



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

May 2024

FROM PASTOR CATIE

“Now when the king was settled in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.” But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.”

-2 Samuel 7:1-6

In our lives we are constantly planning ahead. We plan for our trip to the grocery store, for the activities we have in a week, for the places we will travel. This happens at church too. We plan for the “busy seasons” Christmas and Easter. We create a budget to plan for each fiscal year. We prepare special worship services for the warm summer weather.

One of these special occasions that we plan for is Senior Sunday. As this Sunday quickly approaches (May 19th), I've been thinking about the differences between planning and dreaming. While seniors make plans for what will happen after high school, these plans are formed by dreams. Dreams for what the future will hold. Dreams of where they see themselves in 5, 10, 25 years from now. As I thought of dreams, I was reminded of an art series called “Those Who Dream.” Lauren Wright Pittman created a piece in this series, “A Herons Wisdom.” And she shared her reflections on the piece. They are as follows:

“I was paddling in my kayak when I saw a heron standing tall at the next bend in the river. I was struggling to paddle upstream, but I desperately wanted to see this creature up close. I paddled as hard and as silently as I could, and as I got within twenty feet of the heron, the moody hues of its feathers—navy, gray, steel blue, and periwinkle—the bright oranges of its beak, and the sunshine yellow of its eyes came into focus. Just as I got

close enough to begin to discern the heron’s details, it took flight, landing still in view at the next bend in the river. We continued this dance, bend after bend, with the heron as my guide until I came to the end of my journey. As the heron took off over the tree-laden horizon, I felt gratitude for this heron’s presence. I felt the heron taught me about my relationship with God—this dance of pursuit, intimacy, guidance, and mystery.

So, David wants to build God a house. I love how God takes on this posture of playfulness when expressing how absurd this desire truly is.

David wants to build a shelter for the architect of the cedar tree itself. The practice of drawing this cedar tree was a spiritual one. As I sketched the twists and turns in the branches, the flared patterning of the cedar leaves, and the swirling of the bark texture, I found awe for the tree’s Designer. Though we may feel like we are paddling upstream all alone, God is with us. Despite our efforts to grasp God, or put God in a box, God is beyond comprehension, unbound, and everywhere.”

Our dreams don’t always come easy. We will see this in our seniors. They will take many steps in the next few years to get closer and closer to their dreams. As they take these steps, they will learn about themselves and grow as individuals. Their dreams may change. This makes me wonder, what are our dreams for Faith Lutheran? Are they the same as when the congregation was created in 1981? Have they changed? Or is it a bit of both?

Over the next few months, I’d like to hear your dreams for Faith. What are your dreams for Faith in the next 5, 25, 100 years? David had a large dream. Our seniors are dreaming big as they prepare for their futures. May we celebrate with them and join them in our own big dreams. And as we do so, I pray that we remember that God is with us on the journey. God is with us when we see the beauty around us like the heron and the cedar tree. And God is with us when it feels like we are paddling upstream.

Peace,
 Pastor Catie



“A Heron’s Wisdom ” by Lauren Wright Pittman

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A while back in my studying of Stewardship messages in the Bible, I mentioned Abraham possibly making the first tithe mentioned in the Bible when he gave a tithe to Melchizedek of his plunder after rescuing Lot. This lets us know how great Abraham thought of this priest of God Most High. Jumping to Hebrews Chapter 7 there is mention of Jesus being an even greater priest than Melchizedek. The author of Hebrews reviews the story of Abraham’s tithe to show us the importance of our offerings given to honor and worship God. Theologian Mark Allen Powell talks a lot about giving as worship. I borrow some of his thoughts in the next few lines here. Many people think that we take up an offering during worship to pay the bills and also to do some good things with the money that is collected. And for sure, we absolutely need money to pay the bills. But this is not why we have an offering during the Sunday morning service. The offering is an act of worship, an instance in which we are invited to give up something that we value – our money – as a sacrifice to God. We come to church to worship God, and the giving of an offering is a wonderful opportunity for worship. We are invited to put money in the offering plate on Sunday morning not because the church needs our money but because we want and need to give it. We have a need to worship God, and through our offerings we are able to express our love and devotion for God in a way that is simple and sincere. The motivation

of the giver is what is important, not the size of the offering. The good news of stewardship is that church offerings are not fund-raising rituals but acts of worship in which we are invited to express our heartfelt devotion to the God who is so good to us.

