <http://www.elca.org>

Contact us: Office Phone: 845-452-6050
Website: www.firstlutheranpok.org E-mail: office@firstlutheranpok.org
Follow us on FaceBook: www.facebook.com/FirstLutheranPok

FELC Congregational Council

Council Officers for 2018

President	Linda Connors	(845) 454-4696
Vice-President	Diane Wood-Miller	(845) 575-6711
Treasurer	Kurt Bastian	(845) 454-8298
Financial Secretary	Chris Collins	(845) 473-6610
Council Secretary	Bill Nicoll	(845) 337-4598

2018 Council Members

Will Frank	(845) 702-8363
Eric Hepp	(845) 790-3381
Karen Butts	(845) 240-4111
Nancy Slingerland	(845) 204-6206
Alison Matos	(914) 447-5625
Shirley Mowell	(845) 229-7308

The Rev. Deborah Hafner DeWinter **Contact Information:**

845-452-6050 (Church) 516-650-2826 (Cell)
Email: PastorDeborah86@aol.com

Pastor is always available in case of emergency.

Please call the church office or Pastor directly to schedule an appointment or a home visit.

FROM the CHURCH OFFICE

The office will be open three -four days a week on a variable schedule this month. Phone messages and emails will be answered as soon as possible.

Deepest thanks to all for the kind Christmas wishes and very generous gift. I am so grateful for my FELC family and extend to all my very best wishes for the New Year.

With thanks ,
Maria Knight, Church Office Administrator

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2019 are now available in Fellowship Hall.

Please contact the church office if you wish to have yours sent by mail.

***When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.***

“The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations” By Howard Thurman

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every New Year we start off resolving to more earnestly follow the example of Jesus, don't we? It is our best intention to do so, isn't it? We *really, truly mean* to make a better job of ‘...*finding the lost, healing the broken, feeding the hungry, releasing the prisoner, rebuilding the nations, bringing peace among the people, and making music in the heart....*’

Perhaps we even resolve to join *Big Brothers/Big Sisters* as a mentor; regularly visit lonely folks at a local nursing home; volunteer at the “*Lunch Box*” around the corner at *Family Partnerships*; form a study group at our church to read and discuss the recent ELCA Social Statement: “*The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*;” ear-mark a financial gift to *Lutheran World Relief* which is busy helping to rebuild nations all around the world devastated by natural and human-made disasters; learn more about the work of *Lutheran Peace Fellowship* or the amazing interfaith *Fellowship of Reconciliation USA* based for 103 years just down the road in Nyack, NY; or perhaps even make a covenant with ourselves that we will set aside *holy time* each week to ‘make music in our hearts’ - smell the roses, meditate, pray, or maybe even *literally* play music to lift our spirits and soothe psyches strained by the chaos that threatens to drown out that ‘*still, small voice*’ of God whispering earnestly deep within our heart of hearts.

Our ELCA Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, warns us that “*New Year’s resolutions can be a burden because, except for the most disciplined among us, it’s a good bet we will make the same resolutions next year. The old creature is to be drowned daily but, as theologian Karl Barth once wrote, “...the old creature is drowned in baptism but is a good underwater swimmer....”*

So we all need some reassurance at the start of this New Year – and Bishop Eaton points us to the ultimate gift of reassurance in our lives: God’s GRACE:

“Here is where the great gift of grace, especially as it comes to us in baptism, helps us make sense of our lives and resolves the stress of New Year’s resolutions – it acknowledges that we are broken and does away with the false hope or the intolerable burden of our being able to make ourselves right.....[Grace].... ‘brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all those who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare.’” (-Luther’s Small Catechism)

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In other words, God's Grace sets us free to *keep on keeping on*, in faith! And where we fall short, God picks up the pieces and nudges us forward, like a loving parent nurtures the faltering first steps of a vulnerable toddler.

I love that this church family has '*kept on keeping on*' in faith for 163 years, now. As we listen to the reports of ministry over the course of the past year at our Annual Meeting on the 13th of January and vote on new congregational leadership, I invite each and every one of us to rejoice and marvel at all that God has done with us and through us as evidence of the gift of God's Grace, active right here and right now.....And I also invite each one of us to imagine what else God might do with us as we '*keep on keeping on*' in faith in this New Year of 2019.

"The work of Christmas begins...."

In the unity of Christ,

Pastor Deborah

ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION

Sunday January 13th after the Worship Service.

POTLUCK Luncheon-

Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share.

Snow Date: January 20th.



Pastoral 
Installation

INSTALLATION SERVICE

of Pastor Koenig at St. John's Lutheran Church

Sunday January 6th at 3:00pm

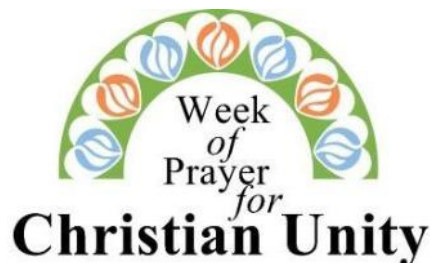
All are invited to attend. Reception to follow

PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY

Sunday January 27th @ 3:00pm.

