



**FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS**

**March 2024**

**FROM PASTOR CATIE**

*For Flowers That Bloom*

“For flowers that bloom about our feet;  
 For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;  
 For song of bird, and hum of bee;  
 For all things fair we hear or see,  
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky;  
 For pleasant shade of branches high;  
 For fragrant air and cooling breeze;  
 For beauty of the blooming trees,  
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee!”

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

This year Easter is as early as it can possibly be. I find myself wondering if spring is also approaching the Northwoods early this year. While I haven't been in the Northwoods all that long, I feel safe in saying that this winter was strange. There was no snow on Christmas. Many people didn't get to participate in beloved winter activities due to lack of snow. And we didn't have too many terribly cold days.

Spring is my favorite season. I love how the days get longer. The sun shines more. And gentle rains bring flowers to life. In my experience, spring in the Northwoods is short lived. But this year feels different.

Perhaps this year has provided us an opportunity to appreciate the seasons in a new way. By “missing out” on our typical winter we are reminded of what we love about the season. With winter being short and Easter just around the corner, we can appreciate the flowers that bloom and birds that sing for longer this year. Maybe we can notice God's presence in the swiftness of Easter and spring this year. What are you thankful for this year as the seasons change?

Peace,  
 Pastor Catie

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Our heavenly Father wants us as his children to conform to the image of his Son. Jesus was unselfish. One of the key ways our character becomes conformed to Christ is to be a habitual giver. Someone once said “Giving is not God's way of raising money; it is God's way of raising people into the likeness of his Son.”

The very air we breathe, the water we drink, the wonder of life itself, our planet, the universe— we brought none of these into being. They are gifts we enjoy out of the love God has for us. The love of God, the gift of Jesus Christ, forgiveness of our sins, the call into Christian community, the comfort of the Holy Spirit, eternal life— none of these came from us either; each is a gift to us from God. When we remember that God owns everything it may shift our view of stewardship. Usually we think Stewardship is our giving to God or to the church something that belongs to us. But in the Bible, stewardship is just the reverse— our freely using, enjoying, and giving what already belongs to God.

For some believers, cheerful giving has become fearful giving. We are not opposed to supporting God's Kingdom with our resources. We are not greedy. We are concerned that if we don't look after our own needs first, they might not get looked after at all. God is predictable and unpredictable. He is absolutely predictable that He will provide for our needs. What we cannot predict is how the Lord will provide. No matter how He chooses to provide for our needs, He is utterly reliable.

The Trustees are looking into the current boiler system in the parsonage as it provides heat for the parsonage. The system has been showing signs of need of repair or replacement. The Trustees will be making a recommendation to the Council when they have studied all the possibilities. We may be bringing this recommendation to you to discuss at a special congregational meeting. A big decision like this, involving this much money, needs authorization by the whole congregation. Stay tuned.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please bring them to the attention of a member of your church council

Robin Peterson

**FROM THE BISHOP**

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, .... For we are God's servants, working together”

~I Corinthians 3: 6-9

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,  
 At the risk of getting too personal, I share with you that my mother joined the Saints Triumphant on February 11. As the deadline for this article is

February 12, I cannot help but approach this task with thoughts of my mother at the forefront.

In this year, as together we as a synod consider what it means to be a Seed Sower and what it means to plant, and as I make plans with my siblings to celebrate the life of my mother, I can think of no better example of one who planted seeds and one who witnessed the yield of seeds planted by others long ago.

My mother was born in India in July 1932, the daughter of missionaries. She, along with her four siblings, was brought up in the faith. She was taught the love of Jesus, the value of compassion, and the expectation of sharing the love of God in a way that makes a difference.

The seeds of faith planted in her bore fruit as she became a nurse, the wife of a seminary professor, the mother of five children, and a generous giver of time, talents, and treasure. She sang in choirs, kissed scraped knees, worked church funerals and became a matriarch of her community of faith. She was a parish nurse at Luther Seminary and her church library was named after her in honor of the hours invested in cataloging, arranging, and gathering literature.

I could go on. But of course, it is the rare mother that doesn't inspire the accolades of her children. My mother was no exception. But in this season of Seed Sowers, I am grateful for the seeds of faith, and the example of generosity, that my mother gave me and all who knew her.

She not only planted seeds but enjoyed the fruit of seeds planted by others. She witnessed the seeds planted by missionaries when years later, she returned to India to visit the church and seminary founded by my grandfather and others. She saw how many pastors, native to India, had graduated from that seminary and students that are attending.

We give thanks for the churches that were planted and the people who came to know Jesus through their efforts.

