



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

October 2026

FROM PASTOR CATIE

“How wrong it feels, even for right and necessary reasons, to go away from this place. But we acknowledge the gift couched in this grief: that in a heartbroken, homesick world, we have known the blessing of a good home it is difficult to leave. We will not, however, go empty-handed. We leave here laden with memories which tether our hearts to the mercies of God. This house is a treasury of your faithfulness, and these are riches we will never leave behind.”
 -A Liturgy for Leaving a Home by Lanier Ivester
 From Every Moment Holy Volume III

I appreciate the words of this liturgy more than I can say. In many ways saying goodbye is so difficult. Sometimes it feels wrong. And yet it can be the appropriate next step. And naturally, as an ending approaches, I find myself reflecting on the time we have shared together. From this time, we go forth with a cup overflowing with memories.

A gift indeed.

So, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you one more time.

Thank you for the ways that you have shaped me.

Thank you for the memories.

Thank you for giving me something that makes saying goodbye so difficult.

I hope you will join us on the 18th as we have a special time of fellowship between worship and the annual meeting to say a final goodbye.

Peace,
 Pastor Catie

FROM THE PRESIDENT

[Come to the Annual Meeting on Oct 18 for an update – per Amy Davis]

FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

Planes, Trains, and Imagine More.

The first time I flew on a plane was with my youth group traveling to Denver, Colorado for the American Lutheran Church National Youth Gathering in the summer of 1985. It was the last of its kind, as 1988 began the new history of Youth Gatherings with the formation of the ELCA. My mother had sewn “JAM” shorts for our whole youth group to match our brightly colored t-shirts. In the exhibit hall, there was an inner tent...a kind of make-shift chapel where I first heard angelic chanting of Taize music. It may have been the first time I saw a pastor who was also a woman. The speakers were inspiring...a name I can't remember from South Africa speaking about Apartheid; and a name we all remember, former President Jimmy Carter telling us about a new project called Habitat for Humanity. I had no idea there were so many high schoolers who were Lutheran. And could not figure out why it seemed most of them were from Minnesota. I could not imagine I would grow up to be a pastor and live in Upper Michigan at that time, but that event likely had a lot to do with it. It changed my life. I went on to volunteer or chaperone at six more Gatherings, even naming a daughter Hope after the 1997 theme.

I recently visited with Mary Heinzman who shared with me her own experience of the Youth Gathering. Mary is a member of Trinity Lutheran in Ishpeming, and recalled fondly her trip with continuing friends Randi Holmgren and Peter Johnson, along with chaperones Pastor and Betsy Michalson. They boarded a train in the summer of 1961, making a stop in Green Bay and other spots along the way until the train was filled with Lutheran high schoolers. They stopped for site-seeing and a leg stretch in Washington D.C. and then onward to their destination: Miami, Florida. She knew Page 3 Northern Light this trip was a big expense for her parents, but it was worth the stretch. It, too, was life-changing. The keynote speaker was Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mary observed he was perhaps the first black person she had encountered at that time in her life. She loved what he said. Great World House. Kingdom of God. She recalls Holy Communion with thousands in the Miami Convention Center and a scrapbook she laments has been lost in the years since. I hear the lilt in her voice of being a part of something bigger when together. It changed Mary's life.

On October 21, 2026, registration will open for Lutheran Youth to gather in Minneapolis for the 2027 “Imagine More” Youth Gathering. Youth from the Northern Great Lakes Synod will meet people and see sites that will only

expand and multiply the love they have found here among us. The church is both big and small and it is for them. It will change their lives. I cannot wait to hear their stories when they get home.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Sharolyn Swenson
+ NGLS Assistant to the Bishop and Director of
Evangelical Mission

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")

COMMUNION ASSISTANT - 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 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.

ANNUAL MEETING – is Oct 18. Please plan on attending. Lots to discuss.

PASTOR CATIE RESIGNATION – Pastor Catie has accepted a call in Rockford, IL. Oct 18 will be her last day with Faith Lutheran. We wish Pastor Catie and her family all the best as they take a leap of faith forward into their spiritual, personal and professional growth.

