



FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

October 2023

FROM PASTOR CATIE

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.”

-John 14:26-29

This year has been a difficult one for me with the loss of three loved ones. The most recent passing happened while I was surrounded by colleagues and friends at a continuing education retreat. The next night something incredible happened- I experienced the Northern Lights for the first time. As I stood in awe of the beauty, I was reminded that God always provides for God's children.

God does not give in ways that this world does. Of course, God provides some things in earthly ways like how I was surrounded by people who help others during times of loss. But God also provides in bigger ways like peace in all times and a promise that death does not have the final word. Jesus told us these things so that we could believe it in our lives. So that in the dancing of the lights we can find comfort and peace.

God is at work in our lives. God is providing for us, our congregation, and our community. We see this in the ministry that is happening through our “Faith filled” backpack program, in the quilts that were made for Lutheran World Relief, and through the generosity that has kept our congregation going. In what other ways have you seen God providing in your life?

Peace,
 Pastor Catie



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Each Sunday we are showing the world how people of differing backgrounds and personalities can worship together and function as a community that has a warm and welcoming heart. This is precisely what I wish those that don't often come to worship service would come to realize: we need to belong to a community that has a warm and welcoming heart. One of the great blessings in life is being part of a faith community. Over the years, relationships are established as we worship together, laugh together, grieve together and support each other through the challenges in life. I am taking some of these thoughts from a daily devotion from a few days back. Psalm 133:1 says “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.” Together we have learned we need one another, and because of our faith community, we find we are never alone. I am writing this days before our Annual Meeting when we meet to conduct the work of the church. We will be blessed by the presence of Christ in our midst and the Christ we see in each other. We are united by the love of God and hope we embrace this truth as we live with our differences.

We are getting closer and closer with our Constitution being ready for us to review it and begin the process of adoption. It will take two meetings to accomplish this. Stay tuned for the announcement of these meetings.

1 Peter 2:16-17 says “ As servants of God . . . honor everyone”. When I read that back in the middle of September several people I know came immediately to mind as they are always so kind and positive. I saw this scripture in action when the fence was being assembled over at the parsonage. The leaders in charge of planning and carrying out this project honored all of us ‘worker bees’. It was a pleasure to be a part of this crew and we all experienced the satisfaction of seeing the completion of the project. Thanks to all those who donated towards the fence and to those who helped assemble the fence at the parsonage.

A slightly different Church Council will meet on Oct. 10 to conduct the work of the church as the Council representatives of our Boards will change. But the very important work of the Boards will continue as many of the same people continue serving in those positions. As always if you have questions or concerns please bring them to the attention of a member of your church council.

Robin Peterson

FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I have a confession to make...I am a bargain shopper. I very rarely will pay full price for something as I first go to the clearance racks, the St. Vinny's store, or shop at Kohl's only on those days when I have a 30% off coupon on top of the clearance price and the current sale. And then, if I receive Kohl's cash in the bargain, I'm back at the store again, in search of the best deal. My husband laments the effectiveness of their marketing strategy on me as I happily anticipate the next opportunity to save money by spending it.

Whether it's at the gas pump or with grocery store coupons, I am a thrifty shopper. After once again using my Jubilee Pump Perks to save 30 cents a gallon on gas, I wondered how much I might save over a lifetime. Wouldn't it be great, I wondered, if some angel in heaven were tasked with keeping track of the nickels and dimes that I did not spend? How fun it would be to

not only enter into the presence of God's glory, but then to be told that over my lifetime I saved \$57,423.46 that could have been wasted but was instead put to good use elsewhere. All those pennies and dollars that were saved with careful attention and prudent spending, I would love to know how it might all add up.

But then, I thought, wouldn't such an angel also keep track of my excesses, the impulse buys, the times I was not careful, or too impatient, or just wanted something that I did not need?

And wouldn't such an accounting include the times I was not generous, when I could have put saved money, or more money, towards someone else's needs? Sure, I might be saving money, but to what end? Just to stretch my own dollar? As people of faith, are we not called, indeed even commanded, to more than that?

It's no secret that many are in need. As we continue to recover from pandemic disruption, as inflation continues to have an impact, the demands on food pantries and feeding programs has increased. We are asked to give to a host of worthy causes: our own congregation, Lutheran Disaster Response, Feeding America, and so much more. I am grateful to the generosity of so many who continue to give to Lutheran Campus Ministry, our Equipping the Saints Endowment Fund and how many other Synod ministries. Thank you! Thank you!

We are indeed blessed to give – whether it is out of our own abundance, or from the savings carefully and intentionally carved from careful spending and good stewardship of a stretched dollar.

And the good news is that there is no heavenly record keeping of our failures. Psalm 103 proclaims,

¹⁰[God] does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

I can live off the joy of a good bargain for some days. But life extends into eternity because of God's steadfast love and mercy. I am thankful that I can enjoy both bargains in this life and God's promises for the next life while still responding to God's call in Christ Jesus to be generous and to put those unspent nickels, dimes, and dollars to good use for needs other than my own. After all, when we all give, nickels and dimes and dollars add up to quite a sum, a sum that can make a difference to the work of Christ in and through our congregations and our partnership as a Synod together.

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

Autumn is here! The sound of crunching leaves underfoot is common.

The fallen leaves remind us of the summer that now is in the past. The life which is gone, as the cold of winter approaches.

The waters of baptism also remind us of life – of the life that is past, present and future! The life we share in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

During October, listen to water...from the tap, the shower, the lake, the falling rain. Be reminded of the new life you share in Christ. Remember also members and friends of Faith who celebrate baptismal birthdays this month.

- 5th – Sis Tenges
- 6th – Piersen Rawoens
- 9th – Jenna Erikson and Lily Medeiros-Harris
- 15th – Tom Bredesen
- 19th – Connie Lyons
- 23rd – Willow Schroeder
- 24th – Doe Muench
- 26th – Logan Erikson
- 27th – Monte James

Also remember: Tom Muench, Rick Gensler Sr., Kristen Anderson, Duane Bonack, Larry Roth and Rhonda Buss

MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

AUGUST 2023	MONTH	YTD SEP – JULY
INCOME	\$5,967	\$84,447
RESTRICTED	\$600 (fence)	\$22,061
EXPENSES	\$7,914	\$152,218
NET	\$ -1,309	\$-5751

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

Year: 2023	Year: 2023
Month: July	Month: August
# of Sun.: 5	# of Sun.: 5
Average: 34	Average: 34
Average online:14	Average online: 14

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, Bonnie Pegel and Doug Wallschlaeger

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

OCTOBER 2023

	10/1/23	10/8/23	10/15/23	10/22/23	10/29/23
Read	Jan Harris	Robin Peterson	Gretchen Dobbins	Phoebe Pettingell	Jan Harris
Greet	Jan Harris	Brede-sens	Brede-sens	Brede-sens	Jan Harris
Music	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Video	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford

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

OCTOBER 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
1 Annual Meeting	2	3	4 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect	5	6 Office Closed	7
8 9:00 am Holy Communion God's Work, Our Hands	9	10 Meeting: Boards – 6:15 pm Council – 7:00pm	11 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect	12	13 Office Closed	14
15 9:00 am Holy Communion	16	17	18 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect	19	20 Office Closed	21
22 9:00 am Holy Communion Sunday School	23	24	25 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect	26	27 Office Closed	28
29 9:00 am Holy Communion	30	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.

