



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

FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

August 2020

Working to spread the Gospel here and throughout the world.

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Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

NOTE FROM PASTOR JOHN

Faith Lutheran in Three Lakes has decided to remain closed for in-person worship for the time being and Pioneer Lake opened to such worship a few weeks ago but with low attendance. The news about the spread of the pandemic is bleak and people are scared. It is no ordinary time. How can we live through such times with hope? When we think about that, our hope is placed for the time for an effective vaccine to be developed. But the hope I am wondering about is this: is there a chance for hope in the middle of the barrage of bad news about the virus?

A sign of hope for me was noted during a special worship service at Faith Lutheran on July 12th. Although closed it was decided to have a special service honoring the recent High School graduates. Just as area schools figured out ways for graduation ceremonies the service of blessing for four members of the congregation was just too important to cast aside. It was interesting that the four high school grads at Faith represented three school districts: Three Lakes, Rhinelander, and Elcho. The sight of the four graduates, young people with academic and athletic ability, gave me hope in

the midst of a crisis. Kortnie plans to enroll in a Pre-Med program. Lily wants to become an Occupational Therapist. Lincoln wants to become a Physio-therapist. Payton is not sure about his major field of study but he is sure about playing football in his college time. At Pioneer Lake the only High School grad from Northland Pines, Paige, I believe will study to become a Physio-therapist. I find such hope in young people who have sensed their calling in fields where they will help people heal. What they have chosen are not only honored and needed professions; they are also vocations or what I believe to be callings from God to serve humanity with commitment and compassion.

There were many other signs of hope at that special service of blessing. Lincoln was also confirmed along with Olivia. Now here is the story: the two are girlfriend and boyfriend. Olivia, a Junior in Three Lakes, invited Lincoln, a senior at Elcho, to attend confirmation classes with her. I recall the Sunday when Lincoln wanted to see me after a Sunday service to ask about confirmation class. I almost fell out of the chair for you see it is not all that often that

people request to attend confirmation class. Here is the hope: the power of a simple invitation in evangelism. When I talk about Confirmation in Three Lakes I must admit I never taught a class. The classes were taught by Beth, a retired school teacher who has an endearing and enduring love for kids and their faith development. She did all the work. She planned the curriculum to lead the students through Luther's catechism. In her way of thinking the more students the merrier! Here's the sign of hope: members of the congregation who are concerned for the faith formation of youth and love to work with them. Beth liked to joke that she shows up in the student's nightmares. She knows the kids, taught many of them at church school ever since primary school which tells me the students knew that she cared for them.

A highlight of the service was presentation of quilts to each High School graduate. The quilts were absolutely beautiful! The students unfolded them for the congregation to admire. A lovely quilt was presented to our Pioneer Lake graduate earlier in the summer. I think of the moving words of the graduate quilt presentation at Pioneer Lake: "This quilt was made with many thoughts and prayers by the loving hands of our congregation's quilters. The threads running through this quilt are like the many journeys of your life. They connect us to each other and hold us together like a family. Wrap yourself in this quilt and think of us on your life's journey. Remember all our prayers will always be with you tied up in this special quilt. God be with you always." Here is the hope during a time of crisis: we do not face hard times alone. The thread of God's love holds us together. We are connected to Jesus and like a quilt we are forever wrapped in his grace. The Scriptures remind us "in him all things hold together". (Colossians 1: 17) In times of chaos everything seems to be falling apart. But here is our hope: in time of chaos Jesus holds us with the power of his creative will: creating within us hope for each day and leading us through all

times of "dark valleys" toward the goal of a finished new creation of no more sickness, dying, crying or pain.

At the worship service I told about an organization "Voice of the Martyrs". This is an organization which seeks to bring help to persecuted Christians in the world. There recent publication showed a large picture of a full immersion baptism with the following caption: "In some areas hostile to Christ, baptism is seen as the ultimate act of defiance or betrayal. When new believers are baptized, they are perceived as having completely rejected their culture's belief system. Despite facing fierce opposition from society, believers who find the truth in Jesus Christ welcome the opportunity to obediently declare their allegiance to Him." We are thankful for the grace of baptism: being joined to Jesus Christ and granted the lifelong gift of the Holy Spirit. But to be honest, I never thought of baptism as an act of defiance against the culture's belief system. Just what about our common culture needs such defiance? One that I can think of is a twisted understanding of freedom. Freedom does not mean I can do whatever I want. For all of us baptized in union with Jesus know that freedom is the freedom to serve. With the mind of Jesus Christ we think of the needs of others rather than what we believe are our rights. Another call to resistance is to oppose the curse of racism in our society. I saw a cartoon of Jesus who was wearing a mask and carrying the sign "Black Lives Matter". I used to be bothered by such a statement preferring "All Lives Matter". But then I thought of the Christian faith and baptism: "Black Lives Matter" means my life matters, your life matters. Baptism joins us together in the Body of Christ where there is resistance to any thoughts of any group being more important or superior to others. We face pandemics and other problems together confident of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus to keep us in faith and not become slaves to fear.

