



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

March 2026

FROM PASTOR CATIE

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
-Ephesians 3:20-21

As we ground ourselves in the good news of Jesus' teaching this Lent, I have found myself lamenting that we cannot use every piece of work from the series by A Sanctified Art. As I went through the series to prepare and decide which texts I would preach on, I found that they all made me think deeply and in new ways about Jesus' ministry and the good news that Christ provides. One that I continued to be drawn to is this piece based on Ephesians. Paired with the story of the feeding of the 5,000 from the Gospel of Mark (which you can see/hear in worship this month), this part of the series focuses on abundance. But before I get ahead of myself, I invite you to take a minute to look at the artwork and read the description by the artist.



*"Far More Abundantly" by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21
Received from A Sanctified Art*

Pittman writes: "I read this Ephesians text alongside the feeding of the five thousand. I placed Jesus at the center of the image, but he did not feed the crowds alone. He asked his disciples to offer what they had. They responded with meager resources, yet those small gifts were enough.

Through the lens of Ephesians, if Jesus were to ask us today what we have to give, our answer would be: We have the power you have given us to do the impossible. The same power that turned five loaves and two fish into a feast for thousands— with leftovers—empowers us "to accomplish far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine." Do we allow this truth to settle into our bones and animate our actions? I' I will admit, I tried to avoid this passage because it felt overly optimistic in light of today' s world. People still go hungry. Wars rage. The earth groans under our misuse. Yet if we reimagine the systems we created, studies show it is possible for every human being to have what they need. That would require massive restructuring, international cooperation, and the reallocation of resources—but not more than we already possess. We don't need a miracle of multiplication. We simply need to use what we've been given.

In a world convinced of scarcity, this is astonishingly good news. We already have enough. And as my mentor used to say, "Enough is abundance." What will we do with this abundance? Is it too lofty to dream of a world that sustains all of life? Perhaps. Yet I believe it is God' s own desire that all may have life, and have it abundantly. This is the work before us, accomplished through the power at work within us, through Jesus Christ. Amen."

Enough is abundance. Wow! That hit me hard. I' ll admit, it is easy for me to get sucked into the scarcity mindset. I worry about having what I need or having enough in my personal life. I try to plan ahead to make sure that I will be able to provide for my family and our future. Perhaps you can relate. We can also take this mindset to the church and world levels. Scarcity is an easy rabbit hole to go down. Yet here we are told that enough is abundance. If we sit with this idea for long enough how might our mindset change? Can we look at what we have and start to see not just enough, but the abundance that having enough is? Can we appreciate all that we have been blessed with. Because we have been blessed in so many ways.

So, I invite you to sit with this. Write it down somewhere that you will see it every day. And see what happens. The power is at work within us as Paul states in Ephesians. We just have to allow ourselves to see it.

Enough is abundance.

Peace,

Pastor Catie

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Faith Lutheran,

As February is wrapping up, I know I am looking forward to longer days, warmer weather and a little less snow. It has been brought to the council that there has been a request to mention specific tensions across the nation specifically in Minneapolis.

It is the overall opinion of most of our council that we do not bring politics into our church. We are a very small congregation and bringing politics into our church will more than likely cause a divide that we cannot afford.

While everyone has an opinion, we believe that we should focus our attention on worship and fellowship. Please pray on this and focus on how important unity is to our congregation.

Thank you in advance for any feedback.

Peace,

Amy Davis

FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you may know, I spent some time travelling during my sabbatical. My husband and I began a month-long trip beginning in Vietnam, then Cambodia, and finally Thailand to visit our former foreign exchange student. We had never been to that side of the planet before and found the food, the people, the scenery, and so much more to be unique, beautiful, and a completely new experience. We visited the Revolution Museum in Hanoi, North Vietnam, the Hoa La prison (known in the U.S. as the "Hanoi Hilton"), and learned the Vietnamese perspective on "The American War." As you might imagine, the experience and conclusions about that war were from a different perspective, one that I had not been exposed to previously.

From Vietnam, we traveled to Cambodia. During our time there, tensions flared over disputed territory with Thailand. We heard from the Cambodians how this was Thailand's fault. After crossing the border into Thailand, we heard from the Thai's how the trouble was Cambodia's fault. As

peace talks continue, I wonder if anyone has the capacity to look at the situation with an unbiased lens.

