



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

September 2026

FROM PASTOR CATIE

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.
 -John 15:12-17

The change of seasons brings many things for us. School is starting, your travels may be right around the corner or coming to an end, and of course the weather shifts. During a time of change I find having something to center me helpful. A practice you may be familiar with is called *Dwelling in the Word*. This practice allows space for us to spend time in Scripture in a different way. Sitting with one text for an extended period of time, or asking the same questions around different texts can help us to hear familiar words in a new and interesting way. As a congregation we will be leaning into *Dwelling in the Word* by introducing it to worship one Sunday this month. But it is something you can try at home as well! Take this familiar text from John. Jesus is giving the disciples the commandment to love one another. I invite you to sit with these verses this month, and ask yourself the following *Dwelling in the Word* questions.

What catches your attention?
 What questions does this passage raise for you?
 Where might God's Spirit be nudging you in this passage?

With my first read of the month, what catches my attention is that Jesus calls the disciples his friends. No longer servants, followers, or believers, but his friends. I wonder how they must have felt to be called this. Did Jesus call them friends before or was this the first time? Maybe one way that we can follow the commandment to love one another is to speak words of kindness that we

may not have shared in a while. To remind those who we lean on that we appreciate their friendship and support. I hope you take time this month to lean into this story. To sit with these questions.

And share what bubbles up for you.

Peace,
 Pastor Catie

FROM THE PRESIDENT

[Nothing to report – per Amy Davis]

FROM THE BISHOP

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

One thing that you may not know about me is that when I was 16 going on 17, before Dave was my husband, he and I would “hang out” with friends at the Bel Rae Ballroom. Often there would be more than one wedding reception going on and we would get the chance to waltz, schottische, polka, foxtrot, chicken dance, and swing. We were both still learning. Dave was learning to lead, and I was learning to follow. So it was with an adventurous spirit that in the middle of a galloping polka, Dave and I would dance near another couple who looked like they knew what they were doing and we would yell “SWITCH!” Often, this other couple was on the far side of 60 years old or so, (or maybe they were 50, I was only 16 so everyone looked old). Dave would dance away with the woman, and I would be welcomed as the man's new dance partner. This was such a gift, because often the older gentleman really knew how to lead with practiced ease. He knew the dance steps, he knew how to guide his partner, even a dance novice, with a slight but perceptible pressure of his palm on my back, a lean here and a pull there and we would be gliding across the floor.

My job was to pay attention, to tune my movements to the slight pressure on my back and notice the push and pull through hands and arms. Paying close attention, (and sometimes counting in my head) I could follow the movements of one who had been leading the dance for years. In this way, my own dancing improved. I learned the foxtrot and variations on the waltz and the polka...and some dances that I'm sure I don't remember but were glad to dance in that moment.

Fast forward some 40+ years later. In early August of this year, I attended a retreat that offered reflection and discussion on the term “Perichoresis” (perry-core-ee-sis), which means, “mutual indwelling of the three persons of the Trinity.” This relationship between and among Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is often described as a dance, as a circular fluidity of the one- in- three and

the three- in- one of love, harmony, and the eternal movement of Creator, Beloved Son, and Holy Spirit.

Maybe the Church has always understood itself to be invited into the dance of Trinity. If so, it is only in the last few years that I have been more acutely aware of how much this swirling motion is at work among and through us. With our current challenges, with future uncertainties, with our adjustments to circumstances that may not be new to the Church but are certainly painfully new to us, we are blessed to hold the future we would pray for loosely.

What I mean by that is, we would be blessed to depend upon our eternal and divine partners in the dance, to pay close attention to the direction in which we are led, which may not be towards some past iteration of the church which we may hold dear, but instead, the dance moves us toward the unfamiliar and new. This new dance is no less graceful and engaging than the old way we moved, but we are still learning the steps as the Spirit still counts the rhythm in our ears that strain to hear. Our dance partner of the Trinity continues to include us, our communities of faith. It is our job to pay attention to the one who leads us, who applies pressure here and a tug there, who leans in one direction and gently guide our steps into new choreography. Come join the dance of Trinity... and learn what God would teach us.

