



FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

February 2024

FROM PASTOR CATIE

“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

-Genesis 3:19

This year, I find myself thinking a lot about the Lenten practice of giving something up. Many Christians often take on this practice as a form of sacrifice as they prepare for the sacrifice that Jesus gave for us. Jesus gave up his life so that our sins would be forgiven and therefore some feel it is right to give something up for these 40 days.

If giving something up for Lent brings you closer to Christ, then wonderful! But for me, giving something up was always a struggle. I would debate for days about what to give up. Once I had finally decided and Lent had begun, I then struggled to stick to my commitment. I found myself slipping up and feeling badly about myself. Or in the times that I didn't stray from the plan, I found I was indulging in whatever it was on Sundays. For example, one year I gave up cookies for Lent. (Who gives up cookies in Girl Scout cookie season?!?) On Sundays I would eat cookies until I felt sick, and that is no way to start the week or get closer to Christ!

What I've started doing instead is adding intentional time with God. I find an additional devotional, spend more time reading my Bible, or make new windows of time in my day for prayer. This is something that works for me and maybe it is something that you would like to try.

This year we will be having soup suppers and Bible study on Wednesday evenings. Perhaps joining us as we dive deeper into Mark could be a Lenten commitment for you. A class on the spirituality of death and dying will also be starting soon. This will be an opportunity to prepare ourselves for what is to come as we are all made of dust and to dust we shall return. More information on this class is coming soon!

Whether you give something up or add something to your day, I pray that on your Lenten journey this year you will grow closer to Christ. And that you will feel the presence of God surrounding you.

Peace,
 Pastor Catie

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month I want to continue on the journey of trying to understand Stewardship. Last month I concentrated on our stewardship of creation. I want to continue in Genesis and focus on Abram as he rescues his nephew Lot. A lightning raid of Lot's kidnappers ends in his release. Abram gratefully presents a tenth of the plunder to the King of Salem, "priest of God Most High". I thought this was the first mention of tithing we read in the Bible and it is, but this action was not unique to the day. The key here in Chapter 14 is that Melchizedek blesses Abraham even though Abraham already knew he was blessed. By the way, Melchizedek brings out wine and bread with this blessing. Abraham sees the evidence that God delights in man's gratitude. God's delight in our gratitude should have a significant impact on our understanding of the tithe. Now it is true that the Old Testament tithes were used to support the Levites and for benevolence. And this is very true for us today. But how does the history of the tithe change our perspective of our giving? How does our giving relate to gratitude? How does our giving relate to worship? Skipping ahead to Deuteronomy we see Moses telling the Israelites to use their tithes to worship their God. So I ask us to look at the pattern of our giving and pray about it. Give, or increase your giving, and see how it affects your worship.

With our change to Churchtrac here at Faith, we have been asked to go to faith3lakes.churchtrac.com to create your username and password and fill out your profile. And it would be a great time to set up your online giving. I just did it, and it was painless. If I can do this so can you even though I have for years enjoyed the throwing of an envelope into the offering plate each Sunday.

This winter we sure seem to be saving on snow plowing (at least so far). But it looks like the boiler for heating the parsonage needs to be worked on. So the council will be looking at bids for this work and proceeding with the needed repairs. There always seems to be something to keep us working ahead and planning. Keep this in mind as you review the message above.

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

Robin Peterson

FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

Renewing Relationships and Making New Friends in Tanzania by Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

I was privileged to accompany Dr. Danielle Anderson, Rev. Brahm Semmler Smith, and Stephanie Smith (no relationship to Pastor Brahm) on a visit to our companion diocese in Tanzania—the Eastern and Coastal Diocese. This past October, we spent about two weeks in

Tanzania renewing relationships and making new friends. We saw many of the ministries of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese.

The Northern Great Lakes Synod has an over 30-year companionship relationship with the Eastern and Coastal Diocese which is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Many people from our synod have traveled to Tanzania in various capacities—work crews, teacher exchanges, church companionship. The ELCT is now larger than the ELCA in membership. The church is growing in Tanzania but is not without its own challenges. We have much to learn from each other.

Hospitality is probably the first word that comes to mind when thinking of our experience in Tanzania. We were well-cared for and were welcomed to witness their lives. We were welcomed in the name of Christ. We experienced great music and worship and passion for their faith and tangible efforts to serve others in Jesus' name.

I offer in this article some highlights along with pictures of this experience in Tanzania. If your congregation already has a companion congregation in Tanzania, I encourage you to keep that relationship up through regular correspondence. And you may even choose to visit Tanzania or host visitors from Tanzania! If you don't have a companion congregation in Tanzania, please contact me in the synod office to learn more about the possibilities!

Kisarawe Lutheran Jr. Seminary—A Boarding School for Teenagers – Headmaster Maxon is a young man who is passionate to make improvements both in the infrastructure and the quality of instruction. They strive to offer physical, mental and spiritual growth for all students. Mr. Maxon gave us a strategic plan for improvements. He showed me pictures of how over the years our synod has supported this place through work crews. The library is named after former Bishop Skogman, one dormitory named after former Bishop Skrenes, and one dormitory named after Rev. Bob Langseth. We also were blessed to witness and participate in graduation ceremonies. The pride of the students and families was on display!



