



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

January 2026

FROM PASTOR CATIE

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise."

-Isaiah 43:19-21

During Advent a piece of art came up in our series from A Sanctified Art that wasn't used in worship. As Advent turned to Christmas, which turned into preparing for the new year I couldn't stop thinking about this piece and the artist's words that accompany it. So here I am, taking a piece made for Advent and turning it into a way to think about the new year. I hope that you will humor me and join in my wondering.

Isaiah discusses God doing a new thing. This seems fitting as we go about planning our new year. Maybe you are thinking about trying something new, going somewhere new or doing something in a new way. Maybe the something new that God is doing is in you! The question is, do you perceive it?

Artist T. Denise Anderson dives into this in her artwork and description. She states: "Deutero-Isaiah⁵ addresses a community that had been in exile for a while and had probably resigned themselves to their fate. But the prophet has the temerity to proclaim that God still has something in store and asks if they can perceive" what it is. That word "perceive" would not let go of me. The Hebrew word can be translated as "know" or even "discern." Christian churches don't talk about this often, but one way ancient Israelite communities discerned God's direction was through divination.

The water imagery in this text is strong and shows up in contrasts ("rivers in the desert" and "waters in the wilderness"). The Holy One is making something out of nothing, providing life-sustaining water to a thirsty nation as God's "new thing" "springs" forth.

It's also interesting to me that water itself is a tool of divination. To the extent the prophet is inviting the community to "discern" what God is doing, I was reminded of the practice of scrying or "seeing" — looking into a reflective surface like water to get clarity on what Spirit might be saying.

Another translation of "perceive" is "feel." Here I depict someone placing their hand in the water of God's provision and direction. Is it God's hand manipulating the water to send it forth, or is it the hand of someone trying to know/feel/discern the water? A sudden onset of water (like a flood or deluge) can be terrifying, but in this case water is coming to the rescue. What might be scary right now, but is actually coming to save us? How do the waters help us see God and ourselves? By claiming rest, what can we discern in the stillness when we divest from the cycle of fear and turn to the water?"

At this time of year, we hope that the water in the Northwoods is frozen, yet we can still know, feel, and discern it. We know that the water will not stay frozen forever.

We can feel the depth of the ice to check for safety. And we can use the water as a tool to think about what God is doing in our lives, in our church, in our community, and in our world.

As we head into a new year, thinking about new things, I hope that you will join me in thinking about what God is up to. What new thing is God doing? May the waters that surround us, frozen or flowing, be a reminder of God at work in and around us.

Peace,
 Pastor Catie



"Something in the Water"
 By: Rev. T. Denise Anderson
 From *A Sanctified Art*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Faith Lutheran,

I was sitting in church this past Sunday and was so happy to see and hear the youth participating in service. It is exciting to see our church growing. Even though this newsletter is coming out in January, I am writing in December just before the Christmas program and leading up to the Christmas Eve service. I want to make sure to thank all of the participants and the organizers of the special services and programs as this time of year gets to be very busy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends and family at Faith.

Here is a summary of the November council meeting minutes.

Everyone given copies of October meeting minutes via email. Amy questioned if there were any concerns noted, none raised.

Motion to approve: Rhonda/Debby

Treasurer reports- reviewed and approved by council
BOWL report - December 24th Christmas Eve Service 7pm

Tree decorating – December 7th after church. Will have fellowship and there is also Sunday school

Poinsettias all in red this year.

Devotionals are on order

Outreach report -Bag collection (clothes,bedding etc) for NATH is going well. May need more help/volunteers when

it comes time to deliver to Rhinelander in December.

Special offering December 7th for homebound members gift baskets

Noisey coin offering – Super bowl Sunday. Funds will go toward the youth group.

Education report -Acolyte class for Sunday school children: November 16th

Christmas Program – December 21st.

Fellowship after hosted by the council

January 18th will be a 1st Communion Class

Adult education is under review and feedback welcome

Trustee report- Boiler and furnace work will be addressed in the next few weeks-month

We are investigating the ongoing concerns with our live stream. This may result in having to temporarily discontinue this service as we figure out the technical difficulties and address the required upgrades.

Peace,
Amy

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Questions, Perspective, and Unexpected Holy Learnings

Recently, I had the opportunity to journey through the boot of Italy. Walking through history, pausing for conversation to learn stories, and taking in the culture opened my heart and mind as I listened and learned – celebrating all my senses.

