



## FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

August 2023

### FROM PASTOR CATIE

**“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”**

**-Colossians 2:6-7**

Today I find myself overflowing with thankfulness. Last month we partnered with Trinity Lutheran Church for a second year to offer Day Camp for our families. Three children from Faith joined me for the week, and I am overwhelmed with joy as I reflect on the week.

I watched as these children-built relationships with the other kids there. I listened as they grew in their faith and understanding of the Holy Trinity. I saw them come out of their shells as they became more comfortable singing, dancing, learning, and having fun in this new space.

As I think about how their roots in Christ were strengthened during the week of Day Camp, I wonder how our roots are being strengthened during this season. There is growth happening all around us in fields, gardens, and people. I hope that there is growth in our relationship with Christ and with one another.

This month may we be overflowing with thankfulness. Thankfulness for the beauty that is happening in our church community like Day Camp, a successful organ dedication, new relationships, and excitement for the future. And may we be thankful for the way that God is working in our own lives.

Peace,  
 Pastor Catie



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am so glad we have so many third-class ticket holders in our congregation. Let me explain. In the Wednesday night Bible study being wonderfully led by the Bredesens, we are discussing the book Yes Lord, I Have Sinned but I Have Several Excellent Excuses. Chapter 5, in the book by James W. Moore, starts with the Good Samaritan story from Luke 10. James Moore then goes on to give an effective parallel from the stagecoach days with the three-tiered ticket system used at that time. First-class ticket holders got to sit no matter what happened during their traveling by stagecoach. Second-class ticket holders got to sit until something happened on the trip making it necessary to get out until the trouble was fixed. The third-class ticket holders were able to sit until trouble and then they were expected to get out to put their shoulders to the task of pushing or lifting or whatever needed to be done to get the stagecoach going again. That's why I am so thankful for the third-class ticket holders in our congregation. They realize, as James Moore suggests, God gives us first-class love all the time while handing us the chance to be third-class ticket holders, putting our shoulders to whatever needs to be done in our church. Don't get me wrong now. I am very thankful to those people who are first-class ticket holders at times. They come to church and give generously during worship, and it is so nice to have them in our congregation. And those second-class ticket holders often have very good ideas towards solving problems as they stand by doing what they can. It is those third-class ticket holders that don't even hesitate to help no matter what. We find ourselves at one of these levels at different times depending on what is going on in our lives. As we study the Good Samaritan story and become more aware of different levels of involvement, hopefully we will make an intentional decision to be more of a third-class ticket holder for our congregation. Please join us for the Wednesday night Bible discussions. The games are always fun, and the discussions are

stimulating. I know it is a busy time. If you can't join us, maybe you will want to read the book at some time.

The trustees are getting close to starting the fence project at the Parsonage. We are still taking donations as we are at the \$1550 level so far. Close, but we still need your generous donation.

We are looking for a team of Corn Hole players to represent Faith Lutheran in the upcoming tournament being sponsored by the Three Lakes Lions. The tournament is coming September 23. The Lions are hoping they get representatives from every organization in town. This sounds like one of the fun ways to be a third-class ticket holder. Talk to me or Tom Bredesen for details.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please bring them to the attention of a member of the Church Council.

Robin Peterson

### ***FROM THE BISHOP***

***Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ~John 15:4***

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

In early December of 2017, I was out in our front yard wrapping Christmas lights around a limb of a tree. The limb was about 10 feet off the ground, and I was standing on a ladder, perhaps the third step down, in order to stretch the lights over and under the branch that extended horizontally. Finished with that particular section, I took one step down, but instead of the ladder remaining firmly stationary, it moved toward me. If I did nothing, I would fall to the ground from a painful height on my back. So, I grabbed the limb of the tree and pulled toward it, thinking that this would stabilize the ladder and bring us both back upright.

No such luck. Instead of righting itself, the ladder fell away beneath me leaving me to cling briefly to the limb before falling to the ground. In my mind, in that slow motion moment, I felt like I could actually choose where I fell, like a kind of gymnastic dismount from the parallel bars. But in reality, I dropped it like a bag of potatoes. And somewhere in the confusion of lights, ladder, and branch, the two fingers of my right hand were caught and pulled out, down, and around with a distinctive crunching sound that made me think of someone snacking on a mouthful of potato chips.



I had broken the bone in my hand that was connected to the ring finger and disrupted the surrounding bones and soft tissue. After



several weeks in a splint and then cast, I was given my hand back, only to realize that in that brief time, my brain had decided that my hand no longer belonged to my body. It was still attached of course, but not in a way that gave it life and function. The physical therapist called it Chronic Reactive Pain Disorder. In short, my hand could no longer work as a hand should. I could not write or type, play piano or grab hold of things. It was a swollen useless thing. My brain, and my hand, needed to be retrained and reconnected to meaningful communication with the body, so that the brain would tell the body to send healing and reconnect the signals to the muscles of my hand.

So, what about meaningful connection in the body...the BODY...of Christ? What needs to be retrained? What needs to be reawaken for life and increased function as we are Church together?

My hand was brought back to life as I watched the 2018 Winter Olympics. While watching gymnasts who actually knew how to land a dismount, I put my hand in hot water for two minutes and then in ice water for 30 seconds – back and forth, night after night. Then exercises, and physical therapy, and more tricks on the brain to get my hand to function in a way that was useful to the body.

Jesus, thankfully, does not suggest that we all dunk ourselves in tubs of hot and cold water to be reconnected as a body. Rather, Jesus talks about connectedness as abiding in him in order to bear fruit. And the way that we abide is by being in a relationship with him. And that relationship is conveyed to us in at least two ways: through study of scripture and through relationship with each other as the body of Christ. Again...BODY.