Narrative matters, meaning that the lens through which we interpret things shapes our opinions and informs our actions. Also, facts can be told in such a way as to influence the hearer's opinion. It matters how the story is told and how the facts are relayed in order to produce a desired result, and how, at its worst, facts are ignored or denied if they challenge or do not support the narrative or lies are told in order to create an illusion of truth that supports the narrative.

How are we to know what to believe is true in the face of competing narratives?

In Vietnam, I could not dismiss their narrative as invalid because first and foremost, it was their experience. And then, there were the facts that were still observable...of Agent Orange still in the soil and ongoing birth defects even to the second and third generation, of the pain and destruction caused by the conflict, of the exploitation of labor and resources by outside actors, of the deep resolve of the Vietnamese people for self-rule being underestimated by both the French and the Page 2 Northern Light U.S. Fifty years later, any scholar of this conflict largely agrees on what were the missed opportunities for peace, the hubris that blinded, and the missteps that harmed, on both sides. What we see in hindsight can be heart breaking from any perspective. And after 50 years, that there is healing and a warm joyful welcome for former enemies is a gift.

Whatever your narrative, whatever conclusions you are drawing about current events, whatever your predisposition that shapes what you hear and how you hear it, I ask you to pray; for safety, for clarity, for wisdom, for courage, and for what is lifegiving for all concerned.

In this Lenten Season we remember our baptismal promises and the threefold renouncements that precede the Apostles Creed in our baptismal liturgy.

- "Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?"
- Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?"

As people of faith, my hope would be that our narrative would be guided by the light that Christ shines and by the cross that bears witness. Jesus calls us to lift up the lowly and have compassion for the neighbor. Whatever your narrative, your baptismal promise is to work for justice and renounce the forces that defy God. Together, we work to make a positive difference in the world and my hope is

that at the very least, within the community of faith and through it, we always extend warm and joyful welcome.

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.

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!

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.

STUDY OF REVELATION: A new Bible Study on the book of Revelation is taking place. Join us on Thursdays at 10:30 am.

LENT DEVOTIONALS: Are available in the Narthex.

HEALING SERVICES: Join us for special services March 5 at 6:30 pm. These services provide a focus on healing.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Pastor Catie will head to Gladstone on March 1 after worship for continuing education. She will return to the office on March 3.

CANCELLATION GUIDELINES: Moving forward, per Church Council, worship will be canceled if we receive **10 or more inches of snow OR if it is -20F degrees with windchill.**

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH

24th Daniel Hannam

28th Gerianne Rawoens

Also Remember: Connie Gensler, Chuck Radtke, Griffen Schroeder, and Joyce Nykolayko.

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

Year: 2026

Month: January

of Services: 4

Average: 26

Average online: 41

Year: 2026

Month: February

of Services: 4

Average: 27

Average online: 25

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
Sept	\$8,157.91	\$9,419.31	(\$1,261.40)
Oct	\$6,362.13	\$11,863.19	(\$5,501.06)
Nov	\$6,803.89	\$8,420.83	(\$1,616.94)
Dec	\$19,128.11	\$11,673.66	\$7,454.45
Jan	\$4,926.43	\$13,433.74	(\$8,507.31)
Feb			
Mar			
Apr			
May			
June			
July			
August			
Fiscal YTD	\$45,378.47	\$54,810.73	(\$9,432.26)

*Parentheses indicate a negative number

Stewardship Calendar for March 2026

	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29
<u>Reader</u>	Robin Peterson	Johnathon Coggins	Marge Anderson	Jan Harris	Phoebe Pettingell
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Robin Peterson	Johnathon Coggins	Marge Anderson	Vickie Johnson	Phoebe Pettingell
<u>Greeter</u>	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Chris & Jacque Deditz		Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Chris & Jacque Deditz

<u>Music</u>	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
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<u>Livestream</u>	Brad Bisnette	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette
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WEEKEND BACKPACK SCHEDULE

1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Victoria Sherry	Diane Kliss	Deb Carlson	Marge Anderson
Rob Peterson	Jan Harris	Linda Swanson	Donna Liedtke
		Vickie Johnson	
*Apr 30 Jan & Diane Last day of school: 6/4/26			

March 2026

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