



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

March 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

“I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.”

-Genesis 12:2 (NRSV)

In this text God calls Abram. God tasks him with relocating and doesn't really give a reason why. Abram had to begin again. It begs the question, how did he do it?

Some possible answers are that he was wealthy. He was also called, not forced. Finally, he didn't travel alone.

Hannah Garrity further reflects on this through her artwork. She describes her piece as follows: “In this image, the globe subtly depicts the route that Abram and his wives, his children, his servants, and his animals took. The lines of countries are suggested as they ripple outward. Tools for navigation used to read the stars and the shadows are echoed below the globe. Stars in the corners represent the twelve tribes of Israel. How do we begin again? Through the paper lace, the book of Genesis overlays a canvas. The text is hard to read, clouded by oil paint. How do we begin again? Listen through the haze, through the clouded reality, for God's call. God is calling as we begin again.”

As I thought about Abram's new beginning, I thought about what new beginnings look like for us. Although it may not feel like it in the Northwoods, as snow and cold persist, spring begins this month. This is a new beginning for creation as plants begin to bloom and the days grow longer.

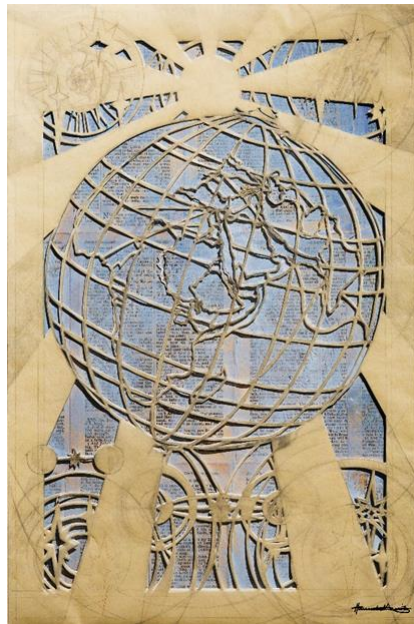
I think this is also fitting as we continue our journey to the cross this year. Lent is often used as a time of self-reflection. In what ways is God calling you? Are there places in your life where you can begin again? Genesis 12:2 reminds us that we are blessed and that we can be a blessing to others in creation. This month may we continue to be aware of these blessings and the new beginnings that are happening in and around us.

Peace,
Pastor Catie

“To Be A Blessing” by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Genesis 12:1-4a

<https://sanctifiedart.org/visual-art/seeking-lent->



From the President:

I am writing this on Fat Tuesday as they call it, or Paczki Tuesday (I think that is the Polish spelling; I have seen it spelled several ways). I confess I have not purchased any and maybe it is to protect my heart from all that sugar with the Birkie coming up on the calendar. With Ash Wednesday tomorrow to begin the season of Lent we take many looks at our heart. From Solomon we get the advice to “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it”. Great advice. During Lent we examine our hearts to see where we are at. Back in World War II there was a Hungarian-born mathematician who lent his great skills to help solve a problem of airplanes being shot down. He looked at the most vulnerable parts of the plane to add armor to in order to strengthen that part of the plane. He realized that it was the engine of the planes, when hit, caused it to go down whereas other parts when hit didn't necessarily cause the plane to crash. If we armor our hearts by heeding His instructions, we'll be better able to “keep our feet from evil” and remain steadfast on our journey with God as Solomon concludes this bit of wisdom from Proverbs. I like this thought. With so many threats out there, we need God's wisdom guarding our hearts so we can stay focused on our mission to live well for God's glory. Many of these ideas are from a daily devotion written by Kirsten Holmberg. I appreciate her insights she is passing on to all of us.

The Church Council continues to work on the business of our congregation. Discussion continues about communion keeping in mind the COVID-19 protocols still necessary. We will revisit this in March, as we do every month, with the hopes of a transition back to more traditional ways of communing.

The Constitution Committee is almost done with their work of revising the Constitution in order to bring it up to date with our Synod and the greater ELCA church. It will then be given to the Church Council for their ideas before it is presented to the standing committee of our Synod that looks at and approves of each congregation's constitution. So that process is continuing with an end in sight.