We are out of the can recycling business. The last load of cans was taken up to the Sunshine Habitat homeless shelter in Eagle River. The donation of the last of our cans will go to the work they do to support the homeless in the Eagle River area and the expansion they are planning for their facilities at their present location. If you are still looking for a worthy cause to donate your cans, give this organization your consideration.

I want to put in a plug for the special congregational meeting called for after worship on May 12. We need a quorum for this meeting as we seek your approval to spend the money necessary to replace the furnace in the parsonage. An article in this newsletter and a letter you will be receiving in the mail will detail the work the Trustees have gone through leading to the recommendation we will present to you for approval. In the paragraph above I mention that our offerings do not take the form of a fund-raising ritual. But this project will have a fund-raising component to it as we seek approval to go ahead with this project and then we will turn right around and ask for donations to raise the needed funds. I hope to see you all at this very important meeting.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please bring these to the attention of a member of the church council.

Robin Peterson

FROM THE BISHOP

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

~John 12: 24

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, The season of gardening is almost upon us. When I was a child, my mother would cajole, plead, and bribe me and my siblings to take a turn weeding in the garden. I always resisted, disliking not only the bending in the hot sun, but the time away from play, even as I had just complained that there was nothing to do.

After my family and I moved to Republic, my husband and I agreed to try gardening. As we planned and planted, I regretted not having paid more attention to all the wisdom that I know my mother had about gardening, but I was too reluctant a student.

It was a surprise to me then, as I weeded the garden, when I unintentionally uprooted a green bean seed that had already sprouted, and what surprised me was how the seed was literally disappearing into the sprout. As I held this disturbed sprout in my dirty hand, I could see that the seed had been split open by the urgent growth of this little tendril

shoot that sprung from the mysterious depth of the center of this seed, no bigger than....well....a bean seed. The two halves of the seed that flanked the sprout were pushed to the sides, up and away, and they were getting smaller as the sprout gathered what remained of the seed into itself for upward growth. I had never seen a seed sprout, not that I could remember, not that I had ever paid attention. And I was newly in awe of the miracle that God provides with seeds and dark earth, water and sun. And then to think that this small sprout would, and indeed did, grow into a bush full of green beans, despite all the weeds that surrounded it. One small seed was transformed into a gallon freezer bag full of long and plump green beans, beans that graced our table at more than a few meals, where my children could count on me to say, just as my mother had, "These beans are from the garden."

God is in the business of new life and transformation, most particularly, transforming death into life. And we are both privileged and burdened to witness the current and ongoing transformation of the Church. Death is hard. We suffer it. We would rather not die. And yet, there is no Easter without Good Friday.

This Spring, in this Easter season of new life, the congregation of St. James in Marinette, WI will give new life to the Church as their church closes. Its end will also be a beginning as it loses itself in support of other ministries and participation in other communities of faith. And yet, St. James will never be lost. It will be remembered and honored as any beloved whose life we celebrate. As in all things, it had a beginning and it will have an end, that God transforms into beginning again.

Just as Jesus the Christ was transformed. Through the open and empty tomb, we are given the clear message that death is not the final word. The grain that was buried for three days is still bearing fruit – as the faithful gather, as they are equipped, as they are sent to plant seeds of faith – seeds that lose themselves in new growth and yield a harvest to a world hungry for the presence of God in Christ Jesus.

May God bless your seed sowing efforts, both in the dirt of your garden and in the world.

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!

A Time to Heal Retreat

Where There is Despair, Hope: May 3rd-5th

Friday Check in at 3:00pm Orientation @ 5:45pm

Supper: 6:00pm Departure Sunday after noon meal

Investment: \$225

Location St Anthony Spirituality Center marathon WI

Moving Through Grief into Gratitude: Weekend

Investment Friday 5:45 to Sunday 1pm \$225 or Saturday only 8:30-4:00pm \$70

St Anthony Spirituality Center Marathon WI

Three Lakes Christian Food Pantry Collections

April 28th-May 26th Collecting donations for Food pantry, looking for Paper Products & Personal Hygiene Products
Needed items: Toilet papers, paper towels & tissues
Bar soap or body wash; mens & women's 2 in 1, deodorants; tooth paste & brushes.