As I walked down the narrow streets and took in the ruins across the regions of Italy, the impact of history, culture, and shared story called me to listen faithfully. Walking across marble floors allowed me to literally see perspective develop over centuries and experience the lasting impact of Roman Empire as its history cried out of the ruins.

Dwelling in the works, writings, and knowledge birthed in the Italian Renaissance created awe as I breathed in the works of Lavinia Fontana, Galileo, Michelangelo, da Vinci, and Lucrezia Tornabuoni. Their works continue to call us to question, grow in knowledge, our full potential, and as Luther also taught, grow in our relationship with God. While questions remain as I hold this history that is weaving through our lives today, I also walked through hope and joy as our missed turns led us to experience Italy's regions and culture. Patience and hospitality were poured over us as we literally were detoured into a Donkey Fest during one unplanned adventure. We took it all in as community was celebrated in the town square. An unexpected holy space to breathe in the sharing, respect, and hope of community.

I had not realized the impact the journey would have on me. My heart and mind were opened to history I had not known and called to listen anew as my knowledge was stirred by the stories of perseverance, intelligence, strength, and humility that faced power and authority. These stories of yesterday and today, create questions and with this a motivation to grow my knowledge. Walking the streets of Italy, I was reminded again and again of a faithful mentor's constant reminder – we learn as we walk.

It is the simultaneous action of learning and walking for me as my questions and faithful seeking call me to step into each day with intention. Listen anew as you walk with our neighbors – what is the perspective, story that stirs your questions? Open your heart to unexpected learnings as you walk and learn with our synod – join us for one or all of our 2026 Lifelong Faith Formation classes! Visit our synod website to learn more.

Sister Noreen Stevens

Synod Missioner serving with Lifelong Faith Formation and Licensed Lay Ministry

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.

CHURCH SPECIAL PROJECTS: Within the past several months the Board of Trustees have had to present two items for the council to consider. One of these was the patching and sealcoating of the church parking lot next summer. This one, with a price tag of just over \$11,000 was voted upon and approved at the annual meeting. The second item, falling just below \$5,000 has to do with replacing some important components of the church boiler system. This was approved by the church council at the October meeting, and the work will be done in November. The church council would greatly appreciate anyone who would like to make any donation, beyond their regular support, toward either or both of these projects. If you do decide to send an additional check, please state in the memo area to which expense the contribution should go. Thank you in advance. Board of Trustees.

OUT OF OFFICE: Pastor Catie will be out of the office Jan 14/15 for a Synod Committee obligation.

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH

5th Alycia Madl
9th Emilee Bauknecht
21st Gretchen Dobbins
22nd Brooke Kowalski
25th Miriam Bredesen

Also Remember: Tom Nykolayko and Michelle Huml.

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

Year: 2025	Year: 2025
Month: November	Month: December
# of Services: 5	# of Services: 5
Average: 23	Average: 42
Average online: n/a	Average online: 39

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

Eric Swanson, Trudy Klauk, Vickie Ganske, Ken Moak, Karen Hren, Marge Czernicki, Ann Woelfel, Duane Bonack, Rick Gensler Sr., Ruth Sammetinger, Beth Schomisch, Kris Tenges, Maggie Servant, Dianne Passehl, Nancy Hartman, and Jackie Sunn.

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
Oct	\$6,362.13	\$11,863.19	(\$5,501.06)
Nov	\$6,803.89	\$8,446.72	(\$1,642.83)
Fiscal YTD	\$21,298.93	\$29,729.22	(\$8,430.29)

*Parentheses indicate a negative number

Stewardship Calander

January 2026

	<u>1/4</u>	<u>1/11</u>	<u>1/18</u>	<u>1/25</u>
<u>Reader</u>	Linda Swanson	Phoebe Pettingell	Jan Harris	Robin Peterson
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Vickie Johnson	Phoebe Pettingell	Jan Harris	Robin Peteson
<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>	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette

January 2026

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

Tue/Wed 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Pastor Catie office hours:

Mon 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (at Mugs*)

Tue/Wed 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Thu 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

*if Mugs is closed, an alternative coffee shop
will be utilized.

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



Faith Lutheran Church
Est. 1987