



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

July 2020

Working to spread the Gospel here and throughout the world.

6995 US 45 S · P.O. Box 436 · Three Lakes, WI 54562 · 715-546-2770
<http://faithlutheran-threelakes.org> · <https://facebook.com/faith3lakes> · office6995@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

NOTE FROM PASTOR JOHN

A couple of Sundays ago the gospel lesson from Matthew pictured Jesus surveying the crowds: “When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” This was not just a passing glance on Jesus’ part, but a gut-wrenching response to all the suffering represented. When Jesus looks at the crowds today, people on the streets protesting racism in our nation, Jesus has compassion of those who feel harassed by discrimination. Recently on the news I heard the fearful prospect of 200,000 deaths in the United States from the Covid-19 pandemic by the fall. Jesus has compassion on all who fear catching the virus, all who have lost financially due to pandemic-caused business closures, and all who mourn beloved family members who died.

The compassion felt by Jesus did not mean inaction on his part. Jesus was going to act but he was not going to act alone. Jesus spoke to his disciples “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” The time was ripe and Jesus called his followers

to pray pleading with the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers. If you have ever lived in farm country harvest time was a time of long hours as farmers gathered in the crop. Harvest had a sense of urgency. This time is also urgent; people are suffering and need hope and healing. Prayer is simply to ask God, the Lord of the Harvest, to motivate us and others for ministry.

Jesus was ready to give orders to his disciples, but in the text they are also referred to as apostles. The word means ‘sent out ones.’ In the Nicene Creed the church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is referred to as apostolic. The church is to be led by the Spirit among the harassed and helpless in our midst. Jesus wanted his followers to “proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near”. Jesus is telling the church today to practice what they pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” The Holy Spirit guides the church to proclaim, live, and act heaven on earth. Now that is quite a task since we normally associate heaven with the afterlife. But no, may we proclaim heaven in the midst of the

problems of earth. In other words we represent Jesus.

How can we represent Jesus in the middle of a plague? Pandemics can create fear and the thought “everyone for himself or herself”. But now more than ever do we need to listen to Jesus who demands that we live in his love and therefore love one another. So we listen to the health-care experts and practice what is called mitigation, for lifestyles that minimize the spread of Covid-19. So for the sake of community safety we wear our masks. The church has masks in case you do not have one. A friend of mine gave me a mask representing my favorite football team, the Detroit Lions. I wore it the other day hoping to irritate the Packer-backers. But no one said a word and I was initially disappointed. But then I thought people are so concerned about each other’s welfare they no longer take notice or part in petty rivalries. The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, is uniting us for the task at hand. The time is ripe to serve in the example of Jesus. So we must be brave and not avoid people in need of help. So may we not think of Jesus only as a good example, but trust his presence and help as we serve. Psalm 46 assures us that God is our refuge and our strength, a present and well-proven help in our time of need. As the church we are not seeking accolades but acceptance of suffering human beings without condemning judgments but walking with them offering help as the Holy Spirit gives opportunity.

In our nation we see turmoil in the streets, as many protest with signs that say “Black Lives Matter.” I know this irritates some who say in response that “All Lives Matter”. True enough, but with Black Lives matter our brothers and sisters of color are saying their lives may not matter in America because of the pandemic of racism. We hear the protesters shouting out the names of the African-American men and women who were killed by the police. Why the insistence of speaking the name of the

deceased? Names reveal one is a precious human being, made in God’s image, and loved by family members. Racism and poverty degrade and dehumanize. True enough those who were killed were not perfect human beings, no one is. But their names are spoken and shouted because their lives mattered. As Christians we believe the good news of baptism and God who calls us by name as children of God.

The protests in the street remind us we have a lot to learn about racism in our country and in our hearts. In a recent pastoral letter Synod Bishop Finegan wrote “We begin with a fearless inventory of our own thoughts, feelings, and discomfort with issues of race. We begin with a willingness to listen deeply and with compassion....I suggest a first step is prayer, and a petition to the Holy Spirit of Christ to open eyes, ears, and hearts to God’s will for all of creation and for all the people for whom Jesus died. Read the books, watch the videos, and hear the stories. Listen well.” I have been reading a book, “Me and White Supremacy: Combat racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor” by Layla Saad. The book is a 30 day examination of white supremacy and one’s participation and position in a culture of white favoritism. Admittedly her book is challenging especially if you think you are not a racist. Yes, we may not say or do things overtly that hurt people of color, but it takes time to understand the culture of white supremacy and why people of color feel harassed by attitudes that deny full equality and fairness. . The author says “This is lifelong work.”