At Faith in Three Lakes, each graduate, each confirmation student, were given their own personal cake. Since virus mitigation discourage church fellowship times, the solution was to give each graduate their own cake! When one of the boys thought no one was looking, I saw him use his finger to taste the frosting. I am sure he could not wait to have a piece of his own personal cake. In this time of pandemic and fearful thoughts, we have hope as we think of the promise of Scripture: "Taste and see that the Lord is good: happy are those who take refuge in him." Faith puts a good taste in our lives, the blessed assurance of our Lord Jesus with us each day of lives, sharing our journey and giving us hope.

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



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.

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!

BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH



As the summer sun continues to warm us and the rain brings life to the Northwoods, we enjoy the many gifts God has granted us.

The greatest of God's gifts is the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. In baptism, God joins us to the death of Christ so that we may look forward to our resurrection with him!

Take time to remember your baptism every day. Let us keep in prayer those members and friends of Faith who celebrate their baptismal birthday this month.

- 1st Phyllis Frish and Karla Anderson
- 16th Troy Schroeder
- 27th Taylor Madl

Also remember: Melissa Madl, Mary Ellyn Williams, Michael Huml, Sonia Dionne and Sue Harris

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>May 2020</i>	MONTH	YTD
Budget Income	\$6,534	\$73,582
Expenses	\$2,990	\$45,953
Net Income	\$3,543	\$27,629

<i>June 2020</i>	MONTH	YTD
Budget Income	\$5,010	\$78,593
Expenses	\$2,501	\$49,842
Net Income	\$2,508	\$28,751

*** 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:

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, Hunter St. Louis, Charlotte Jensen, 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, the family of Bob Dumke, Colleen and Duane Bonack, John and Connie Lyons, Donna Weiss and family, and Tammy Schroeder.

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.

From the president...

Dear Members of Faith,

With Pastor John's permission, I have decided that we will have in-person worship on the first and third Sundays of the month with Pastor Grant and online the remaining Sundays. This means we will have worship this Sunday, August 2nd, at our usual time of 9:00 am.

We held such a worship on July 12th celebrating our four graduates and two of our confirmands. It was a success as expressed by all in attendance.

We will practice social distancing in these ways:

- you will be met at the door with hand sanitizer
- masks are mandatory
- observe the six-foot spacing rule and skip a pew between groups
- there will be no singing or hand touching
- we will ask you to sign in just in case there is a medical situation
- we will have communion with prepackaged wafers and grape juice

For those of you that do not want to participate, we will stream the entire service so that you can participate remotely.

I pray that you are accepting of this decision.

Marge Anderson, Council President

Greetings!

We still have no word from the synod as to potential pastors for us. In the meantime, we have reached out to Pastor Grant to be with us the first and third Sundays of the month. We are fortunate to have him with us. We are debating as to whether or not we should worship in person on those two Sundays. We will let you know!

The parking lot is done and looks beautiful! Next up is the removal of some dead trees, trimming of others, and more landscaping.

Right now the plan is to paint the back side of the church in September. Tom Bredesen will lead this project for us. Details to follow.

We gave \$500 to ELCA hunger this past month. There were matching funds, so our \$500 meant \$1000 to them.

Keep safe, pray for those that need help in any way, and follow any emails you receive from us!

Marge

GOING FORWARD, IF YOU ARE AN ASSISTING MINISTER, LAY READER, ALTAR GUILD, OR GREETER AND WILL NOT BE ATTENDING IN-PERSON WORSHIP DUE TO COVID-19, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE SO ADJUSTMENTS TO THESE SCHEDULES CAN BE MADE.

OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: 715-546-2770

E-MAIL ADDRESS: OFFICE6995@GMAIL.COM.

THANK YOU

STEWARDSHIP CALENDARS



July

	7/5/20	7/12/20	7/19/20	7/26/20
Assisting Minister	Tom Bredesen	Miriam Bredesen	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

August

	8/2/20	8/9/20	8/16/20	8/23/20	8/30/20
Assisting Minister	---	---	---	---	---
Lay Reader	Marge Anderson	Robin Peterson	Betty Roth	Jan Harris	Robin Peterson
Altar Guild	---	---	---	---	---
Greeters	Jan Harris & Lily Medeiros-Harris	Andersons	Sue Sorg and Jan Harris	Andersons	Jan Harris and Lily Medeiros-Harris
Music	Rhonda Buss	Erich Zorr	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Fellowship	---	---	---	---	---
Video Streaming	---	---	---	---	---

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

AUGUST 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:00 am Holy Communion	3 Office Closed	4 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Pastor John’s Office Hours	5	6	7 Office Closed	8
9 9:00 am Holy Communion	10 Office Closed	11 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Pastor John’s Office Hours 2:00 pm Council Meeting	12	13	14 Office Closed	15

16 9:00 am Holy Communion	17 Office Closed	18 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Pastor John's Office Hours	19	20	21 Office Closed	22
23 9:00 am Holy Communion	24 Office Closed	25 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Pastor John's Office Hours	26	27	28 Office Closed	29
30 9:00 am Holy Communion	31 Office Closed					

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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