



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

**FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS**

June 2024

**FROM PASTOR CATIE**

*"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."  
-Ecclesiastes 3:1*

I have a memory from when I was young, and school had just finished for the year. I was riding in my dad's truck and the song "School's Out" was playing on the radio. The windows were rolled down and an early summer breeze blew across my face. I remember thinking how wonderful it was to be done with school and of all the fun things I was going to do during my summer break.

At Faith we are planning a lot of exciting things for you to do this summer! Since our Lenten Bible Study was such a hit, we are doing another study this summer. On Sundays after worship, we will dive into 1 & 2 Samuel. We will spend 8 weeks looking at questions that these books of the Bible raise through historical, literary, Lutheran, and devotional lenses. We will also gather during the week for a new intergenerational study.

"Journey Together" provides a time for people of all ages to grow in faith, build relationships, and have fun! There will be time for games (indoor or outdoor) and then the activities/study from "Journey Together." Time and day of the week will be set shortly so stay tuned for more information!

But that's not all! This summer we hope to have two flotillas as we prepare for and close out our water season. Enjoy one or two outdoor worship services on Sunday mornings throughout the season. Bring your loved ones to Sunday school once a month (the kids did not want Sunday school to be out for summer)! And sign the children in your lives grades K-6 up for Day Camp July 15-18.

School is out for summer, and we are ready to have some summer fun at Faith! As you enjoy the summer breeze and think about all the things you want to do this summer, I hope you will add one or more of these events to your list!

Peace,  
Pastor Catie

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

On Saturday, May 18, I was able to attend the hybrid version of the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly. Ascension Lutheran Church was the host site for our conference. Through the power of technology we were connected to the other conferences. This Assembly brought back memories of the state-wide meetings I attended for the teacher's association to which I belonged. There is a necessary amount of governance to go through, but this assembly also included some very moving parts. The worship in the middle of all the necessary business was wonderful. The report of our Bishop was very informative. As she began I wrote down some notes.

Some were facts and ideas of hers and some notes I wrote were my thoughts and reactions. I started by jotting down the phrase reality check. The Bishop was going through the openings we have in our Synod and the number of candidates now in the Seminaries that usually provide newly ordained ministers ready for their first calls. The number of candidates is way down. The number of congregations that can only afford to call a first-call minister is quite large. Add to this those congregations that are looking to call an experienced minister and we see why the wait for filling a vacancy has extended from a year to two years and sometimes an even longer wait. There is no doubt that the Church is in a period of great change and transformation. It was at this point in the report of the Bishop that I wrote down a note of my own. I jotted down:

Grateful? And then I wrote down: How Grateful? I want to be very clear here. I was not arguing against what the Bishop was reporting. She stated that she wanted to be very clear and not illusory (her words). She did not want to give an illusion that things were going better than they are. Our Bishop is predicting great changes in how the church will work and look in the future. So looking at our congregation at present, I am grateful for our minister and all the work she does for and with us. We are very fortunate to have been able to call a talented first-call minister willing to come to the Northwoods to serve a small congregation. I am very aware of the challenges we face, but I have always been grateful and optimistic in all things. We need to continue to reach for hope. And depend on God to provide. Why do we come together in the first place as a congregation? We share and feel God's love. Enough for now. There are other things that stand out during this assembly that over time I will share with you.

By the time you read this newsletter, the work authorized by our special congregational meeting to replace the boiler in the parsonage may well be done. At least a good part of it. It took a very short time after the meeting for donations to come rolling in. We have some very generous people in this congregation. Thanks to them for responding

with such generosity. As of this writing, we are not all the way there, so please keep your donations coming in. As always if there are any questions or concerns you have please bring these to the attention of a member of your council.

Sincerely,  
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!

**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!

**Sunday School**

Sunday school will be held once a month in the summer. Our next gathering is Sunday June 9th.

**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!

- 5th Lily Fowles
- 7th Trudy Klauk
- 13th Margaret Ledbetter
- 20th Emma Slemiakowski
- 23rd Nathan Madl
- 28th Val Otto and Bo Bisnette
- 29th Kim Peterson
- 30th Matt Wilkowski

Also Remember: Tom Muench

**MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE**

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

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

Year: 2024	Year: 2024
Month April	Month: May
# of Services.: 4	# of Services.: 4
Average: 29	Average: 40
Average online: 22	Average online: 27

**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**

**June 2024**

	<b>6/2/24</b>	<b>6/9/24</b>	<b>6/16/24</b>	<b>6/23/24</b>	<b>6/30/24</b>
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Robin Peterson</b>	<b>Gretchen Dobbins</b>	<b>Phoebe Pettingell</b>	<b>Tom Bredesen</b>	<b>Robin Peterson</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Amy Davis And Debby Carlson</b>	<b>Amy Davis And Debby Carlson</b>	<b>Linda Fowles</b>	<b>Tom And Miriam Bredesen</b>	<b>Jan Harris</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>Ronda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
<b>Video</b>	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<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. \**

**June 2024**

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



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