



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

July 2026

FROM PASTOR CATIE

“Our vocation is to belong to Jesus so completely that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. What you and I must do is nothing less than putting our love for Christ into practice. The important thing is not how much we accomplish, but how much love we put into our deeds every day.

That is the measure of our love of God.”

-Mother Teresa

Received from the book: Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals I was first introduced to A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals while in seminary. This liturgy was used as a class break from the summer Greek intensive. It was a blessing to give my mind rest from constantly trying to learn this language and all its complexities. Because of this I have fond memories of the liturgy and often use it as a form of devotional. Recently as I was reading through the day's lectionary, I read this quote from Mother Teresa, and it has stuck with me.

I often find importance in accomplishments. When I get a lot done, I feel good about myself. When my to-do list is ever growing, I wonder if I have done enough. Perhaps you can relate.

But here Mother Teresa challenges me and those who think the same way. How much we accomplish is not what matters. Instead, she encourages us to focus on love. How much do we love? How do we put love into our everyday endeavors?

We have been enormously blessed with the love of God. It is a love that forgives, comforts, and encourages. It says that we cannot be separated from Christ. And it challenges us to share that same love with others. This month I invite you to lean into that challenge. To practice sharing the love that you have received with others. To think about how you can put love in the center.

Peace,

Pastor Catie

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Faith Lutheran,

It's hard to believe that June is almost over and we're headed into July. This month closes with outdoor worship on Sunday June 28th. We have the unique ability to worship outdoors only a few times a year so take advantage of that and join us for worship followed by fellowship.

Then we go straight into our biggest fundraiser of the year which is our annual pie and ice cream sale. Please make sure to bring your fruit pies to church before July 4th. Last year we sold out and we had over 50 pies! This year, we will also be raffling off the quilts that Marge made and donated at the 4th of July picnic. Tickets can be purchased in advance after worship this weekend or at the picnic.

Summer day camp will kick off the following week at Faith. Last year we had a great turnout and we are looking forward to another great week of fun!

So many great things to look forward to.

Peace,

Amy

FROM THE BISHOP

Years ago, the Augsburg Youth & Family Institute carried the banner phrase “Faith is caught, not taught.” This sticky phrase, that I remember decades after first hearing it, provides words to what we already know. Growing in faith is like learning a language...it is by cultural immersion. A baby knows the tune of a familiar Lamb of God as choreography to be carried to the altar for a smile, a blessing, and maybe a bite of bread. The child knows which grandpa-figure tells the best stories and may share an extra brownie at the potluck. Or the teenager is amazed he had a little cheering section from his church-family at his track meet. “Faith is caught, not taught” doesn't dismiss faith nurture in Sunday School, or Vacation Bible School, but honors that we are all generative in nurturing one another in faith, all the time.

Bishop Finegan and I recently met with Page 3 Northern Light congregation leaders in Copper Country Conference 2. There were over eighty folks who gathered for brunch and conversation around naming challenges and hopes, as several congregations are experiencing pastoral vacancies at the same time. It should not have surprised me as much as it did that MANY named the challenge of not enough youth among them in their congregations. This was not garden variety

"we need some youth to carry the Christmas boxes back to the basement", or "we have empty Sunday School rooms". What I heard was a deeper longing and acknowledgement of the need to be generative...to share our faith with the future.

The "grandmother hypothesis" is that females live so far beyond child-bearing years because it has an evolutionary advantage to the species. Humans, and ironically a handful of toothed whale species, are the only creatures on the planet that have blossomed through the advantage of the nurture of grandmas. And church is one of the very few places in our culture that still thrives on such intergenerational flourishing. And so when I hear the lament of older voices longing for children and youth among them once again, it pulls the heart-string akin to Rachel crying out for her children. Children need grandmas (and surrogate grandparents) AND aging folks long for the generative promise of hope that comes through experiencing children and youth around them.

So what to do when the hospital stopped delivering babies, and the school is shrinking in your town or you do not have children in your own family? How can our congregations be generative for the sake of caring for all children, without checking the box to fill the pews, offering plates, Sunday School rooms or "grow the future church"? Children and youth are messy. They run in the hallways, and leave goldfish crumbs in the pews. Youth want to sleep-in on Sunday, after a busy week, and question everything ever mentioned in VBS. What does grandparent grace look like? Is it filling backpacks or reading at the library for school children? Is it sponsoring children to go to camp, even if they live in another town? Is it forming child-care centers in under-sourced communities? Is it delighting in the mess and noise now, because it is gift? Is it sharing your story and how God is at work...and listening to their story and how God is at work?

Our generative grandparenting is different because the church is different...it is bigger than just the pew we sit in on Sunday. God is not done acting in the church and world. The good news is children and youth still are active and growing members of the body of Christ across the church and our synod. Vacation Bible School and Fortune Lake Camp season has arrived! Youth are getting ready for mission trips this summer, and planning toward the Youth Gathering next summer. Stefanie Ehle, the Missioner with Youth Ministry, and the Synod Youth Ministry Team is active and meeting soon this summer, and all are invited to the "Jesus Story for All Ages" retreat for adults who want to be more intentional about how to nurture children and youth in our midst. Activating young and old to a way of Jesus so more may discover community, justice, and love is still happening! 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!