Please place items in shopping cart in narthex, any donations are very much appreciated.

LIGHT THE FIRE

Friday May 31st 6:30pm at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls Mi. You're invited to a community-centered evening of friends, family faith and fellowship as we raise funds for Fortune Lake! We're kicking off the summer camp season and celebrating the work of God through our beloved camp. All are welcome and there is no fee, there will be an invitation to donate in supporting the Summer Camp. Faith will be one of the many host sites for this event! Let's all go out and enjoy an evening of songs, skits, smores and swag giveaways in this faith-filled evening to support Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp!



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!

A LETTER REGARDING THE SPECIAL MEETING **MAY 12TH**

Dear Faith Lutheran members,

The Trustees have had several problems with the boiler, water heater, and heating system at the parsonage in the last couple of years. Corrosion and age are catching up with the original installation. The average lifespan of a home boiler system 15-20 years. To the best of our knowledge the old boiler has been functioning for 36 years.

Several different heating contractors have worked on the boiler over the last few years. Primarily we switched heating contractors because they are all so very busy. Each of them has recommended replacement when the congregational situation makes it possible. Bids were sought from these heating contractors.

The Trustees met with S&S Services to take a detailed look at the boiler together. We were quite impressed with their knowledge of boilers and water heater options. Together with a discount they offered and a substantial warranty on the boiler we felt this was the way to go.

The general feeling was that although an air conditioning option was offered by S&S Services (about \$2800). The Trustees felt that this was not something we could really afford right now. Instead, we are recommending that we plant several fast growing shade trees.

The parsonage is in full sun virtually all summer long. Overall, the Trustees have come to the conclusion that the replacement of the boiler and water heater combination is no longer avoidable. We recommended a specific option offered by S&S Services of \$10,500 to the Church Council. They agreed that we should not wait until the boiler breaks down at the worst possible moment. Picture 20 degrees below zero when all the heating contractors are backed up working on broken furnaces! The Council took action with a motion to spend \$12,000 for the work on the boiler system and the purchase of shade trees. This motion was passed. We are calling for a special congregational meeting on May 12, 2024, for the sole purpose of authorizing the Council to spend this amount of money. At the same time we will be asking for donations for this project. Please make arrangements to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,
Robin Peterson
Faith Lutheran Church Council President

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 our 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!

8th- Jacque Deditz & Marshall Rawoens
9th- Hunter St Louis & Linda Fowles
19th- Peyton Erikson
24th- Hannah Peterson
26th- Kathy Gilbertson & Kari Volk
29th- Kallie Volk

MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

JANUARY 2024	MONTH	YTD SEP – NOV
INCOME	\$16,885.96.	\$16,885.96
EXPENSES	\$11,677.83	\$11,677.83
NET	\$ 5,208.13	\$5,208.13

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

Year: 2024	Year: 2024
Month March	Month: April
# of Services.: 7	# of Services.: 4
Average: 29	Average: 29
Average online: 40	Average online: 22

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

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
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

May 2024

	5/5/24	5/12/24	5/19/24	5/26/24
Reader	Gretchen Dobbins	Phoebe Pettingell	Jan Harris	Johnathon Coggins
Greeter	Amy Davis And Debby Carlson	-	Jan Harris	Amy Davis And Debby Carlson
Music	Val Snedden	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Video	Amy Davis	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford

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

May 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			1	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 9:00 am Holy Communion Sunday School	6	7	8 12:30 pm Quilting	9	10 Office Closed	11
12 9:00 am Holy Communion <u>Special Metting After Service</u>	13	14	15 12:30 pm Quilting	16	17 Office Closed	18
19 9:00 am Holy Communion Sunday School Senior Sunday	20	21	22 12:30 pm Quilting	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:00 am Holy Communion Food Pantry Drive Ends	27	28	29 12:30 pm Quilting	30	31 Office Closed Light the Fire 6:30pm	

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: Jacob Skibinski
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.