I encourage you to talk with the members of each Board and hear what exciting work they are about. It is the work of these individual Boards that really runs our congregation. A big thank you is due to all the people who help carry on the very necessary work that is done, many times behind the scenes.

As always if you have a concern or suggestion, please reach out to one of us on the Church Council. Hope you have a meaningful Lent.

Robin Peterson

Northern Light Article, Duehring for Feb/March 2023

You Can Learn a Lot from a Dog

A daily practice of mine is to walk my dog, Juergen. Juergen is always eager to go for a walk. No surprise there! My wife describes Juergen as “4-Legged Joy with a Tail.” I named Juergen after one of my favorite theologians, Juergen Moltmann.

Recently we took a walk in a large pasture area on public land. Fresh snows and ice left the snow deep but very crusty on the top. Juergen was so excited for his walk, but this time he sensed early on that there would be problems. He ran out ahead of me, but he was very much slowed down by the crusty snow breaking way and his legs sinking into the deep snow. It was very difficult for him to “blaze” a new trail on his own.

I felt sorry for Juergen for not having the typical freedom to merely bounce on ahead of me. Eventually, Juergen slowed down. I could tell he was becoming fatigued, and this walking experience was not pleasant at all. I, too, was having difficulty blazing my own trail. I really should have been wearing snowshoes, but with my winter boots I was able to stomp down and create size 13 divots in the deep snow.

What happened next caught my attention. My dog slowed down. He then started following me so that his paws could easily follow in my footprints without him having to break through snow. Even though it slowed him down, Juergen was having a much more enjoyable time following in my clear footprints in the snow. Sometimes when the snow was not so deep, Juergen would leap out ahead of me and make his own trail. Then, when the snow got deep again, Juergen slowed down and started following my footprints.

You can see the obvious spiritual lesson here! Jesus calls us to follow him. Sometimes we bounce out ahead of Jesus with bold confidence that we can handle whatever life has to throw at us. Then we encounter the inevitable deep snow with an icy crust. We fall in. We have to slow down. For a moment we keep trying to blaze our own trail. Finally, if we are humble enough to slow down, we can wait for the Master to pass. We can more efficiently continue our journey following in the big and confident footsteps of the Master, Jesus.

Jesus has gone before us to show us the way. Jesus said, “I am the Way.” Thanks be to God that Jesus has the patience to wait upon us when we foolishly bolt out ahead and get hip deep in trouble.

That day my dog taught me a lot about my Lord's loving patience with me and the confident path of Jesus.

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

It is Lent and we are on the journey to the cross. The journey is not easy, but we are not alone! Through our baptism we are joined in our journey. We are joined by all of God's people of every time and every place. And we are joined by the Lord himself.

Remember your baptism during this season of Lent. And remember those who this month celebrate their "baptismal birthday" – the day God claimed them to be his!

- 28th – Gerrienne Rawoens

Also remember: Connie Gensler, Chuck Radtke, Griffin Schroeder, and Joyce Nykolayko

MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Year: 2023

Monthly: January

Number of Sundays:

Average in person: 22

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

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

*** 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, 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 and Scott Williams.

ALL THOSE WHO ARE ANXIOUS AND WORRIED ABOUT MANY THINGS

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.

Our Church Ministries:

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

SERVING IN WORSHIP MARCH 2023

	3/5/23	3/12/23	3/19/23	3/26/23
Lay Reader	Jan Harris	Robin Peterson	Gretchen Dobbins	Phoebe Pettingell
Greeter	Jan Harris	-	-	-
Music	Jane Crosson	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Video-streaming	Amy Davis	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Lent Service 7:00 pm	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 Communion 9:00 am	6	7	8 Lent Service 7:00 pm	9	10 Office Closed	11
12 Communion 9:00 am	13	14	15 Lent Service 7:00 pm	16	17 Office Closed	18
19 Communion 9:00 am	20	21	22 Lent Service 7:00 pm	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 Communion 9:00 am	27	28	29 Lent Service 7:00 pm	30	31 Office Closed	

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 Phone: 715-546-2770

Pastor Catie's Office Hours: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Monday – Thursday

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

WEEKLY WORSHIP:

Sunday Morning – 9:00 am
Holy Communion

STAFF

Office Assistant: 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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