When the Synod Council met in retreat June 9 -10, we agreed to initiate an effort for us to abide, as a whole Synod, as 79 congregations spanning hundreds of miles and in a variety of communities and contexts, by dwelling on the same passages of scripture over a 12-month period.

We will abide with Jesus by dwelling in the Word. Each congregation will receive 12 different passages of scripture, one for each month. And at each council meeting and quilter group, at each

Sunday School and youth group meeting, at each and every gathering that month, people from across the synod will dwell with the same text. No preparation is needed. No theological degree is required. Very simply:

1. Invite one person to read the text aloud.
2. Consider silently the following:
  - a. What do you notice?
  - b. What questions do you have?
  - c. Where might the Holy Spirit be leading us?
3. Then have another person read the text aloud again.
4. Share your thoughts about the questions with each other.

5. Close with prayer.  
That's it.

We shall abide. And in abiding, in dwelling with the presence of Christ in the word, and considering the work of the Spirit with each other, we will connect with the one who makes us one, who gathers us as a BODY to embody the love of Christ in the world and for the world.

In addition, all are invited to join the Synod Council as we dwell in the word, via Zoom, the first Thursday of the month, starting Thursday September 7 at 7:30 pm ET / 6:30 pm CT. The Zoom link will be available on our website and in E-Notes and you can add it to your online calendars.

The impact of being disconnected, of having the body forget who it is connected to and why, cannot be overestimated. We need each other to be the body of Christ, and we need the Holy Spirit of Christ to clarify our mission and purpose as that Body. By dwelling in the word together, we shall abide...in Christ, in the Word, in the presence of Christ in each other.

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**

As the summer sun continues to warm us and the rains bring life to the Northwoods, we enjoy the many gifts God has granted us.

The greatest of God's gifts is the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. In baptism, God joins us to the death of Christ so that we may look forward to our resurrection with him!

Take time to remember your baptism every day. Let us keep in prayer those members and friends of Faith who celebrate their baptismal birthdays this month.

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Phyllis Frish and Karla Anderson
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Troy Schroeder
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Taylor Madl

Also remember: Melissa Madl, MaryEllyn Williams, Michael Huml, Sonia Dionne and Sue Harris

**MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE**

JUNE 2023	MONTH	YTD SEP – AUG.
<b>INCOME</b>	\$6,994	\$67,119
<b>RESTRICTED</b>	\$4,441	\$14,621 + \$8,099 = 22,720
<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$8,490	\$135,492
<b>NET</b>	\$-1,454	\$-5,224

**\*\*THIS WILL BE PROVIDED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS**

Year: 2023  
Month: May.  
# of Sun.: 4  
Average: 29  
Average online: 14

Year: 2023  
Month: June  
# of Sun.: 4  
Average: 29  
Average online: 6

**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, Abbey Swanson, Rick Gensler, Sr., Hailey Schultz, Ruth Sammetinger, Beth Schomisch, Kay Moericke, Jim Stroschein and Carl Swenson

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

**OUR CHURCH MINISTRIES**

Congregational Care  
Congregation Council  
Board of Worship Life (BOWL)  
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 CALENDAR**

**AUGUST 2023**

	8/6/23	8/13/23	8/20/23	8/27/23
Reader	<b>Robin Peterson</b>	<b>Gretchen Dobbins</b>	<b>Phoebe Pettingell</b>	<b>Robin Peterson</b>
Greeter	-	<b>Bredesens</b>	<b>Bredesens</b>	<b>Bredesens</b>
Music	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
Video	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<b>Dillon Ford</b>

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

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

Summer has arrived and the request went out for more Wednesday night Bible Fellowship!

At 6:30 pm we will commence with outdoor games like Cornhole, Ladderball, Horseshoes, and Bocce, changing it up each week. For those who prefer, there will also be a variety of board games and cards readily available instead.

At 7:15 we will then switch to bible discussion. This summer we will start with a brief paperback entitled **Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned, But I Have Several Excellent Excuses!** By Pastor James Moore. He is a great storyteller and each week we will have an opportunity to chat about his stories and what we might learn from reading. Chapters are in large-print and about 9 pages, making it easy to peruse before we gather. Questions for discussion are included at the end of the book. And snacks are provided!

We do not need a head count in advance, but in order to get enough books we do need to know of your interest. Please let Tom or Miriam Bredesen know by phone, email, or catch them on Sunday! See you there!

Tom Cell: 715-546-3735 [tbrede49@hotmail.com](mailto:tbrede49@hotmail.com)  
Miriam Cell: 715-617-0151 [mkbrede53@gmail.com](mailto:mkbrede53@gmail.com)

**AUGUST 2023**

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1	2  12:30 pm Quilting  6:30 pm Bible Fellowship	3	4  Office Closed	5
6  9:00 am Holy Communion	7	8	9  12:30 pm Quilting  6:30 pm Bible Fellowship	10	11  Office Closed	12
13  9:00 am Holy Communion	14  4:30 pm Council Meeting  Pastor Vacation	15  Pastor Vacation	16  12:30 pm Quilting  6:30 pm Bible Fellowship  Pastor Vacation	17  Pastor Vacation	18  Office Closed  Pastor Vacation	19  Pastor Vacation
20  9:00 am Holy Communion  Pastor Vacation	21  Pastor Vacation	22	23  12:30 pm Quilting  6:30 pm Bible Fellowship	24	25  Office Closed	26
27  9:00 am Holy Communion	28	29	30  12:30 pm Quilting  6:30 pm Bible Fellowship	31		

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

***WORKING TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.***

## **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: 9:00 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 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>

## **VISIT US ON FACEBOOK**

<https://www.facebook.com/faith3lakes>



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

