



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

February 2023

Working to spread the Gospel here and throughout the world.

6995 US 45 S · P.O. Box 436 · Three Lakes, WI 54562 · 715-546-2770

<https://faithlutheran-threelakes.org> · <https://facebook.com/faith3lakes> · 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



FROM PASTOR CATIE



“Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul. It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.”

-When Peace like a River ELW 785

In this season as cold and darkness hold strong, I am finding light in new partnerships happening at Faith. One of these partnerships is with Trinity Lutheran Church in Rhinelander. On Wednesday evenings we gather together in Rhinelander for Wednesday Night Connect. This is a time for folks to share a meal, experience the Bible, and to enjoy break out groups for all ages.

A particular light I see in this partnership is for our children and families. With these gatherings being family centered, there are many opportunities for our families to meet others who are experiencing some of the same things. Our youth and children are able to have discussions with others their same age about church.

Another partnership that we have coming up is midweek Lenten services with our conference. This year some churches in our area have decided to work together. While we will gather in our home church, it will be as if we are gathering with other congregations. Together we will go through the same texts. Together we will hear the good news shared from multiple voices throughout the season.

As I think about these partnerships and the opportunities that they bring to us at Faith, I find that it is well with my soul. I see God at work in the relationships. During this time between Epiphany and Lent I encourage you to spend time thinking about what makes your soul well. How are you growing in faith and connecting with God? Where do you see God at work in your life?

Peace,
 Pastor Catie

From the President:

It's easy for me to remember my Baptismal anniversary. It's Christmas Day. It's also easy to forget my Baptismal anniversary because of all the hoopla surrounding the days before, during, and after Christmas Day. Over the years I have texted my children on their big day to congratulate them but more to just remind them of the day and its importance. In the season of Epiphany we can choose to focus on the coming of the Wise Men to acknowledge the baby as Messiah, or we can focus on the Baptism of Jesus, or both. In a recent daily devotion leading up to the Third Sunday of Epiphany, Brian Hiortdahl wrote about his Baptismal

anniversary using Psalm 40:17. I love it when someone much more articulate than me puts into words what I have been feeling for years. The verse is: "Let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever." He writes that we can look at all our blessings which are the accumulated evidence of God's love and faithfulness that we have experienced over our lifetime. I have far too many reasons to sing praise and thanks to God to even count. I have not been lost. He has not given up on me. We should feel treasured and safely kept. Wow! Thank you God for loving me and keeping me no matter what. That last line is the prayer that accompanied the devotion. All this from our Baptism!! Martin Luther said we should remember our Baptism every day. Good advice. But I really like how Brian Hiortdahl puts things. Things we should meditate on during our anniversary day each year. So I encourage you to look up your big day if you don't already know it, and look up your children's big day in order to start a new tradition in your family of celebrating and reflecting on the importance of joining God's family.

The Committee to work on the Constitution has been affected by some weather issues but continues their work on the necessary revisions. And as I am writing this the new organ is being assembled in our church and the old one is being dismantled in order to be removed. So I'd like to thank all those involved in staying with this process of working with the insurance company and Val to replace the damaged organ. We have enjoyed the piano music Rhonda has provided us with and appreciate the beautiful music during our services and look forward to the addition of some organ music as well.

As always feel free to express your ideas for the council to consider and ask questions about any and all things. The council is here to serve all in our congregation.

Respectfully,
Robin Peterson

"You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

~James 2:8

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Have you heard the phrase, "Birds of a feather flock together?" This little saying acknowledges what we all know; we gravitate towards the familiar and the comfortable. We like to be with people who think like us, behave like us, believe the same things as us, maybe even look like us. It's natural. I suppose some anthropologist could give a long treatise on herd mentality or the role such affinity plays in survival.

Other observers of societal norms would offer that social media has intensified this phenomenon. Online algorithms supply us with posts that affirm our foregone conclusions. Worse, there are more than a few memes out there that characterize anyone with an opposing view as being fair game for mockery or dismissed as unworthy. Beware of viewpoints being portrayed in the extreme, with no room for nuance or grey area.

