



**Faith Lutheran Church**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

**FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS**

**December 2022**

***Working to spread the Gospel here and throughout the world.***

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<https://faithlutheran-threelakes.org> · <https://facebook.com/faith3lakes> · [office6995@gmail.com](mailto:office6995@gmail.com)

*Pastor Catie's Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm or by appointment*

*Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm*



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**FROM PASTOR CATIE**

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***“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.”  
-Isaiah 35:1***

As we dive into Advent, I am excited to bring art into worship. This year we are using “A Sanctified Art” series in worship. This series provides artwork that is inspired by Advent texts. Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman compares Isaiah 35:1-10 to a kaleidoscope. Did you ever have one of these? The slightest movement can change all the colors and shapes that our eye sees. The kaleidoscope is constantly giving new perspectives on the images.

Pittman writes, “I think it’s possible that when we face difficult seasons that seem unending, if we immerse ourselves in the light of the voices or prophets, move to a new vantage point, and try new perspectives, we just might be able to see the wilderness bloom.” This Advent, I invite you to look for blossoms in the wilderness. How can looking at art, taking in the light, or singing hymns give us a new understanding on the season? As we wait for Christ, may we remember that there is abundance in the wilderness, the desert, and the journey.

Peace,  
Pastor Catie

Artwork:  
*Wilderness Blossom*  
by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



***Lifting Up to God in Prayer***

- ***For those experiencing draught and hunger in Africa.***
- ***For newly elected leaders to embrace their offices with wisdom, integrity and courage.***
- ***For those who have lost hope.***
- ***For those trying to recover from addiction.***



**New Semester of Lifelong Faith Formation Coming Soon!**

Beginning in January 2023, the Northern Great Lakes Synod will offer more opportunities than ever for fellowship and learning through Lifelong Faith Formation. In its third year, the online learning program will open for registration in early December on the synod website for classes this winter and spring. The new class schedule includes the following classes:

- Introduction to Biblical Hebrew
- Year-Round Stewardship on a Congregational Level
- A Spirituality of Death and Dying
- *Rediscovering God and Changing the World: A Book Study of the Life of Martin Luther* by Eric Metaxas
- Beyond Policy: Empowering the Faith Community to Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse and Sexual Assault
- Meeting Christ in Prayer

## ***From the President:***

A small committee met with Pastor Catie recently to review her first year here at Faith. It was a year ago that she accepted our call to be our minister. It got me thinking back over my first year as a young teacher. I know that that was a long time ago as some of you chuckle over my ability to recall memories from so long ago. But the reason I remember those ancient times so well was because a veteran teacher, Mrs. Elinore Lapp, was so quick to ask what was the latest research in education and the trends that were being talked about and taught in the universities at that time. I realized that she wanted to take advantage of the latest ideas to improve her own teaching and therefore help the school get better. And I felt empowered and valued at the same time. Instead of hearing from her that I had a lot to learn about teaching, which was true, she picked my brain as to what could make our school better. Because it was our school now. I am so thankful that I had someone like Mrs. Lapp as a role model and mentor in the early years of my career. Now I know that teaching and preaching are not the same. Trends change in teaching and the Gospel stays the same of course. But what I was thinking is that we should be supporting Pastor Catie in the same way Mrs. Lapp supported me in the early years of my career. Because this is our church now. Pick her brain as to what could make our church do its job of spreading the Gospel better. Make sure she feels empowered and valued. I grew as a young teacher with the help of the people around me, and I am sure she will continue to grow as a young minister with the help of the people around her. The Council has been listening to all the comments about the use of the screen and power point during worship services as we explore this aspect of our worship experience. Following the recommendations from the Board of Worship Life, a big TV screen will replace the existing screen in the hopes of improving visibility during services. A lot of discussion and thought has gone into this decision. And we are fortunate to have people in our congregation with knowledge in this area and people they know to contact for more advice and knowledge so we can make good decisions for our congregation. As with many nice ideas, this new idea may cost a lot of money. So I hope many of us will be ready with financial support, if needed, as we try to enhance the worship experience for those attending services and those joining us via the livestreaming we have been able to do. As with any change, it takes time to get used to the new, but I also see things getting better and better as it is worked on. We are entering a very busy time of year. I hope all of you will be able to enjoy time with family and friends. Most of you have heard of the feeling the Danish people call hygge. They try hard during the cold, dark months of the year to create a warm and cozy feeling. Well, I am of Norwegian descent and we too have a word for this cozy feeling: koselig, (pronounced KOOSH lee). So my hope for all of you is much koselig.

Robin Peterson

### **Thought of the Day**

“Jesus said that what I do with my treasure will cause my heart to follow along. Where I put my treasure will cause my heart to go there as well.”