Martin Luther, writing about the effect of Holy Communion said, “When you partake of this sacrament, therefore, or desire to partake of it, you must in turn share the misfortunes of the fellowship....Here your heart must go out in love and learn that this is a sacrament of love. As love and support are given to you, you in turn must render love and support to Christ in his needy ones. You must feel with sorrow all

the dishonor done to Christ in his holy Word, all the misery of Christendom, all the unjust suffering of the innocent, with which the world is filled to overflowing. You must fight, work, pray, and –if you cannot do more—have heartfelt compassion.” Some have thought that our return to worship after the virus-hiatus will not be a return to normal: masks must be worn, distancing observed, no singing, sharing the peace by hand-shake or hug, and no coffee fellowship. But worship with Word and Sacrament will bless with the normal of Christ’s blessed compassion. His compassion will not go away. And yes, may his compassion ever motivate us to know time is ripe, the time is urgent to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.”

Actual Church Marquee Signs

The best vitamin for a Christian is: B1.

Under same management for over 2000 years.

Soul food served here.

Tithe if you love Jesus! Anyone can honk!

You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving.

Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!

Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church.

We should be more concerned with the Rock Of Ages, instead of the age of rocks.

Reputation is what people think about you. Character is what people know you are.

Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters are now available online! If you would like to receive a paper copy, please sign up on the sheet outside of the office. Newsletters can be found at <https://www.faithlutheran-threelakes.org/newsletters> or right on the front page of the website.

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.



PRAYER SHAWLS

To give comfort and peace. There is a tote of prayer shawls under the shelf when you walk in. If you know someone who is lonely and would use one, feel free to take one. Once wrapped around their shoulders it feels like a hug from Jesus and their friends.

FELLOWSHIP

During Fellowship a basket is placed on the table to collect donations for the purchase of the Fair Trade decaf coffee. Individuals or groups who host Fellowship do not have to provide coffee. Occasional contributions to the fun are encouraged.

QUILTERS

We appreciate all of the quilting supplies which have been donated. We could use some help putting the quilts together. Quilting experience is not required.

The quilters meet every Wednesday from 12:30pm to 3:00 pm

LIVE-STREAMING

Did you know that when you're away, you can watch Pastor's sermon 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 at the reading of the Gospel, which usually happens between 9:10 and 9:15, 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 Pastor's sermons on our website. Simply go to our church website, and go to "Worship" --> "Pastor's Sermons" and click on any sermon in the Archive of Recorded Sermons. It's that easy!

ORGANIST OR PIANIST NEEDED to fill in occasionally for Sunday services. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Rhonda Buss at 715-223-5323 or rhonda_buss@yahoo.com

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH



We thank God for the beauty of 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.

- 7th Kortnie Volk
- 16th Karlie Volk

Also remember: Pat Radtke, Bob Frish, Samantha Huml.

OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Year: 2020

Month: April

Number of Sundays: 4

Average Attendance: 29

Month: April

Number of Sundays: 4, 0 due to COVID-19

Average Attendance: —

<i>April 2020</i>	MONTH	YTD
Budget Income	\$3,714	\$69,565
Expenses	\$2,812	\$44,081
Net Income	\$901	\$25,484

*** This will be provided on a quarterly basis



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ILLNESS, PAIN, LOSS OF HEALTH IN MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT: Colleen and Duane Bonack, Gale and Martha Crow, Natalie Gerharz, Kristin Rolls, Kyle Smith, Paul Kragh, Monte James, Missy Wick, Wayne Schuelke, Sue Sorg, Kristine Gerhart, Rick Jacobson, Ollie DeMuth, Megan Schiller, Barb Hanson, Bob Beyer, Kim Terlizzi, Ed Fowles, Hunter St. Louis, Charlotte Jensen, John and Connie Lyons, Tiffany and Greg Lyons, Peter Santogade, Ann Woelfel, Bill Mattson, Tom and Doe Muench, Scott Otto, Duane Bonack, the family of Rita Schuelke, Sonia and John Dionne, and the family of Bob Dumke..

