



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

December 2024

FROM PASTOR CATIE

"Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him."

-Luke 1:57-66

When was the last time you were truly amazed? I don't mean surprised. I mean amazed— wrapped up in wonder, absorbed in an unexpected delight. When I picture this type of amazement, I think of the children who saw the stars for the first time during my year of service in England. As they journeyed from London to the country for a school trip, most of them had never been somewhere without lights. Streetlights, store fronts, cars, and many other lights had always prevented them from looking up and seeing the stars. As they looked up, jaws wide open, there was a moment of stillness.

Lisle Gwynn Garrity captures this sense of amazement in her piece "What Wonder Turns Into." She says: In this image, I wanted to capture the moment Zechariah's voice returns to him. I decided to depict only half of Zechariah's face; this miracle is not about him, but about what happens through him. When he confirms John's name, he sheds his distrust of the angel's impossible news. His skepticism and weariness subside as he awakens to the joy in his midst. He allows himself to be amazed.

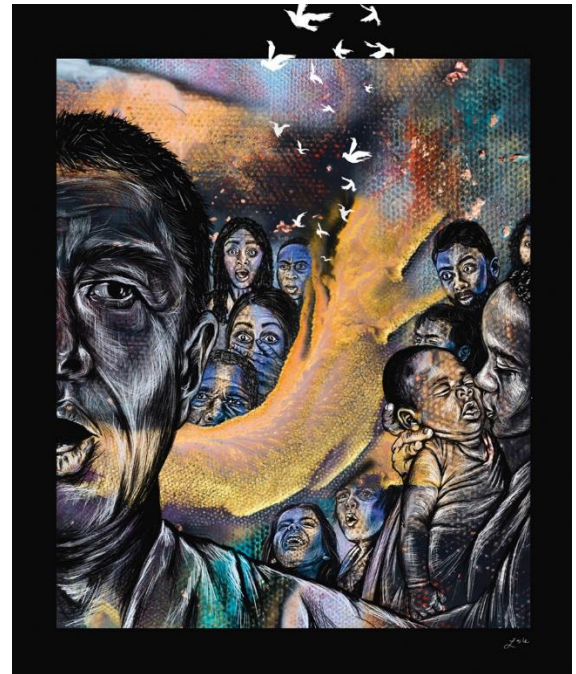
Zechariah's voice pours out of him, parting the surrounding crowd like the Red Sea, stirring each person into confusion and bewilderment. The blessing of his

song spills over to his son, who is held tenderly by his mother.

Elizabeth is the only person in this scene who is not presently swept up in wonder. I believe Elizabeth has spent months allowing herself to be amazed. She was in isolation for the first five months of her pregnancy (Luke 1:24).

And so, when Zechariah's voice returns, Elizabeth's senses have not grown dull. Instead, her amazement has metabolized into something new: attunement for her child. It has transformed into love and deep trust. It has turned into joy. When we allow ourselves to be amazed, we might be surprised what that wonder can turn into. As we spend Advent preparing for the birth of Christ, we are also in a sense preparing to be amazed. The birth of Christ was an incredible and amazing gift. So, as we anticipate this amazement allow yourself to be amazed. Whether your amazement come from the story of Christ, the stars, or something else entirely, may you be amazed this season.

Peace,
Pastor Catie



"What Wonder Turns Into"

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 1:57-66

Received from *A Sanctified Art*: "How Does a Weary World Rejoice"

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a while since the Fish Fry when the members of Faith teamed up with NATH to raise money to benefit the homeless. But I want to mention it because in early November there was a devotion from John 13:35. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples." After reading this devotion I couldn't help but think of the workers that volunteered for this event. And the young people who helped were so enthusiastic as they did whatever they were asked. If you look this verse up, you will see that this is from when Jesus is saying goodbye to his disciples. He is giving them words of promise and hope. They will remember how he loved them when they love each other. The words of promise, hope, and love are for us as well. When we work together as we did during the Fish Fry, other people will see our acts of welcome, hospitality, and hopefully, love. They will know. I want to give credit to the person who wrote the devotion these ideas come from as he is a lot more eloquent than I am. This brings me to the lessons I read just last Sunday from Hebrew where we heard we need to encourage one another. "This way our faith becomes active as it did on the Friday of the Fish Fry. And the continuation of the Hebrews lesson goes on in today's devotion to "not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours . . . For you need endurance." In these times we really need endurance to keep our faith active. I would encourage you to find a way to let the love Jesus has given you out in some way. It is a nice way to look at things: we are just passing on the love that we have first received.