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!

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.

OFFICE CLOSED – Sep 7 – the office will be closed due to Labor Day.

OFFICE HELP NEEDED –We are looking for volunteers to assist with printing/folding bulletins; printing the Reader's Guide and placing in the appropriate mailbox; picking up mail; and once a month, printing and mailing the newsletter.

KEY INVENTORY IN PROCESS – We need to determine who has keys to the church. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you have a key to the church.

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING MAILING – the annual meeting will be coming up in the next couple of months. We have been using ChurchTrac to generate mailing labels. We need you to login and verify your address/information to ensure you receive proper notification.

PASTOR CATIE ON VACATION – Pastor Catie is on vacation **Sep 10-Sep 16**. Pastor Paul Heykes will be leading worship on Sep 13. Pastor Morgan Simmons will be on call for pastoral emergencies. She can be reached at 715-362-5910.

WORSHIP IN THE WILD – **Sep 19** – more info to follow – check out our weekly bulletin.

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH

Sep 1 – Tammy Schroeder
Sep 5 – Patrick Zutavern
Sep 6 – Jan Lederhaus
Sep 8 – Betty Roth
Sep 9 – Joyce Hegland & Ty Larson
Sep 11 – Dora James
Sep 13 – Bailee Bauknecht & Corwin Schroeder
Sep 18 – Katelyn Bredesen
Sep 23 – Maria Madl

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

Year: 2026	Year: 2026
Month: July	Month: August
# of Services: 4	# of Services: 5
Average: 38	Average: 31
Average online: 32	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

Wisconsin voters will consider three Constitutional Amendments on their ballots this November.

The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin has created a Constitutional Amendment Voter Guide with explanations, recommendations, and context about the proposed amendments, made within the framework of the principles values, and commitments of the ELCA's social statements and messages.

The three proposed amendments are:

Question 1: Partial Veto Referendum
Question 2: Freedom to Gather in Places of Worship During an Emergency Referendum
Question 3: Governmental Entity Discrimination Prohibited Referendum

Visit loppw.org/constitutional-amendments-2026

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	\$8,827.00	\$10,254.08	(\$1,427.08)
June	\$6,107.57	\$10,686.00	(\$4,578.43)
July	\$8,877.85	\$10,756.72	(\$1,878.87)
August			
Fiscal YTD	\$88,851.12	\$116,064.62	(\$27,213.50)
Transfer from MM			\$20,000.00
Fiscal YTD			-\$7,213.50

Stewardship Calendar for September 2026

	9/6	9/13	9/20	9/27
<u>Reader</u>	Phoebe Pettingell	Linda Swanson	Miriam Bredesen	Robin Peterson
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Phoebe Pettingell	Vickie Johnson	Miriam Bredesen	Robin Peterson
<u>Greeter</u>	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Linda Fowles	Tom & Miriam Bredesen	Sue & Dave Riebe
<u>Acolyte</u>				

<u>Music</u>	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
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<u>Livestream</u>	Brad Bisnette	Kristi Erikson	Gretchen Dobbins	Brad Bisnette
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September 2026

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1	2 12:30 pm Quilting	3	4	5
6 9:00 am Worship Holy Communion	7	8 Council	9 12:30 pm Quilting	10	11	12
13 9:00 am Worship Holy Communion Pastor Paul Heykes	14	15	16 12:30 pm Quilting	17	18	19 Worship in the Wild Details TBA
20 9:00am Worship Holy Communion	21	22	23 12:30 pm Quilting	24	25	26
27 9:00 am Worship Holy Communion	28	29	30 12:30 pm Quilting			



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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

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

(Ann works remotely – limited hours)

Pastor: Reverend Catie Ford

pastorcatieford@gmail.com

Work Phone: 715-600-3980

Organist: Rhonda Buss

Custodian: Sara Palubicki



Faith Lutheran Church
Est. 1987