



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

December 2025

FROM PASTOR CATIE

"I called on your name, O Lord, from the depths of the pit; you heard my plea, "Do not close your ear to my cry for help, but give me relief!" You came near when I called on you; you said, "Do not fear!"

-Lamentations 3:55-57

This Advent we will take a journey through artwork that focuses on the question of what you fear. There were many factors that caused fear for people in biblical times as they prepared for the arrival of Jesus. We too experience many fears in our lives. While our fears may be different from our neighbors, we all often cry out to the Lord during these times of fear. In her piece

"Depths" Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell reflects on our cries from the pit and the Lord's response of do not fear. She shares the following reflection:

"I am reminded of my love-hate relationship with theme park rides as soon as the ride quiets into a slow, steady climb—creeping toward an edge that seems to vanish. It's at this point that full panic sets in and it hits me: a drop is coming. It's not the speed or height of roller coasters that scares me. It's the weight—being pulled down by something far heavier than myself, strapped to metal with gravity dragging me into the depths while my stomach scrambles to catch up, my heart left behind in midair.

Many of us, like the writer of Lamentations, know this kind of free fall—in our personal lives, in our ministries, and in a political climate that seems to collapse our sense of security into a bottomless pit. Yet, when the fall ends, when the deepest depths have been reached, who hears us when we call? As we echo prayers from the depths of each of our lives, we can rest in the assurance that we are heard by a God who meets us at rock bottom."

During Advent we can find fear in our texts and in our own lives. But we also find hope. Just like there is both fear and hope on rollercoasters, there is both fear and hope in our lives. This advent may we find the hope that is in and around our fears. Hope that the Lord will hear

our cries. Hope in God with us in the form of a tiny baby. Hope is all around.

Peace,
 Pastor Catie



"Depths"

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell
 Inspired by Lamentations 3:55-57

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Faith Lutheran,

It's hard to believe that it's already November and the holiday season is upon us. I have included a summary of the October church council minutes with the help of the council secretary Jacque Deditz. Thank you Jacque!

I did want to mention that in the next few months we will be working to update and improve our livestream system. We ask for your patience as we work on it.

Meeting Minutes - October 14, 2025

Treasurer Report - Roland

Fish Fry: Dollars from fish fry Total: \$4257, Less Reimbursement \$2236.67, Net Profit \$2020.33.

*donations to be discussed in Outreach report

BOWL Report - Debby

Christmas Eve service discussion in the works. Poinsettia flowers will be ordered as in the past. Decoration of the tree to be determined

Outreach Report - Sue

Fish Fry Funds to be dispersed between Caritas & TriCounty Council

Next Fish Fry date tentatively set for October 2, 2026 at this time.

Fundraiser for NATH. Will be collecting bags of clothing, linens, bedding etc (no shoes). Will post and make announcements.

Education Report - Miriam

Confirmation cake has been ordered for October 26th

There is a Sunday school guidebook available for anyone who is interested in leading a class. Discuss doing a class or 2 for 1st communion. Will discuss further when Pastor Catie is back.

Christmas program in the works.

Trustees - Tom

Kitchen stove replaced at parsonage

October 7th the boiler was cleaned and inspected. Work needed.

Parking lot proposed was returned to Finish Line and will be completed in 2026.

*will notify congregation and request donations toward these upcoming expenses

Pastor Catie Report - maternity leave

Old Business/ New Business

Live stream is not working properly. No audio the last several weeks. Trip hazard in its current location. Investigate moving it to the last row in back and running cords and lines up the side wall, over door and to the computer.

Thank you in advance for any feedback.

Peace,

Amy Davis

FROM ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

Dear Church, Did you read Bishop Finegan's letter? [Last month's newsletter] Just a page back? Because everything I might write to you in this moment, makes me wonder if you might be better served with my famous Chicken Pot Pie recipe, than whatever I am about to say. (But notice, I will attempt to say something meaningful anyway.) What she said is truth, important, and is speaking the Gospel into the malaise of our present age. I offer this emphasis, not only because I agree, but also because it is a part of our shared ordination vows to "give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known" and our shared baptismal vows "to strive for justice and peace in all the world." So you may hear your pastors saying something like this from their own pulpit, too.

And while the time is now to notice the world spinning around us, and always and already re-commit to community, justice, and love; I wonder if it is helpful for me to turn us from outside in to inside out? What is our witness out to a hurting world, that our little corner of the ELCA, nestled between and among the lakes, may offer?

