



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

February 2026

FROM PASTOR CATIE

"My child, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them and healing to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."
 -Proverbs 4:20-23

This Lent Faith will offer two special services. As we face personal struggles and the chaos of the world, we are all in need of some hope and healing. My hope is that these services will provide a space for us to dwell with God. Our hearts are in need. We need God's word, we need the hope of Jesus, and we need to be prepared as Proverbs reminds us. But it is hard to do so when our cup is empty or running low.

I hope as we gather to reflect on the Word, to pray, to sing, and to experience silence that our cups will be filled. That as we acknowledge our grief, there will be room in our hearts for hope and healing. And that we find comfort in our solidarity which can empower us to face a new day.

I invite you to join us on Thursday February 26th and Thursday March 5th at 6:30 pm for these services of healing and hope.

Peace,
 Pastor Catie

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Faith Lutheran,

Happy New Year! This note will be brief, much like the council meeting that was held in December. The 2025 church year ended in spectacular fashion with a heartfelt, thoughtful Christmas program presented by our talented youth, followed by our inspiring Christmas Eve service. If you missed either, they can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@faithlutheranchurchthreeela4044/streams>.

The new year brings new opportunities for fresh starts and goals to achieve. As your council president, I would like you to prayerfully consider how you can use your time and talent in the service of our little church on the hill. Many hands make light work, and I am asking for more hands. I realize that life can get very busy and that our attendance and volunteer numbers decrease during the winter months with our snowbirds heading for warmer weather.

I sincerely appreciate the dedicated volunteers who serve our congregation faithfully, but we are depending on so few that we may be draining those resources. If you are willing to help, we can share the work and lighten the load on all. Please pray on it and consider how you can use your gifts.

Peace,
 Amy

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Candles are evocative. It is not just a way to shed light, but they stir in us a strong image, memory, or feeling, along with the sensorial pleasure of the light and aroma. The meaning attached to lighting candles varies across religions, denominations, congregations, and households.

This is the time of year that candle conversation can preoccupy Council or Altar Guild meetings. We swirl around blue or purple Advent candles. When do we light the pink Gaudete candle and do we even need it? When does the Christmas candle appear (and do we even need it?). And let's not forget the year-round wonder of decorative candles in many of our spaces, beyond the two that light the words of the Word...at the pulpit and on the Altar. Or the borrowed tradition of the red "eternal flame" denoting for our Catholic siblings the presence of the reserved sacrament...we will keep that spark burning even when we have no theological basis for it. There are the skinny beeswax tapers, carrying the light of our hearts, as we gather in Evening Prayer, as we remember loved ones, or sending out Advent hopes during the long nights.

The most important candle may be one we don't speak about often. We might assume everyone knows the ritual and symbolic load it bears in our religious language system. It is the Paschal Candle. It is the tall, (often) beeswax candle...inscribed with an Alpha and Omega and the year, standing at the ready near the baptismal font. "Paschal" means spring or Easter, and for liturgical Christians, it symbolizes the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

The way the Paschal Candle is imbued with meaning is through story. The Paschal Candle is lighted for three occasions, all days full of story, with beginnings, endings, and life in between. The light of the Paschal Candle

begins in the most storied night, the Easter Vigil, with the blessing of the new fire, to increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising. The Paschal Candle brings the light of the bonfire into the worship space and burns throughout our gatherings all through the Easter season. Just like the fire of Pentecost...the Paschal light goes out in the streets to bear the Light of Christ in the wild. It is only lighted again at a Baptism, the beginning of a new Christ story, and at the Funeral, the completion of that story begun at baptism.

On All Saints Sunday (November 2, 2025) at Zion Lutheran Church in St. Ignace, Michigan the candles illumined the leader books. The ELW were carefully laid out in the narthex so folks might find ones they had given in honor or memory of loved ones. There were special doughnuts and coffee. And many more folks than expected. And tapered beeswax candles were ready to light for the ones we'd lost this year, and the ones we've carried in our hearts a long time. AND the Paschal Candle was lighted. One last time...proclaiming Christ's life, death, and resurrection...the Alpha and Omega...the beginning and the end. As Zion celebrated the completion of its mission as a congregation, stories were shared, smiles and tears were abundant, peace seeped in, and the candles burned. When the other candles were extinguished for the smoke to drift around the room and out the door...the Paschal candle was still burning (but poignantly short for all the baptisms and funerals) with the promise of Christ...yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending, belonging in all of time and all the ages, now and forever.

Shalom+
Pastor Sharolyn Swenson

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/](https://www.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!

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.

VACATION: Pastor Catie will be on vacation Feb 4-10. Pastor Norm Peterson will lead worship on Feb 8.

NOISY OFFERING: Start saving now for the annual Super Bowl "Noisy Coin" collection. On Sunday, **February 8th**, a 2nd collection will take place to support our church youth activities. Coins, cash & checks will all be welcomed.

STUDY OF REVELATION: A new Bible Study on the book of Revelation is taking place. Talk to Pastor Catie for upcoming dates and times.

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH

10th Kailyn Fogerty

26th William Dachelet

Also Remember: Jennifer Korten Hof and Duane Bonack.

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

Year: 2025	Year: 2026
Month: December	Month: January
# of Services: 5	# of Services: 4
Average: 42	Average: 26
Average online: 39	Average online: 41

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

Phoebe Pettingel, Diane Johnson, 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, 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)
Dec	\$19,128.11	\$11,673.66	\$7,454.45
Fiscal YTD	\$40,427.04	\$41,402.88	(\$975.84)

*Parentheses indicate a negative number

Stewardship Calander for February 2026

	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/18	2/22
<u>Reader</u>	Johnathon Coggins	Karen Meyer	Linda Swanson	Phoebe Pettingell	Jan Harris
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Johnathon Coggins	Karen Meyer	Vickie Johnson	Phoebe Pettingell	Jan Harris
<u>Greeter</u>	Chris & Jacque Deditiz	Jan Harris	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Chris & Jacque Deditiz	Jan Harris
<u>Music</u>	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Val Sneedeen
<u>Livestream</u>	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette	Gretchen Dobbins	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette

<u>WEEKEND BACKPACK SCHEDULE</u> 1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week
Victoria Sherry	Diane Kliss	Deb Carlson	Marge Anderson
Rob Peterson	Jan Harris	Linda Swanson	Donna Liedtke
		Vickie Johnson	

***Months with 5 Thursdays –**

Assignments TBD: Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct,
Nov/Thanksgiving, Dec

February 2026

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



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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