The annual Service for the Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity.

The Chapel at Vassar College



SOCIAL ACTION



At Christmas Social Action together with the Germania club collected food for a total of 31 Christmas Baskets that were given to Grace Smith House, staff members at Lutheran Care and a local family . We also collected gift and necessary items for Lutheran Care Center, and for River Haven, the youth shelter of Hudson River Housing. Both agencies are grateful for our support.

As at Thanksgiving, the Christmas turkeys were donated by TOPS thanks to the generosity of Richard Crawford, the meat manager and Joe Dunderley, the store manager. It is a pleasure to watch them as they greet our own Theresia Kizina!

Thanks again for doing God's Work with your hands!

**January-Donation request for
St. Paul's Food Pantry— Rice and Beans**

***If you have any questions, please contact
Nancy Compton (845)452-0431
or email nlcompton59@gmail.com***



The FELC Blanket Sewers celebrated the season with a luncheon at Formosa Restaurant

SPECIAL GIFTS

Received with Thanks- 12/02-12/30 2018

Blanket Sewers

*in memory of John Havercamp
Diane Wood Miller*

Capital Campaign

*K. Bastian
Diane Wood Miller
In honor of Chris and Beth Collins
Delores Erickson
Carol Reichert
Anita Golz, Appleton, WI,
Charles Erickson, Austin TX.
Eamon Collins*

General Fund

*Gayle Johnson
Mrs. Chen Tu Pi Chiao*

Memorial Fund

*In memory of John Havercamp
Guenther Grosshans*

Organ Fund

*Lorna Davis
Kurt Bastian
Diane Wood Miller*

Pastors Discretionary Fund

Klaus Doehl

Property Fund- Snowblower

Theresia Kizina

Share-an-Expense

Kurt Bastian

***"Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing."
Martin Luther***

LUNCH ‘n LISTEN

Our December 5th concert presented organist and composer James Fitzwilliam playing seasonal organ selections on the 1907 Austin Organ (Opus 219). Many thanks to Kurt Bastian for hosting this L&L concert while Susan and I were visiting in India.



Our next L&L concert will be on January 9th and will present a program by the Golden Age Singers with “Songs from Yesteryear “. The February 6th concert will feature pianist Ariana Barkeshli.

All L&L concerts are free, open to the public and begin at noon. Bring a lunch and eat in Fellowship Hall before the concert. Coffee and tea are provided. After the concert, all are welcome to return downstairs to meet the performers and enjoy delicious home baked goodies.

Many thanks to the faithful L&L team, which this month included :Kurt Bastian, Joan Cohen, Lorna Davis, John and Maria Knight, Frieda Popp, Diane Wood Miller and Pastor Deborah Hafner DeWinter.

See you on and January 9th and February 6th Catch the Spirit ! **Carol**

LUNCH & LISTEN 2018-2019 SEASON all concerts at 12:00 noon

1/9/19—Golden Age Singers- *songs from yesteryear*

2/6/19—Ariana Barkeshli- *classical piano*

3/6/19—Hyde Park Chamber Ensemble

4/3/19—Marta Elena Knapp- *soprano*

5/1/19—Kevin and Carol Becker with Rich Keyes- *folk music*

6/5/19—Helen Avakian and Terry Champlin- *classic guitar stylings*

Cancellations will be announced through HUDSONVALLEYCLOSINGS.COM

Website: <https://firstlutheranpok.org/lunch-n-listen/>



The Holiday Ham Dinner Team 12/08/18



YOU'RE INVITED

Please join me for an educational event

Turn retirement concerns into confidence. Get positive, professional guidance from a membership organization of Christians that has been helping its members be wise with money and live generously for more than 100 years.

That tunnel? It's getting shorter.
After years of hard work, your retirement may finally be in sight. Attend the **5 Keys to Retiring Fearlessly** workshop to discover the keys to unlocking a retirement where you could have confidence in your ability to live out your dreams.

Please choose from one of the following events:

EVENT DETAILS	
Monday, January 14, 2019 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church 55 Wilbur Blvd Poughkeepsie, NY	Monday, January 14, 2019 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church 55 Wilbur Blvd Poughkeepsie, NY

RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY

Please call Jeanne at 845-452-5690 or email jeanne.jones@thrivent.com.



Repair Cafés are free meeting places, all about repairing things (together).

At the Repair Café, you'll find tools and materials to help you make any repairs you need on clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, toys, appliances and more ! You will also find repair specialists/coaches such as electricians, seamstresses, carpenters and bicycle mechanics to assist you.