Our home-bound including:
Norm Frauenfelder

Our armed forces including:
David Bredesen, Kaley Ebann, Tyler Kaltenberg, Nick, Brandy, Nathan Lamal, Jamie Madl, Jared Malda, Jon Priem, Brandon Paulick, Charlie and Will Starke, Nicole Young and Alex Brendemihl.

ALL THOSE WHO ARE ANXIOUS AND WORRIED ABOUT MANY THINGS

Our Church Ministries:

Congregational Care
Congregation Council
Board of Worship Life
Board of Outreach
Board of Trustees
Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center

Our partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ including:

St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church
Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church
Union Congregational 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 congregations.



“In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out – until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels” ~Exodus 40: 36-38

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Are we there yet? Any parent will tell you that they have heard this question called from the back seat of the vehicle any number of times, and not only on the longer car rides. Parents learn pretty quickly to prepare their children for the extended trip; gathering toys, games, and books, a favorite pillow, movies, whatever they can find to keep the children busy for the duration of the journey. Because without a sense of time or distance, children need to be given context, or other cues as in, “We will not arrive before supper time” or “We will be there before dark.” Such preparation helps the children be more resilient to the demands of travel. Knowing they will be in the car for awhile helps them settle in for a longer journey.

I wonder, if the Israelites had been more prepared for their wilderness wanderings, if that would have helped. The book of Exodus is full of accusations of being a “stiff necked people” as they complain about the conditions of their journey and never getting an answer to their incessant question (which isn’t actually recorded, but may as well have been) “Are we there yet?”

The Israelites didn’t arrive for 40 years. And while the actual question is not explicitly recorded, what we do have is a record of their disobedience, their complaining and doubts, the challenges of leadership, the lack of acceptable food and water, the weariness of the journey, and how people had trouble getting along. And yet, in the midst of all of this, all the griping and angst, the overwhelming witness of the book of Exodus and what is interwoven throughout this journey story, is the immediate, close, and faithful presence of God.

God travels with the Israelites, guides them, even feeds them. During this journey, the Israelites enjoy a relationship of intimacy and care with God, unequaled anywhere else in the whole history of salvation. I think of Charles Dickens’ words, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”. It was worst because the people struggled and suffered. There was uncertainty. There was pain and death. But it was also the best of times as God’s presence was visibly and palpably with them. Despite all the complaining, never before or since were the people of God so utterly dependent upon God’s care and guidance. Their trust was out of necessity, but it was trust well placed.

Our religious tradition is thick with wilderness stories and analogies. Wilderness times are marked by uncertainty and pain even as they are synonymous with complete dependence on God, and a deepening of that relationship, borne of desperation yes, but do we not cling to God all the more fiercely when our need is greater? The season of Lent is often likened to a wilderness time. Or the journey of grief. Or a time of healing from an illness, or any other time of trial and tribulation.

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness 40 years. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness 40 days. I suggest that this time of pandemic is also a wilderness time and a journey that is blessed with trust and dependence on God.

Like any wilderness story, our current time is marked with uncertainty. And as people of faith, we are blessed to once again and always depend upon the Spirit of God in Christ Jesus to sustain and guide us, weary travelers that we are.

Because the difficult truth is, we are not going to “arrive” for some time. We would do well to prepare ourselves and our children, our congregation members and our neighbors, to understand what it will mean to learn to live with this new virus until a vaccine is readily available, or until 60% to 70% of the population is immune. Such

preparation creates resiliency. And we will need to be resilient to the demands of this journey else we start to gripe and complain and not get along well with each other.

The lifting of government restrictions does not mean that the virus is no longer a threat. Nor does it mean that life, and worship, can return to pre-pandemic rhythms. Even as we are legally allowed to gather in groups of less than 10 and then less than 50, we and those we love are still at risk and precautions must be taken to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Watch for the cues: We will arrive when widespread testing is available, when tracking is possible, and ultimately, when there is a vaccine. Like the Israelites, we do not have a map. Like the Israelites, our arrival time is still far off. And like the Israelites, we will arrive a different people than when our journey began.