ANN OUT OF THE OFFICE – Ann, our office staff, iok m , will be unavailable Oct 1 – Oct 26. She will be out of the country.

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH

Oct 5 – Sis Tenges
Oct 6 – Pierson Rawoens
Oct 9 – Jenna Erikson & Lily Medeiros-Harris
Oct 15 – Tom Bredesen
Oct 19 – Connie Lyons
Oct 23 – Willow Schroeder
Oct 24 – Doe Muench
Oct 26 – Logan Erikson
Oct 27 – Monte James

Also remember: Tom Muench, Rick Gensler, Sr., Kristen Anderson, Duane Bonack, Larry Roth & Rhonda Buss

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

Year: 2026	Year: 2026
Month: August	Month: September
# of Services: 5	# of Services: 4/3*
Average: 31	Average: 34
Average online: 30	Average online: 33
• *One week online unavailable	

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**

The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin
(LOPPW) advocates for policies that promote peace,
justice, and care for creation. Here are some upcoming
opportunities for civic engagement, advocacy, and
connection:

Election: November 3, 2026

Vote: Mark your calendars, and plan to vote in this fall's
election! Visit MyVoteWI.gov to find your polling place,
see a sample ballot, and learn about options for voting
early.

Review LOPPWs Constitutional Amendment Voter

Guide: Learn about the three constitutional amendments
that will be on Wisconsin ballots at
loppw.org/constitutional-amendments-2026.

Plan Outreach & Engagement: Use LOPPW's
Election Engagement Planning Tool to find ideas for how
you can plan and take part in nonpartisan civic
engagement activities as an individual, small group, or
congregation: loppw.org/civic-engagement-planning-tool.

Cultivating Connection: October Online Book Club
We live in a time marked by loneliness, social isolation,
and polarization. The effects show up in our personal
well-being and in the well-being of our communities at
large. Join LOPPW and Pastor Ronald Glusenkamp for
"Cultivating Connection: An Online Book Club
Exploring Belonging, Mattering, and Community in
Congregations & Beyond." Together, we will read and
reflect on the book *Mattering* by Jennfier Breheny
Wallace. Participants will also receive a guide they can
use to host a similar book club in their congregations or
communities to grow the impact. Learn more and
register at bit.ly/CultivatingConnection-LOPPW.

Coffee, Connections, and Calls Every Tuesday,
LOPPW hosts an informal online gathering to build
community, learn from each other, and share advocacy
opportunities. The gathering is from 8:30-9am, with an
additional flexible 15 minutes at the end for people who
want to stay to chat more. Come as often or as rarely as
you like – whether you join us once a week or every
week, you're always welcome! Register at bit.ly/loppw-coffee.

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	\$11,739.15	\$12,117.00	(\$377.85)
Fiscal YTD	\$100,590.27	\$128,181.62	(\$27,591.35)
Transfer from MM			\$20,000.00
Sale of Organ			\$10,000.00
Fiscal YTD			\$2,408.65

Stewardship Calendar for October 2026

	10/4	10/11	10/18	10/25
<u>Reader</u>	Karen Meyer	Jacque Deditz	Jan Harris	Phoebe Pettingell
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Karen Meyer	Jacque Deditz	Jan Harris	Phoebe Pettingell
<u>Greeter</u>	Sue & Dave Riebe	Amy Davis & Debby Carlson	Jan Harris	Chris & Jacque Deditz
<u>Acolyte</u>				

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

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship Holy Communion	5	6	7 12:30 pm Quilting	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Worship Holy Communion	12	13 Council	14 12:30 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Women, Wine, Worship at the Brew Station	15	16	17
18 9:00am Worship Holy Communion ANNUAL MEETING Pastor Catie's Last Day	19	20	21 12:30 pm Quilting	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Worship Holy Communion	26	27	28 12:30 pm Quilting	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

Pastor Catie Office Hours Thru Oct 18:

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