A picture of Pastor Bob Langseth and his wife Deloris stands in the library which he and many others from the Northern Great Lakes Synod help build. The headmaster of Kisarawe offered condolences as Pastor Langseth's funeral was ironically the same day as my visit. Pastor Langseth was affectionately known by many in Tanzania

as “Pastor Tembo” (Swahili word for “elephant”—a nod to his booming voice and playful portrayal of an elephant)



A Maasai Worship Service The Maasai are the traditional hunters and herders of Tanzania. Some of them are moving from rural areas to the capital city of Dar es Salaam. The Lutheran church is helping with literacy training. We celebrated the “graduates” of that training! We experienced traditional Masai dancing and music during the worship service!



A Growing Church I was honored to preach and be with Bishop Malasusa and the people of Gide parish. The 4-hour celebration included many choirs, brass band, prayers and offerings. Even a goat was presented to Bishop Malasusa. God bless the Gide parish and Pastor Elisabeth as they complete their roof!!



Interfaith and Peace Efforts on Zanzibar The Lutheran Church is small in numbers on the island of Zanzibar, but it's Upendo House and Interfaith peace efforts include a vocational training school for girls to learn sewing and business skills. Most of the students are Muslim.



Mtoni Health Dispensary, Maternity and Dental Clinic

The Eastern and Coastal Diocese supports medical facilities like that at Mtoni. This health dispensary provides basic medical care. There is also a new maternity ward. The dental clinic welcomed a new modern dental chair, and there are hopes for a sustainable model of dental care for people who often don't have a chance to receive dental care.



Mkuza Girls School Mkuza is a boarding school for girls sponsored by the Eastern and Coastal Diocese with a current enrollment of about 200. Plans are to expand to 400. The Women of the Northern Great Lakes Synod have a long history of supporting Mkuza. The headmistress, Mercy Nyka, gave us a tour and thanked us for our support.



Mlandizi Vocational Center for Adults The diocese has built a vocational training center for adults with special needs. Carolina Shedafa showed us this amazing facility that should open in January. Adults will be housed here and learn a skill that matches their abilities and offers them a sense of dignity. Endowment Funds from the Skrenes Ministry Fund have helped this effort.



Bishop Alex Malasusa is a longtime friend of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. We were pleased to spend some 90 minutes in his office. Bishop Malasusa was elected as bishop of the whole Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Bishop Katherine Finegan will attend his installation in Tanzania on January 21.

May God bless Bishop Malasusa and all our friends in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of Tanzania!

Bwana Asifiwe! Praise the Lord!



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!

SAVE THOSE COINS!

February 11, we will have our Noisy Coins Collection! We can make a lot of noise by collecting coins in a soup pot! Bring your coins for a 2nd offering donation. (Paper cash will be accepted as well.) Proceeds will support "Faith-Filled" Backpack Program.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 14th this year. Ash Wednesday Services are at 7:00 pm. Please join us!

LENT

During Lent we will be having Soup Supper and Bible Study every Wednesday night at 6:00 pm. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the entryway. Hope to see you there!

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!”

- 10th – Kailyn Fogerty
- 26th – William Dachelet

Others to remember: Jennifer Kortenhof and Duane Bonack

MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER 2023	MONTH	YTD SEP – NOV
INCOME	\$10,134	\$23,915
RESTRICTED	\$3,177	\$4,047
EXPENSES	\$11,744	\$32,036
NET	\$ -1,639	\$-8,120

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

Year: 2023	Year: 2023
Month: November	Month: December
# of Sun.: 4	# of Sun.: 6 (includes Advent 4)
Average: 27	Average:40
Average online: 5	Average online:19

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, Abby Swanson, Rick Gensler, Sr., Hailey Schultz, Ruth Sammetinger, Beth Schomisch, Jim Stroschein, Bonnie Pegel, Kris Tenges, Lou Medeiros, Myrna Stroschein, Heidi Lulloff, Olivia, and Emma and Chase Kirby

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

FEBRUARY 2024

	2/4/24	2/11/24	2/18/24	2/25/24
Reader	Robin Peterson	Gretchen Dobbins	Phoebe Pettingell	Jan Harris
Greeter	Amy Davis and Debby Carlson	-		Jan Harris
Music	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Video	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. **

FEBRUARY 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1	2 Office Closed	3
4 9:00 am Holy Communion	5	6	7 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect	8	9 Office Closed	10
11 9:00 am Holy Communion Sunday School	12	13 6:15 pm Board Meetings 7:00 pm Council Meeting	14 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday 12:30 pm Quilting	15	16 Office Closed	17
18 9:00 am Holy Communion	19	20	21 12:30 pm Quilting 6:00 pm Soup Supper and Bible Study	22	23 Office Closed	24
25 9:00 am Holy Communion Sunday School	26	27	28 12:30 pm Quilting 6:00 pm Soup Supper and Bible Study	29		

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

Custodian: Sara Palubicki

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.