But we are a resilient people, striving for patience and faithfulness in these wilderness days. Know that God travels with us, guiding us, sustaining us in our weariness.

Again, I ask you to seek out the blessing that is in these days. God is ever present, ever faithful, and will bring us to that day when there is an answer to the question, "Are we there yet?". For now, the answer is no, not even close. Settle in for a longer journey. But we'll get there, and we'll get there together.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan



From the president...

We have no news on the call of a pastor, but we will have Pastor Grant with us on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, whether that is in person or via Zoom.

We donated \$500 of our rental money to ELCA Hunger as they had matching funds available.

Thank you to Larry Roth and Lee Klauk for removing the pine branches that our winter weather damaged.

A big thank you to Tom and Miriam Bredesen for organizing the repainting of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen! It was finished in one morning by Tom and Miriam, Larry Roth, Perry Anderson, and me. It now looks fresh, clean and inviting!

You should have received an email or paper copy of a survey about how you feel about our reopening. Please take the time to fill it out. It will help us to proceed.

We miss gathering together! Stay healthy!

Marge

The Season of Pentecost

Quote of the Day

"Formula for perpetual ignorance: Be satisfied with your opinions and content with your knowledge."

~Author Unknown



NGLS Anti-Racism Resources We have a new page on the Northern Great Lakes Synod website dedicated to anti-racism. Numerous resources will help you engage through suggestions of books, movies, podcasts and more! In her letter to the synod entitled, "What You CAN Do," Bishop Finegan said, "Read the books, watch the videos, hear the stories. Listen well." Please check back often for updates and additional resources.

What you CAN do.

"They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace."
~Jeremiah 8:11

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

It was one of the many times in 2019 that I was staying at a hotel for in-person meetings. I got on the elevator and pushed the button for the lobby, and I saw a gentleman walking purposefully down the hall toward the elevator I was in. He could see that I saw him coming, and as the doors to the elevator were closing, I fumbled to find the button that would hold the doors open. The doors were almost all the way closed, but I pushed the button in time to have them open again just as the man reached the elevator threshold. I watched as his brown face brightened into a wide friendly smile and I realized with aching clarity that he was pleasantly surprised... surprised that I had held the door for him, surprised that he had been extended this simple courtesy, perhaps even surprised, that a white woman, alone on an elevator, had not been afraid to hold the door for him.

How many times, I wondered, had this man had the doors closed to him that my holding them open had been a surprise? How many times had the color of his skin been perceived as threatening? How many times had simple courtesy been denied him?

In these last days and weeks, the news has reported horrible stories of not just courtesies denied to people of color, but lives taken away: a woman asleep in her own apartment is shot dead in her bed (Breonna Taylor), a young man out for a jog is gunned down (Ahmaud Arbery), and George Floyd is arrested, restrained, and killed as he begs for his life and cries out for his mother. At no other time in my memory have white people been more vocal with the questions, "What is wrong with the world?!?! and What can I do?"

I had new awareness of the way our United States is experienced differently by people of color after yet another story of a young African American man who gets pulled over for some minor infraction only to end up dead. As the mother of three 20-something young men, I have the same hopes and fears for them that any other mother has for her children, except that I have not had the worry that my sons will get shot and killed during a traffic stop. It is a reality that parents of color have to "have the talk" with their children. They are instructed, not just to follow the law, not just to be respectful, but to actually be prepared to be the calm and non-anxious presence in the face of prejudice and fear that seems to be looking for an excuse to escalate the tension and might just get them killed. So, what is wrong with our world? And what can you and I and the church do?

We begin with a fearless inventory of our own thoughts, feelings, and discomfort with issues of race. We begin with a willingness to listen deeply and with compassion. We begin by putting the temptation to defensiveness aside and adopt an attitude of learning. The dangers of white supremacist ideology are real. Such attitudes continue to influence bank loans, education, public funding, housing, immigration policies and more. We need to be aware, and more than just aware, but actively call out what is destructive to ourselves and our neighbors.

