



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

April 2026

FROM PASTOR CATIE

“The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?”
 -Ezekiel 37:1-3

This text from Ezekiel was a part of the lectionary during Lent. Then it came up in a devotional I was reading. And I thought, what about these words am I meant to be hearing. So, I invite you to join me on a journey of wondering in Ezekiel. Perhaps there is something you need to hear here as well.

“Can these bones live?” is such an odd question. Ezekiel had been through so much pain and sorrow already. He and his people had been removed from their land, taken into captivity, and marched into exile. While in captivity the temple was destroyed. And now Ezekiel finds himself having strange visions and dreams that grapple with the horrors they experienced.

Can you imagine the despair Ezekiel must have felt? Reliving all this pain. Standing over the bodies of loved ones. Only to be asked “Can these bones live?”. The obvious answer is of course not! What good is hope in this place, spoken over a pile of drying bones?

And yet God asks Ezekiel to prophesy that God would resurrect the dead, restore a community, establish a kingdom, build a temple, and put bones back together. In other words, to prophesy that all hope is not lost.

As you may remember, the vision continues with the rattling of bones being brought back together and the valley of dry bones rushing with life once again. God is not done yet. Where we see death and destruction, God sees hope.

Ezekiel goes on to share how Israel will be restored- by building a new temple, creating new polity, and lots of rebuilding. The people work alongside God to restore the land.

In Ezekiel 48:35 the book concludes, “And the name of the city from that time on shall be, The Lord is There.” Not was there. Not will be there. The Lord is there.

God is there when we can't see it, feel it, or believe it. God is there when all we see is dry bones. God's presence may not come in the miraculous ways we imagined. Bones may not rattle back together in our presence. Temples may not rise from the ground. Bodies may not be healed from illness. Our prayers may not be answered.

But in these moments, when it seems God is nowhere to be found, we can look and listen. God is there. Shocking us with the resurrection of hope itself.

Understandably the season of Easter is filled with talk of resurrection and new life and the hope that it brings. However, a random text from Lent, maybe Ezekiel, can give us a new perspective on hope this year. Can these bones live? Is hope being resurrected for you in a place you never expected?

Peace,
 Pastor Catie

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Spring Break – will be back next month. Be well.

THE MISSION WE SHARE

One of my favorite moments as a churchgoer (and pastor) is celebrating a baptism in our midst. Will the baby be curious or cry? Will the congregation smile and tilt their heads to see the delight? Will the young person shake the water off? Will the pastor quietly stomp at each renunciation of the forces of evil? Will the joy get stuck in our throat or come out as a tear? Will the baby be carried in procession at the Gathering Hymn? Will there be cake in the Fellowship Hall? All these moments...some silent or some paired with ancient words... weave us together across time, place, and people into this ancient rite of welcome. It is both unity and diversity...parts of the rite are shared everywhere and parts of the expressions of that rite only happen among a particular people.

Many of us don't have active memories of our own baptism, apart from a family photo album. Those who come to the font as an adult may have a memory, but still cannot recall every word spoken or promise made. This may be one of the reasons why we celebrate baptism in community, so that we can witness, welcome, and be reminded of our mission we share. It is a collective “this is what we are called to do.” I am not just talking about the baptism itself (although Jesus does tell his disciples specifically to “go, baptize”). More so it is our individual

and collective promises that shape how we see the household of God and our place in it...our shared mission of living in God's household.

When a person comes to or is presented at the font for baptism, they are asked questions, and told what the responsibilities they are agreeing to, as a baptized person. This is a moment of consent. God will do the heavy lifting, but our awareness of this gift, is amplified when we pay attention to responsibilities that we agree to. These are not always easy, convenient, or even possible, but between the help of God and accountability of our co-workers in the body of Christ, we promise:

- To live among God's faithful people;
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper;
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus;
- To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

During the season of Lent and overflowing into Easter, our ears may be tuned more ardently to preparing, remembering, and practicing the promises shared at Baptism. So, fill the font and splash a bit. Dwell in God's promise of community, justice, and love made for and through you.

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/>) 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.

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

1st Amiee Bauknecht

3rd Melanie Fogerty & Stephen Korten Hof

6th Trevor Landreth

8th Vinnie Terlizzi

9th Jerry Gilbertson

11th Olivia Terlizzi

12th Val Otto

16th L.J. Terlizzi & Grace Lopez

24th Paul Bredesen, Marney Miles, and Sonia Dionne

27th Linda Wilkowski

29th Diane Kliss

Also Remember: Thomas Obenberqer and Griffin Schroeder

OUT OF THE OFFICE – Pastor Catie will be out of the office on Monday, April 6th.

FIRST COMMUNION: Join us in celebrating those receiving their First Communion on Sunday, April 5th.

Bailee Bauknecht, Blake Buss, Addalynn Kliss, Lucee Bauknecht, Brynn Buss

EASTER BRUNCH: This year we will offer an Easter Brunch following worship. Enjoy a light meal and celebrate the children receiving their First Communion.

PAINT-N-SIP EVENT – Saturday, April 18th at 3:00 pm. In the basement of the church. This is a beverage glass painting event and will be led by Ericka Wick & Jacque Deditz. The cost is **\$10** for the event with the option to purchase additional glass(es) as supplies last. Come join us for an easy, fun filled afternoon event for ages 8 and up. We supply the glass & the craft supplies – you supply your own snacks and beverages. Invite a friend (or 2) BUT seating is limited to 20 & sign up is requested by **April 12th** (Contact Jacque)

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

Year: 2026	Year: 2026
Month: February	Month: March
# of Services: 4	# of Services: 4*
Average: 27	Average: 21
Average online: 25	Average online: 30
*snow day	

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

Brittany, PJ Kasmarek, Sherry Family, Dale Raatz, 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

GENERAL FUND YEAR-TO-DATE REPORT*

*Numbers in (...) are negative

Month	Donations	Expenses	Net/Month
Jan	\$4,926.43	\$13,433.74	(\$8,507.31)
Feb	\$7,130.07	\$9,212.39	(\$2,082.32)
Fiscal YTD	\$52,508.54	\$64,023.12	(\$11,514.58)

*Parentheses indicate a negative number

Stewardship Calendar for April 2026

	4/2	4/3	4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26
<u>Reader</u>	Robin Peterson	Jan Harris	Johnathon Coggins	Karen Meyer	Phoebe Pettingell	Robin Peterson
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Robin Peterson	n/a	Johnathon Coggins	Karen Meyer	Phoebe Pettingell	Robin Peterson
<u>Greeter</u>	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Jan Harris	Chris & Jacque Deditz	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Chris & Jacque Deditz	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson
<u>Acolyte</u>						

<u>Music</u>	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Val Snedden	Val Snedden	Jane Ford
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<u>Livestream</u>	Gretchen Dobbins	Kristi Erikson	Brad Bisnette	Gretchen Dobbins	Kristi Erikson	Gretchen Dobbins
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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			

April 2026

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			1	2 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm	3 Good Friday 7:00 pm	4
5 9:00 am Holy Communion First Communion Easter Brunch	6 Pastor Catie out of the office	7	8 12:30 pm Quilting	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Holy Communion	13	14 Council 7:00 pm	15 12:30 pm Quilting	16	17	18 3:00 pm Paint N Sip
19 9:00am Holy Communion Sunday School	20	21	22 12:30 pm Quilting	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Holy Communion	27	28	29 12:30 pm Quilting	30		



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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