We have a new constitution thanks to the work of the committee, the Synod, the council, and the members who voted to accept the changes during our two special congregational meetings. All the hoops have been jumped through. If you picked up a copy of the proposed constitution, you can either write on the cover: Approved November, 2024, or request a new cover and staple it in place. There are copies still available if you have not yet picked one up to have at home. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please bring them to a council member.

Sincerely,
Robin Peterson

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 faith3lakes.churchtrac.com and contribute securely online.

When utilizing ChurchTrac to electronically donate to Faith Lutheran Three Lakes, please take the following into consideration:

Go to: faith3lakes.churchtrac.com

Go to: "On-Line Giving" click "Give Now"

Enter: "User Name and Password" OR "Create a New Account"

Complete Donation Details: (Prayerfully consider "Clicking" on the "Help Cover the Card Processing Fee")

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

This year we will gather on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month after worship. Invite you children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to join in the fun!

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH

During December, we prepare to celebrate our Lord's Birth. The gift of Christmas is just the start of the story of salvation through Jesus Christ. In our baptism we are joined to the death of Jesus. We also receive the

promise that as Christ was raised from the dead; so too shall we have new life--- a gift given by the grace of God. Celebrate the gift of Jesus, and the gift of new life through our baptism into Jesus. As you celebrate, rejoice with your brothers and sisters who remember this month their worn baptisms!

4th Traeton Fogerty
8th Phoebe Pettingell
15th Marge Anderson
24th Paul Matthiae
25th Robin Peterson
26th Perry Anderson
Also Remember: Tammy Sherry and Kristi Erikson

Monthly Attendance

Year: 2024	Year: 2024
Month: October	Month: November
# of Services: 4	# of Services: 4
Average: 35	Average: 34
Average online: 20	Average online: 18

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., Ruth Sammetinger, Beth Schomisch, Jim Stroschein, Bonnie Pegel, Kris Tenges, Myrna Stroschein, Heidi Lulloff, Olivia, Maggie Servant and Delores Rutherford, Rich Collins.

ALL THOSE WHO ARE ANXIOUS AND WORRIED ABOUT MANY THINGS

OUR CHURCH MINISTRIES

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**

Treasurer's Report

Month	Donations	Expenses	Monthly Net	Fiscal Yr To Date
Jan				
Feb				
Mar				
Apr				
May				
Jun				
July				
Aug				
	Start of Fiscal	Year 2024 - 2025	Beginning Bal	\$291.73
Sept	\$8,288.70	\$10,224.54	-\$1,935.84	-\$1,644.11
Oct	\$7,214.10	\$8,696.20	-\$1,482.10	-\$3,126.21
Nov				
Dec				

Stewardship Calander

2024

	<u>12/1/24</u>	<u>12/8/24</u>	<u>12/15/24</u>	<u>12/22/24</u>	<u>12/24/2024</u>	<u>12/29/2024</u>
<u>Reader</u>	Sonia Dionne	Phoebe Pettingell	Christmas Program	Jan Harris	Robin Peterson	Karen Meyer
<u>Greeter</u>		Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Chris & Jacque Deidtz	Jan Harris	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	
<u>Music</u>	Rhonda Buss	Val Snedden	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
<u>Video</u>	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford

December 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
1 9:00 am Holy Communion Fellowship Bible Study	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Holy Communion Fellowship/ Tree Decorating Bible Study/ Sunday School	9	10	11 12:30 pm Quilting	12	13	14
15 9:00 am Christmas Program Bible Study	16	17	18 12:30 pm Quilting	19	20	21
22 9:00am Holy Communion Bible Study/ Sunday School	23	24 7: 00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27	28
29 9:00 am Holy Communion Bible Study	30	31				



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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

Office Hours:

Tuesday/ Thursday /Friday
 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Pastor Catie's Office Hours:

Mondays at Mugs 9:00am – 1pm
 Tuesday: 3:00pm-6:00 pm
 Wednesday: 9am-1pm
 Thursday: 3:00pm-6:00pm

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Sunday Morning – 9:00 am
 Holy Communion

STAFF

Office Administrator: Connor Hanneman
 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>

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<https://www.facebook.com/faith3lakes>