Please come to the next Repair Café at FELC on **Saturday January 12th from 9:00am-12:00 noon.**

For more information: <http://repaircafeHV.org/>

Or find us on FaceBook: Repair Cafe Poughkeepsie

Interested in volunteering?

Contact : pokrepaircafe@gmail.com.

Co-Ordinator: Maureen Abramoski
maureenabramoski@hotmail.com

"sPOKe" BIKE RESCUE



Saturday January 12 from 9:30am-12:30pm

"sPOKe" takes donations of old bikes, makes them rideable, and gets them out to people in the community.

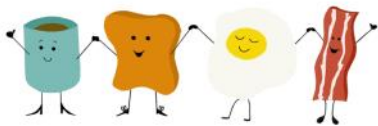
Bikes can be obtained by a monetary donation (~\$50) or 6 hrs community service.

sPOKe also teaches basic bicycle maintenance and safe riding practices.

Donations of cleaning supplies, bike parts and helmets, and volunteer time are welcome !



FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS



Fellowship breakfasts are held every other Thursday mornings, 9:00 a.m. at the **Acropolis Diner, 829 Main St., Poughkeepsie**. We will meet for Breakfast on January 3, 17 and 31, weather permitting .

Table Talk/ Pub Night resumes on January 10 and 25, 2019
at Gino's Pizza, 706 Main St. Poughkeepsie

Beverages and food are available for purchase.

All are welcome to come for fellowship in the tradition of Martin & Katie Luther who loved to have conversation with friends around the table.

Please join us and bring a friend!

Please RSVP by 2pm on Thursday if you plan to attend so we can make reservations, or notify you of last minute cancellations.



Letter from the President of the FELC Congregational Council

"As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. ¹²As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, ¹³crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

¹⁴He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy.

¹⁵One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" ¹⁶He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done." Luke: 17:17

One person out of ten thanked Jesus.

In this scripture, the mother of the leper who gave thanks was not mentioned. But we see the fruits of her teaching in her son's behavior. Chances are she had to remind him many times to say "thank you" to those who did things for him or gave him something. And in his younger days she probably wondered if he would ever catch on to the importance of giving thanks.

Can't you hear her saying, "Son, tell the man thank you."

And his reply, "Aw, mom, he knows."

"That's okay," she replied, "But He needs to hear it from you." Probably this statement was punctuated by this mom giving her son "the eye!"

Jesus did not heal the lepers for the thanks. But I'm sure He really appreciated it when one He had healed remembered his manners.

Can you hear your parent giving this lesson when you were little? I can hear Norma "say please and thank you". Honestly, I don't know who started sending thank you cards to our donors, but the tradition continues. While a few have said "I don't need a card", others, especially those who we may not see in church are both acknowledged for their gift and know we appreciate that they thought of First.

Many of us give thanks in so many ways...with finances, our talents, our time, cooking ability, organizational skills, visiting, collect items and donations. It feels good doesn't it? Even if our finances are limited, so many of us help when asked or just seem to pop up and pitch in.

Our world at times seems like such an unthankful place. It takes us time to remember not everyone had parents who taught the good lessons or others who take so much for granted. So as we have been blessed with yet another Christmas season where thankfulness seems to be more obvious, let us keep the Spirit of Thanks, offer what we can to those who need and take comfort knowing that, while we may not need to hear the words or receive a card, those gifts are receive a gracious thank you in return.

So...a HUGE Thank you for all you do for First and so many others in our community and the world.

God Bless

Linda Connors

WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE!

Dear Family at First Lutheran,
After another capital campaign for windows and organ, on the heels of the auction, following our demo project at Wetzel Hall - and in the hectic lead-up to all our Advent and Christmas-related special events and activities - I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the Christmas gift the congregation has given me.

I am deeply touched, and very grateful for each one of you, and for all the ways in which you have provided love and support to me as your pastor. Be assured that I most certainly look forward to journeying forward in faith and love with you all in the New Year!

God's peace and joy,

Pastor Deborah



We welcomed the clergy of the Metro-NY Hudson Conference for their Ministerium meeting on December 4th.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On December 2, 2018, we were overjoyed to welcome seven new members into the FELC Family.

Pictured with Pastor Deborah are:
Rebecca Reeves sponsored by Karen Butts,
Evan and Danielle Menist sponsored by Scott and Nancy Compton, Victor Matos, sponsored by Bill Polgrean (Kurt Bastian standing in),
Teri Jennings sponsored by Alison Matos and Norma and Bill Rudloff-sponsored by Beth and Chris Collins.

It was with great sadness, that we learned of the death of Bill Rudloff on December 27. Although Bill had been away for many years, he returned to his church home at First Lutheran this past year where he had grown up, attended Sunday School and played the trumpet. We pray God's comfort for Norma and their family.

A memorial service at FELC is planned for Saturday March 23. Details will follow.