It is becoming more and more rare that people gather with birds of another feather, where their world view or assumptions or convictions are challenged. People talk about echo chambers, where we proclaim what we believe to be true only to hear it echo back to us as proof.

The thing is, if we only surround ourselves with people who agree with us, if we never encounter a contrary opinion and explore it for its valid points, if we avoid conversations that invite deeper thinking, broader understanding, or a push back against what we consciously or unconsciously believe to be true then we have stopped learning and our lack of engagement contributes to the polarization of our society and the underlying anger that results from feeling misunderstood.

A remedy for this is intentional engagement and deep listening, not to argue a point or change someone's mind, but to understand the reasons that support another perspective. To that end, our Synod will be offering a Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge. Our NGLS Kaleidoscope in Christ task force seeks to provide more opportunities for our synod to see others through the eyes of Jesus so that we can better, as James and elsewhere in scripture urges, "love your neighbor as yourself."

Because it is more than a little difficult to love what we do not understand or stay present with topics or people that make us uncomfortable.

So during Lent, you are invited to engage the resources on our website under The Kaleidoscope Challenge. Short videos, articles, movies, and books are linked there for you to watch, read, and study. I encourage you to consciously lower your defenses, raise your awareness, and learn something new about racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community. And you are invited to join a small group of people every week via zoom to process and discuss the resources for that week. What do you have questions about? What surprised you? What challenged you? What pricked your compassion? Your curiosity? Your emotions? On our synod website, www.nglsynod.org, you can register for the cohort of your choosing. A variety of leaders, dates, and times are available.

At a time when people are quick to anger and disagree, I hope that our Church and your church can lead the way toward mutual respect and understanding. As Martin Luther once said, "God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does." For the sake of community, for the sake of the command of Jesus to love, for the sake of our neighbor, let us do the homework that will lead to authentic witness and put the love we have for Jesus into action.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

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



February is the month of *love*—for on February 14, Valentine’s Day, we remember those whom we love.

God also remembers those whom he loves. Through baptism, God has claimed us! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God backs up his claim with *actions*! The objects of God’s love got more than cards or flowers...they have received new life!

But God’s love is not limited to one day of the year, for God’s love is never ending. For God, every day is “Valentine’s Day!”

Please remember our sister in your prayers.

- 10th Kailyn Fogerty

Also remember: Jennifer Kortenhof and Duane Bonack

MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Year: 2022
 Monthly: November
 Number of Sundays: 4
 Average in person: 22

NOVEMBER 2022	MONTH	YTD Sep. - Aug.
Income	\$7,945	\$50,012
Expenses	\$7,679	\$44,410
Net	\$166	\$5,601

DECEMBER 2022	MONTH	YTD Sep. - Aug.
Income	\$15,028	\$65,040
Expenses	\$10,493	\$35,254
Net	\$4,543	\$29,785

*** 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., Hailey Schultz, and Ruth Sammetinger

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

January 2023

	1/1/23	1/8/23	1/15/23	1/22/23	1/29/23
Lay Reader	Jan Lederhaus	Jan Harris	Robin Peterson	Gretchen Dobbins	Phoebe Pettingell
Greeters	-	Jan Harris	-	-	-
Music	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Video-streaming	Dillon Ford	Linda Swanson	Dillon Ford	Linda Swanson	Dillon Ford

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

February 2023

	2/5/23	2/12/23	2/19/23	2/26/23
Lay Reader	Jan Lederhaus	Jan Harris	Robin Peterson	Gretchen Dobbins
Greeters	-	Jan Harris	-	-
Music	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Video-streaming	Dillon Ford	Linda Swanson	Dillon Ford	Linda Swanson

February 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			1	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 9:00 am Holy Communion	6	7	8	9	10 Office Closed	11
12 9:00 am Holy Communion	13	14	15	16	17 Office Closed	18
19 9:00 am Holy Communion	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:00 am Holy Communion	27	28				

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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