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.

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER – Jul 18 10a-2p. At the YMCA of the Northwoods, Rhinelander. Free diapers, wipes, onesies and more! Raffle prize entry for attendees. Games & activities. Community Resources & more!

PASTOR CATIE AT FORTUNE LAKE – She will be at Fortune Lake from Jul 12 after worship through Jul 17. The best way to reach her is calling the camp office at 906-214-2267.

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH

We thank God for the beauty of the summer! We thank God for the beauty of life, and the gift of eternal life given to us through our savior. We thank God for our baptisms, and we pray for those who have baptismal anniversaries we celebrate this month.

Jul 3 – Aiden Ward, Addalynn Kliss
Jul 5 – Henry Anselmo
Jul 7 – Kortnie Volk
Jul 14 – Josie Fowles
Jul 16 – Karlie Volk
Jul 28 – Alexander Gensler

Also remember: Greg Kliss, Pat Radtke, Bob Frish, Samantha Huml

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

Year: 2026	Year: 2026
Month: May	Month: June
# of Services: 5	# of Services: 4
Average: 35	Average: 40
Average online: 35	Average online: 30

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

Heidi Lulloff, Bob Ohm, Jim Fogerty, Brittany, PJ Kasmarek, Dale Raatz, Trudy Klauk, Vickie Ganske, Ken Moak, Karen Hren, Marge Czernicki, Ann Woelfel, Duane Bonack, Rick Gensler Sr., Beth Schomisch, Dianne Passehl, 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

Updates from the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin

The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) engages Lutherans in advocacy for policies that promote justice, peace, and care for creation. Here are some updates and opportunities:

Coffee, Connections, and Calls – Online Weekly Gathering Bring your morning coffee/tea and join LOPPW for a small weekly gathering of friends online. We aim to build community and share advocacy opportunities. At the end of each gathering, LOPPW shares one small action you can take with a sample script or a link to email your representatives. Join us Tuesdays from 8:30-9am this summer! Register at bit.ly/LOPPW-coffee.

Election-Year Civic Engagement Resources Visit

LOPPW's Election 2026 webpage (www.lopepw.org/election) for resources to support nonpartisan civic engagement efforts this election year. We will also be offering online events. Visit the website for updates.

Click Smart Think Smart Training

Do you work in youth ministry or as a youth mentor or educator in other ways? LOPPW is partnering with the nonprofit Shout Out UK to offer free training to support youth education related to digital citizenship – including issues such as mis/disinformation, social media, and AI. We are offering a free two-hour online training as a pilot project on July 29, and we hope to offer more in the future. If you would like to join the pilot training and offer your feedback, please contact Kacy at kacy.kostiuk@elca.org.

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND YEAR-TO-DATE REPORT*

*Numbers in (...) are negative

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	\$11,503.66	\$7,624.45
Jan	\$4,926.43	\$13,433.74	(\$8,507.31)
Feb	\$7,130.07	\$9,212.39	(\$2,082.32)
Mar	\$6,867.61	\$10,786.63	(\$3,919.02)
Apr	\$5,662.55	\$9,728.07	(\$4,065.52)
May	\$8,826.05	\$10,292.29	(\$1,466.24)
June			
July			
August			
Fiscal YTD	\$73,864.75	\$94,660.11	(\$20,795.36)
Transfer from MM			\$20,000.00
Fiscal YTD			-\$795.36

Stewardship Calendar for July 2026

	7/5	7/12	7/19	7/26
<u>Reader</u>	Karen Meyer	Phoebe Pettingell	Linda Swanson	Miriam Bredesen
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Karen Meyer	Phoebe Pettingell	Vickie Johnson	Miriam Bredesen
<u>Greeter</u>	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Linda Fowles	Sue & Dave Riebe	Tom & Miriam Bredesen
<u>Acolyte</u>				

<u>Music</u>	Val Snedden	Mark Ruff	Mark Ruff	Rhonda Buss
---------------------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-------------

<u>Livestream</u>	Brad Bisnette	Kristi Erikson	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette
--------------------------	---------------	----------------	------------------	---------------

July 2026

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			1 12:30 pm Quilting	2	3	4 PIE SALE Burnside Park 250 th ! Fourth of July
5 9:00 am Worship Holy Communion Summer Camp Kick Off	6 VBS 9-3	7 VBS 9-3	8 VBS 9-3 12:30 pm Quilting	9 VBS 9-3	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship Holy Communion Pastor Catie leaves for Fortune Lake	13 Pastor Catie @ Fortune Lake	14 Council TBD Pastor Catie @ Fortune Lake	15 12:30 pm Quilting Pastor Catie @ Fortune Lake	16 Pastor Catie @ Fortune Lake	17 Pastor Catie @ Fortune Lake	18
19 9:00am Worship Holy Communion	20	21	22 12:30 pm Quilting	23	24	25 Worship in the Wild @ Prince of Peace
26 9:00 am Worship Holy Communion	27	28	29 12:30 pm Quilting	30	31	



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



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