JANUARY 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year	2 <i>LCC Chapel Service @10:15am</i> New Deliverance Church of S&P 7:30-pm -9:30pm	3 Breakfast Fellowship @9:00am Acropolis Diner	4	5
6 EPIPHANY Worship & Communion 10:00am @FELC <i>Service of HC @LCC -2:00pm</i> New Deliverance Church of S&P 12:30-5:30pm	7 FELC Blanket Sewers 10:00am-2:00pm	8 Council Meeting 6:30pm	9 <i>LCC Chapel Service @10:15am</i> L&L Concert- Noon Golden Age Singers New Deliverance Church of S&P 7:30-pm -9:30pm	10 "Pub Night" 6:00pm Gino's Pizza 706 Main St.PoK.	11	12 sPOKe and Repair Cafe 9:00am-12:00
13 Worship & Communion 10:00am @FELC ANNUAL MEETING <i>Service of HC @LCC -2:00pm</i> New Deliverance Church of S&P 12:30-5:30pm	14 FELC Blanket Sewers 10:00am-2:00pm	15	16 <i>LCC Chapel Service @10:15am</i> New Deliverance Church of S&P 7:30-pm -9:30pm	17 Breakfast Fellowship @9:00am Acropolis Diner	18	19
20 Service of the Word Annual Mtg. Snow date 10:00am @ FELC Deacon Slingerland <i>Service of HC @LCC -2:00pm</i> New Deliverance Church of S&P	21 M.L.King Holiday FELC Blanket Sewers 10:00am-2:00pm	22	23 <i>LCC Chapel Service @10:15am</i> New Deliverance Church of S&P 7:30-pm -9:30pm	24 "Pub Night" 6:00pm Gino's Pizza 706 Main St.PoK.	25	26
27 Worship & Communion 10:00am @FELC Pastor Paul Walley <i>Service of HC @LCC -2:00pm</i> New Deliverance Church of S&P 12:30-5:30pm	28 FELC Blanket Sewers 10:00am-2:00pm	29	30 <i>LCC Chapel Service @10:15am</i> New Deliverance Church of S&P 7:30-pm -9:30pm	31 Breakfast Fellowship @9:00am Acropolis Diner		

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On December 23rd Shirley Mowell and the Sunday school class held a birthday party for Jesus. Sunday School alumni: Eamon, Christian and Rosemary joined in the fun. The next Sunday School lesson for the children of our congregation will be held February 3.



Join us for the arrival of the Three Kings on the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday January 6th.

Please bring the children in your life for lesson time, learning and growing in faith with fun !



Calendar At-A-Glance

Sundays

Worship Services @ FELC @ 10:00am
 ANNUAL MEETING of the MEMBERS 1/13 after service
 Worship Services @ Lutheran Care Center @ 2:00pm
 New Deliverance Church from 12:30-5:30pm

Mondays

FELC Blanket Sewers 10:00am-2:00pm *weather permitting*

Tuesday

Congregational Council Meeting 1/08 @ 6:30pm

Wednesdays

Lutheran Care Center -Worship Service 10:15am
Lunch & Listen: 1/09 @12:00 noon
The Golden Age Singers
 New Deliverance Church @FELC 7:30-9:30pm

Thursdays

Fellowship Breakfasts - Acropolis Diner
 1/03, 1/17 and 1/31 @ 9:00am
 "Pub Nights" 1/10, and 1/24
 Gino's Pizza 706 Main St.

Saturday Specials

Repair Café and sPOKe Bike Rescue
 1/12 from 9:30am-12:30pm



1/09 Trudy Cerbone

1/10 Long Su

1/12 Donna Sandala

1/22 Christine Ulrich

1/27 Tyler Merritt

1/31 Karen Butts

In SERVICE to GOD and YOU

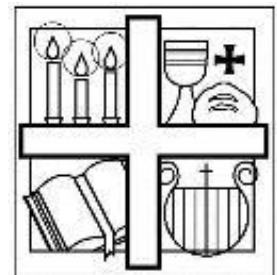
January 2019

Altar *Kurt Bastian*

Communion Assistant *Kurt Bastian*



DATE	LECTOR	FLOWERS	REFRESHMENTS
1/06 Epiphany	Nancy Slingerland		FELC Hospitality
1/13 Annual Meeting	Kurt Bastian	Linda Connors	Potluck luncheon
1/20 Service of the Word Deacon Peter Slingerland	Linda Brewer		<i>Please sign up on the clipboard downstairs if you are able to provide refreshments for our weekly Fellowship Hour.</i>
1/27 Pastor Paul Walley	Scott Compton		



First Evangelical Lutheran Church
325 Mill Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

«AddressBlock»

SAVE PAPER and INK

Have your copy of
The Lutheran Contact
sent to you by email.
Contact the church office
with your request.