~Charles “Chick” Lane reflecting on Luke 12:34 in Embracing Stewardship



*“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
~Romans 15:5-6, Advent 2

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I write this, today is election day. I hear from some people that they are very anxious about this; anxious about outcomes, anxious about potential violence, anxious about accusations of voter fraud or refusals to accept results. And from others, it is business as usual as I believe, in many of our communities, people know who their election officials are. Neighbors are behind the desk at polling locations. Familiar faces are overseeing the voting booths. I'd like to think that we have a deeper sense of trust in voting procedures and processes where we live than perhaps in more urban areas.

Whether you trust the process in your community or not, I think we all know that we are at a place in the history of our country where the political seams are showing, and the fabric of society is even ripping apart in some places, leaving holes and frayed edges. We, as a country, are not “living in harmony with one another.”

Truthfully, I'm not sure that's possible. I still hope for civility, but I do not expect harmony. However, I do hope for harmony in our communities of faith, so that with one voice we can glorify God, and with joined effort, we can partner together in ministry.

I've heard from a few of our congregations that “people leave their politics at the door.” Certainly, our congregations are not the place for campaigning, but can they be a place of civil discourse? Not so that one person can badger another person into agreement, but so that as people of faith we can wrestle together with issues that are complex and multi-layered. Where else can people of faith struggle together with what it means to be people of faith, when opinions vary about what a faithful response is?

It seems to me that the polar opposite extremes of any given issue are the only voices at the microphone or on the news. I have no idea what the results of the midterm election will be, nor what that result will mean moving into the future. Since we are both citizens of the world and children of the kingdom of God, the way forward is far from clear. I hope that it is possible to discuss, discern, and consider together what it means to live in harmony given differing opinions about politics. And I offer a word of caution, that the extreme voice seeks to demonize the opposition, and no one is as bad, or as good, as any advertisement or media spot or Facebook post seeks to make them out to be.

It seems to me that the last decades have seen an eroding sense of trust in government, authority, and institutions, including the Church, including your church. I don't know how to

build up trust in government, but your witness can help to rebuild trust in people of faith and what it means to be Christian.

I therefore ask you, encourage you, exhort you, to give witness in your community to your faith in Christ Jesus, not just in how you vote, but in how you treat each other, how you speak about those with whom you disagree, and how you live your faith in every day. While much of what Jesus said is not so clear, his actions and his call to follow could not be more explicit. Jesus gives us the mandate to love, to serve, to feed his sheep. We are to advocate for the forgotten, lift up the lowly, see the overlooked, welcome the excluded, love God by loving our neighbor. It is as easy and as difficult as that.

As congregations once again gather around tables for coffee fellowship and conversation, I hope we can renew friendships and deepen relationships, old and new, so that at least in our communities of faith we can find common ground and listen

better to each other than the rest of the society seems to be able to manage. As siblings in Christ, as people bound together as Christ's own body, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13, Advent 2)

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

**ATTENTION:**

**There will be NO services on 12/25/22!!!**

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES WILL BE CHRISTMAS EVE**

**SATURDAY, 12/24/22 AT 7:00 PM**



**COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2022 AT 6:00 PM AT SWANSONS**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FACEBOOK

It's true! Faith Lutheran Church now has a Facebook page. "Like" us at <http://www.facebook.com/faith3lakes/> and watch the page for updates about what's happening in the life of our faith community.



### LIVE STREAMING

Did you know that when you're away, you can watch the entire service as it's delivered LIVE on Sunday morning? You can! Simply go to our church's website (<https://www.faithlutheran-threelakes.org/>) and click "Click here to watch live streaming during worship (Sundays at 9:00 am)" right on the front page. Just put in a name and hit "Enter Live Service". Streaming will start which usually happens around 8:55, 9:00 am, give or take a few minutes, so if nothing is happening yet when you start watching, just

wait a few minutes. You can also watch a recording of many of our services on our website. Simply go to our church website and click "Click here to view recordings of worship" to watch any past services. It's that easy!

### QUILTING

Quilting is back in session! Please join us every Wednesday at 12:30 pm in the lower level of the church. No experience necessary!

### ONLINE GIVING

You can support our mission easier than ever with our donation platform! You can visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/YHQE/home> and contribute securely online. Thank you for your continued support!

### BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is offered following Sunday church services EVERY Sunday! All are invited and welcome to attend! No bible required! Please join us for some lively discussions!

## BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH



During December, we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth. The gift of Christmas is just the start of the story of salvation through Jesus Christ.

In our baptism we are joined to the death of Jesus. We also receive the promise that as Christ was raised from the dead; so too shall we have new life – a gift given by the grace of God.