And now? I invite you to consider what seeds of faith you are planting. Whether you are working to pass on the faith to the next generation, or enjoying the fruit of seeds planted long ago, I invite you to intentionally plant seeds for future faith, future ministry. This can happen in many ways:

- Volunteer

- Share your story of faith with a stranger, doubts and all
- Support a ministry effort with your financial gift.
- Share your story of faith with a loved one.
- Remember THE Church or Your church in your will.
- Work on your own discipleship. Take a class, go to church, invite a friend.

In this time of great change, I am grateful for the seeds of faith planted long ago, and the seeds of faith planted now which will bear fruit in the future. We are part of a great cycle of life, this shape of the Christian life that involves dying and rising, Good Friday and Easter, death and resurrection, planting and harvesting.

The spirit of my mother lives on in those who remember her, and the Spirit of the Living Christ lives as only the son of God can - to call, enlighten and sanctify those who gather and are sent in his name, to plant seeds that someone else will water, and someone else will harvest.

I give thanks for the blessing of my mother, and for all who have planted seeds of faith.

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!

### 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!

### CHILI COOK-OFF

Faith Lutheran is joining with Trinity Lutheran in Rhinelander for a friendly competition: a Chili Cook-Off! This event is planned for Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, so mark your calendars and plan to participate in this fun event! We are also looking for volunteers to help with cooking chili, setting up, and maybe even judging for the winner! We will plan for 5 crockpots of chili and some desserts from each church and go from there. For more information, please contact: Vickie Johnson at 763-439-6650 or Jan Harris at 715-401-2184

### 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!

24<sup>th</sup> – Daniel Hannam

28<sup>th</sup> – Gerrienne Rawoens

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

### 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: 2023

Month December

# of Sun.: 4

(includes Advent 4)

Average: 40

Average online: 19

Year: 2024

Month: January

# of Sun.: 4

Average:28

Average online:10

### 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, and Maggie Servent

### 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**

**MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**

|                |                       |                                    |                          |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                | <b>3/3/24</b>         | <b>3/10/24</b>                     | <b>3/17/24</b>           |
| <b>Reader</b>  | <b>Robin Peterson</b> | <b>Gretchen Dobbins</b>            | <b>Phoebe Pettingell</b> |
| <b>Greeter</b> | <b>-</b>              | <b>Amy Davis and Debby Carlson</b> | <b>-</b>                 |
| <b>Music</b>   | <b>Rhonda Buss</b>    | <b>Val Snedden</b>                 | <b>Rhonda Buss</b>       |
| <b>Video</b>   | <b>Dillon Ford</b>    | <b>Dillon Ford</b>                 | <b>Dillon Ford</b>       |

**MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)**

|                |                                |                                    |
|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                | <b>3/24/24<br/>Palm Sunday</b> | <b>3/31/24<br/>Easter Sunday</b>   |
| <b>Reader</b>  | <b>Jan Harris</b>              | <b>Johnathon Coggins</b>           |
| <b>Greeter</b> | <b>Jan Harris</b>              | <b>Amy Davis and Debby Carlson</b> |
| <b>Music</b>   | <b>Rhonda Buss</b>             | <b>Rhonda Buss</b>                 |
| <b>Video</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. \****

**MARCH 2024**

| SUN.  | MON. | TUES.   | WED.  | THURS.   | FRI.                                    | SAT. |
|---|------|---|---|--|---|------|
|   |      |   |   |  | 1<br>Office Closed                      | 2    |
| 3<br>9:00 am<br>Holy<br>Communion   | 4    | 5   | 6<br>12:30 pm<br>Quilting<br><br>6:00 pm<br>Soup Supper<br>and Bible Study  | 7  | 8<br>Office Closed                      | 9    |
| 10<br>9:00 am<br>Holy<br>Communion<br><br>Sunday<br>School                    | 11   | 12<br>6:15 pm<br>Board<br>Meetings<br><br>7:00 pm<br>Council<br>Meeting | 13<br>12:30 pm<br>Quilting<br><br>6:00 pm<br>Soup Supper<br>and Bible Study | 14   | 15<br>Office Closed                     | 16   |
| 17<br>9:00 am<br>Holy<br>Communion  | 18   | 19  | 20<br>12:30 pm<br>Quilting<br><br>6:00 pm<br>Soup Supper<br>and Bible Study | 21   | 22<br>Office Closed                     | 23   |
| 24<br>Palm Sunday<br><br>9:00 am<br>Holy<br>Communion<br><br>Sunday<br>School | 25   | 26  | 27<br>12:30 pm<br>Quilting  | 28<br>7:00 pm<br>Maundy<br>Thursday<br>Service | 29<br>7:00 pm<br>Good Friday<br>Service | 30   |
| 31<br>Easter<br>Sunday<br><br>9:00 am<br>Holy<br>Communion                    |      |   |   |  |   |      |

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.