Hear the word of the Lord through the prophet Jeremiah, we cannot treat this wound carelessly. We cannot pretend there is peace for all when there is only peace for some. This is not justice. This is not obedience to Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. People are in pain, and you and I and us together CAN do something about it.

While we collectively can make a difference, dismantling racism and the systems that perpetuate it begins as a personal and individual journey of discovery and repentance. I know my own journey has gathered momentum in these past days. I suggest a first step is prayer, and a petition to the Holy Spirit of Christ to open eyes, ears, and hearts to God's will for all of creation and for all the people for whom Jesus died. A next step: [check out the resources on our website](#). Read the books, watch the videos, hear the stories. Listen well.

If you are not yet ready for that, simply begin in your own imagination. You've seen the video, the images of Mr. George Floyd, laying on the pavement, his neck under the knee of the arresting officer. Now imagine your son, your husband, your father, your brother, your loved one in the place and posture of George Floyd in his final 8 minutes of life.

Maybe it's not fair, or in poor taste, for me to ask you to do that. But I suspect that until this pain is everyone's pain, until this fear is everyone's fear, not much will change. And that disturbing, heartbreaking image of your loved one in that position of danger and vulnerability will become a catalyst for transformation.

Do not treat this wound, the wound caused by racism and white supremacist ideology, carelessly. Now is the time for each of us to take another step to understand more deeply the pain that others are feeling and experiencing. Do not be afraid. The Holy Spirit will guide your journey that begins and continues as you take the next step.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan



STEWARDSHIP CALENDARS



June

	6/7/20	6/14/20	6/21/20	6/28/20
Assisting Minister	Melissa Wick	Phoebe Pettingell	Chuck Radtke	Ken Huebner
Lay Reader	Jan Harris	Betty Roth	Rob Peterson	Marge Anderson
Altar Guild	Debby Carlson	Linda Swanson	Sue Sorg	Jan Harris
Greeters	Wicks	Jan and Lily Harris	Andersons	Sue Sorg and Jan Harris
Music	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Fellowship	Swansons	Council	Outreach	BOWL
Video Streaming	Linda Swanson	Linda Swanson	Linda Swanson	Linda Swanson

July

	7/5/20	7/12/20	7/19/20	7/26/20
Assisting Minister	Tom Bredeesen	Miriam Bredeesen	Chuck Radtke	Ken Huebner
Lay Reader	Robin Peterson	Marge Anderson	Jan Harris	Betty Roth
Altar Guild	Sue Sorg	Jan Harris	Diane Kliss	Linda Swanson
Greeters	Matthiaes	Wicks	Andersons	Jan Harris and Lily
Music	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Fellowship	Roths	Hauschilds	Council	Trustees
Video Streaming	Linda Swanson	Linda Swanson	Linda Swanson	Linda Swanson

If you cannot serve on your assigned day, please find a replacement, then notify the church office.

JULY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 12:30 pm Quilters	2	3 Office Closed	4 <i>Independence Day</i> 
5 9:00 am Holy Communion	6 Office Closed	7 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Pastor John’s Office Hours 12:30 pm Theology Adventure Club (TAC)	8 12:30 pm Quilters	9	10 Office Closed	11
12 9:00 am Holy Communion	13 Office Closed	14 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Pastor John’s Office Hours 12:30 pm Theology Adventure Club (TAC) 2:00 pm Council Meeting	15 12:30 pm Quilters	16	17 Office Closed	18

<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 am Holy Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am – 12:00 pm Pastor John’s Office Hours 12:30 pm Theology Adventure Club (TAC) 2:00 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:30 pm Quilters</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 am Holy Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am – 12:00 pm Pastor John’s Office Hours 12:30 pm Theology Adventure Club (TAC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p>	

Faith Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 436
Three Lakes, WI 54562

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 Hours: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday – Thursday (closed Monday and Friday)

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Sunday Morning – 9:00 am
Holy Communion

STAFF

Office Administrator: MaryBeth Koslowski
office6995@gmail.com

Interim Pastor: Rev. John Kuziej
pllc@frontier.com

Custodian: Debbie Hock

Organist: Rhonda Buss

VISIT US ON THE WEB

<https://www.faithlutheran-threelakes.org>

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<https://www.facebook.com/faith3lakes>



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