Celebrate the gift of Jesus, and the gift of new life through our baptism into Jesus. As you

celebrate, rejoice with your brothers and sisters who remember this month their worn baptisms!

- 4<sup>th</sup> Traeton Fogerty
- 8<sup>th</sup> Phoebe Pettingell
- 10<sup>th</sup> Beth Schomisch
- 15<sup>th</sup> Marge Anderson
- 24<sup>th</sup> Paul Matthiae
- 25<sup>th</sup> Robin Peterson
- 26<sup>th</sup> Perry Anderson

Also remember: Tammy Sherry and Kristi Erikson

## MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Year: 2022  
 Monthly: October  
 Number of Sundays: 5  
 Average in person: 24  
 Average online: 18

JUNE 2022	MONTH	YTD Sep. - Aug.
Income	\$6,871	\$78,326
Expenses	\$9,888	\$77,202
Net	- \$3,017	\$1,123

JULY 2022	MONTH	YTD Sep. - Aug.
Income	\$5,570	\$84,376
Expenses	\$7,064	\$86,801
Net	- \$1,493	-\$2,425

\*\*\* This will be provided on a quarterly basis



## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ILLNESS, PAIN, LOSS OF HEALTH IN MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT:** Kyle Smith, Paul Kragh, Monte and Dora James, Ollie DeMuth, Megan Schiller, Ann Woelfel, Duane and Colleen Bonack, Debbie Koslowski, Abby Swanson, Rick Gensler Sr., and Hailey Schultz

**Our armed forces including** David Bredesen, Kaley Ebann, Jamie Madl, Charlie and Will Starke, Nicole Young, Emily Fink, Jared Benter Scott Williams, Nathan and Nick Lamal

**ALL THOSE WHO ARE ANXIOUS AND WORRIED ABOUT MANY THINGS**

### **Our Church Ministries:**

Congregational Care  
Congregation Council  
Board of Worship Life  
Board of Outreach  
Board of Trustees  
Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center

### **Our partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ including:**

St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church  
Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church  
Union Congregational Church  
Grace Lutheran Church

**Our synod, the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA, and its congregations.**

**Our companion synod, the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and its congregations.**



## STEWARDSHIP CALENDARS

### November 2022

	11/6/22	11/13/22	11/20/22	11/27/22
Lay Reader	<b>Robin Peterson</b>	<b>Gretchen Dobbins</b>	<b>Phoebe Pettingell</b>	<b>Jan Lederhaus</b>
Greeters	-	-	-	-
Music	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
Video-streaming	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<b>Linda Swanson</b>	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<b>Linda Swanson</b>

*\* If you cannot serve on your assigned day, please find a replacement, then notify the church office. \**

### December 2022

	12/4/22	12/11/22	12/18/22	12/24/22 <b><u>NO SERVICE</u></b> <b><u>12/25/22!!!</u></b>
Lay Reader	<b>Jan Harris</b>	<b>Robin Peterson</b>	<b>Gretchen Dobbins</b>	<b>Phoebe Pettingell</b>
Greeters	<b>Jan Harris</b>	-	-	-
Music	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Jane Crosson</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
Video-streaming	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<b>Linda Swanson</b>	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<b>Linda Swanson</b>

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## December 2022

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1	2  Office Closed	3
4  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	5	6	7  <b>12:30 pm</b> Quilting	8	9  Office Closed <b>Council Christmas Party</b>	10
11  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	12	13	14  <b>12:30 pm</b> Quilting	15	16  Office Closed	17
18  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion  <b><u>SUNDAY</u></b> <b><u>SCHOOL</u></b> <b><u>BEGINS</u></b>	19	20	21  <b>12:30 pm</b> Quilting	22	23  Office Closed	24  <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>SERVICE</b>  
25  <b><u>NO</u></b> <b><u>SERVICE!!!</u></b>	26	27	28  <b>12:30 pm</b> Quilting	29	30  Office Closed	31

Faith Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 436  
Three Lakes, WI 54562

## **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A member of the Northern Great Lakes Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

P.O. Box 436  
6995 U.S. Highway 45 South  
Three Lakes, WI 54562

Church Office: 715-546-2770

Pastor Catie's Office Hours: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Monday – Thursday

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Tuesday – Thursday

## **WEEKLY WORSHIP**

Sunday Morning – 9:00 am  
Holy Communion

## **STAFF**

*Office Administrator:* MaryBeth Koslowski  
office6995@gmail.com

*Pastor:* Reverend Catie Ford  
pastorcatieford@gmail.com  
Work Phone: 715-600-3980

*Organist:* Rhonda Buss

## **VISIT US ON THE WEB**

<https://www.faithlutheran-threelakes.org>

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