In February of this year, the ELCA received a report from Barna Group and Fuller Seminary identifying five commitments to consider, so that we may live more faithfully into our Vision. God's Love Made Real is the short-hand version of "A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation." How does the love we feel for God

and neighbor make a difference? How does it bubble up and out of us in such a way that it is not weird, or seems fake, or just like words on a page and not the living Word we know, trust and love?

God's Love Made Real Strategic Recommendations, are for all bodies in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and we are invited to five commitments:

- Cultivate congregations that are warmer, more inviting, and more invitational in nature.
- Enhance ELCA-wide efforts to nurture and strengthen faith and spiritual formation.
- Tangibly and significantly incorporate and empower young people in all levels of the Church's life.
- Provide greater empowerment, equipping and tools for lay leaders to carry out the work of ministry and be the Church in the world today.
- Rethink, refocus and reorganize the ELCA's educational systems and structures to serve the current (and rapidly changing) needs of the ELCA.

Which one are you really good at already? Which one offers growth or challenge? Who do you need to partner with to be able to do any or all of these well? Who is missing from around your table that you need help from? How does this spring forth from who you are already? What do you need to stop doing, to be able to pivot to these commitments? Our response to the chaos of the world, is peace, but not placidness. Love is an active verb.

Shalom+ Pastor Sharolyn Swenson
Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the
Bishop of Northern Great Lakes Synod

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.

QUILTING - Please join us every Wednesday at 12:30 pm in the lower level of the church. No experience necessary!

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday school is based on availability of teachers. Please check the bulletin board for the most accurate schedule and consider signing up to teach a Sunday or two. Invite your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to join in the fun!

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!

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!

COMMUNION ASSISTANT - We are creating a new way to serve in worship! In the past, the reader also served as the communion assistant. However, some folks have expressed interest in serving communion but are not interested in reading. Moving forward, anyone who would like to be a communion assistant can let the office know! If no communion assistant is assigned, we ask that the reader continue to serve in this way as well.

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH

- 4th Traeton Fogerty
- 8th Phoebe Pettingell
- 10th Beth Schomisch
- 15th Marge Anderson
- 24th Paul Matthiae
- 25th Robin Peterson
- 26th Perry Anderson

Also Remember: Tammy Sherry and Kristi Erikson

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

Year: 2025	Year: 2025
Month: October	Month: November
# of Services: 4	# of Services: 5
Average: 35	Average: 23
Average online: 16	Average online: n/a

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ILLNESS, PAIN, LOSS OF HEALTH IN MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT:

Verla Stange, Trudy Klauk, Vickie Ganske, Becky Effa, Ken Moak, Karen Hren, Marge Czernicki, Ann Woelfel, Duane Bonack, Rick Gensler Sr., Ruth Sammetinger, Beth Schomisch, Jim Stroschein, Kris Tenges, Myrna Stroschein, Heidi Lulloff, Maggie Servant, Dianne Passehl, Nancy Hartman, Jackie Sunn, and Bill Rowden

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
Board of Education
Faith Filled Backpack Program

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 CONGREGATION

Treasurer's Report

Month	Donations	Expenses	Net/Month
Sept	\$8,132.91	\$9,419.31	(\$1,286.40)
Oct	\$6,362.13	\$11,863.19	(\$5,501.06)
Nov			
Dec			
Jan			
Feb			
Mar			
Apr			
May			
June			
July			
August			
Fiscal YTD	\$14,495.04	\$21,282.50	(\$6,787.46)

*Parentheses indicate a negative number

Stewardship Calander

December 2025

	<u>12/7</u>	<u>12/14</u>	<u>12/21</u>	<u>12/24</u>	<u>12/28</u>
<u>Reader</u>	Phoebe Pettingell	Linda Swanson	Kid's Program	Jan Harris	Karen Meyer
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Phoebe Pettingell	Vickie Johnson		Jan Harris	Vickie Johnson
<u>Greeter</u>	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Chris & Jacque Deditz		Jan Harris	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson
<u>Music</u>	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss		Rhonda Buss
<u>Live Stream</u>	Brad Bisnette	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette

December 2025

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



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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/Wednesday

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Pastor Catie's Office Hours:

Mon/Thur 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Tue/Wed 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Sunday Morning – 9:00 am

VISIT US ON THE WEB

<https://www.faithlutheran-threelakes.org>

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

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

STAFF

Office Administrator: Ann Carlson
office6995@gmail.com

Pastor: Reverend Catie Ford
pastorcatieford@gmail.com
Work Phone: 715-600-3980

Organist: Rhonda Buss
Custodian: Sara Palubicki

