



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

## FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

September 2020

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*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

### SEPTEMBER LAKEVIEW

It was like an invasion: two boys came dashing down the parking lot with their skate boards. They were adept and well-balanced and enjoyed the incline from the top of the parking lot to the church entrance. I ignored them as temporary tourists, probably with their family in a rental somewhere close by. But it came too much to ignore when I heard a crash right at the front door. The boys were positioning their skateboards at the planter under the bell tower and using that incline to head for the door! With horror I saw the damage done to the impatiens flowers and I became impatient. I scared the be-jabbers out of them when I came out of the front door telling them to stop this stunt.

They did apologize and appeared to be nice boys. They wanted to come into the church claiming that they have never been in a church before. One of the two boys—they are brothers ages 9 and 11—said they opened the church door one time when no one was at the church, but they were afraid to go inside. So I gave them the tour of the sanctuary. They were curious with a barrage of questions, the most fundamental being “Just what do people do

here?” I talked a bit about worship and when I mentioned ‘prayer’ they wanted to know what I meant. Then they asked me, “Will you teach us to pray”. I couldn’t help but think of Jesus’ disciples asking the same question, “Will you teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples”. Jesus responded with what we know as the Lord’s Prayer.

I did not teach the words of the Lord’s Prayer because I felt the lesson would need to be more basic. So I taught that God loves them and prayer is simply conversation, talking to God as with a loving parent, sharing your concerns. From what I gathered from the boys, named Konnor and Kevin, their parents have split up. So I first of all asked the boys what they fear, and bring that fear to God. Now it was getting interesting. The youngest, Kevin, spoke of the fear of death. The older boy shared what I would call a confession. He honestly confessed to being mean. The expression on his face revealed the anxiety of truth-telling. Both boys were interested in knowing if they could ask God for various material things, mentioning computer games and most basic of all internet

service at their home. You could see they wondered if God granting such wishes depended on their behavior. If behavior was the answer, they knew they were in trouble. I wanted to steer the boys away from some bad theology that would be similar to what is known today as the Prosperity Gospel. This idea teaches that if one is faithful, obeying the commandments, God will bless with prosperity, or granting what you would want for a good and healthy life. I told them God loves to hear them pray and we can ask God to help us be better people. If we are mean and nasty we can tell God we are sorry and know that God forgives. We talked about the cross and its meaning. The boys had noticed the crosses out in the front which say "Jesus Is Lord." But as far as coveted video games and internet, they would have to ask their parents.

The boys were curious about the baptismal font. I told them baptism was not just water, but also the Word of God's love and God's unbreakable promise of love for them. I made the mistake of mentioning baptisms that have taken place down at the lake and their eyes opened as wide as possible. They wanted to go down to the lake and be baptized immediately if not sooner. So we went down to look at Pioneer Lake but there was no baptism, although I was tempted. I told them if they wanted to be baptized, they would have to ask their parents as a first-step.

When I told them I had to get going, I asked them to sign the guest book which they did. I then gave each one of them a "Cross-in-the-pocket" token, the last two we had. This token is a knitted cross with a slot holding a message about the meaning of the cross, the gift of forgiveness and the constancy of God's love which the holder is to remember. The boys did not leave right away; they seemed comfortable in the sanctuary and had questions. For example they wanted to know what "clothes" a pastor wears for a Sunday service. So I showed them my alb and the different color stoles used. They saw the steps leading up to the room where the money is counted and I had to tell them not to

go up there. They enjoyed exploring the church building. When they finally left I noticed one of them left behind the "Cross-in-the-pocket". I surmised their attention span was short and they would leave behind any of the words I had spoken to them as well. But the boys returned and the one said he forgot to take his cross. He did not forget after all.

The boys keep returning. They told me they still have the cross in their pockets and they showed this token to their mother. One time the boys brought in a snake to show to Holly our office manager. They come in quite frequently for water. Unfortunately I have to tell them from time-to-time that I am busy and cannot spend too much time with them.

I imagine soon the boys will return home to Antigo and begin a new school year. I hope they will remember the lesson about prayer and the invitation, as the Bible says, "to cast all their cares on God because God cares for them." I hope they will keep the cross in their pocket, and that the message of the cross will be like a seed planted in their hearts growing into faith, faith in the Savior Jesus who loves them beyond measure. Kevin and Konnor are just young boys, ages 9 and 11, but certainly they know fear and face challenges. I pray that God keep them safe as the dash around athletically with their skateboards, have good and healthy fun, and never forget the love and compassion of Jesus. I hope they will be baptized, be a part of a church, and continue the adventure of learning the goodness and faithfulness of God.



## 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



The days are growing shorter, the nights cool, and leaves are beginning to change color. The life of summer is beginning to give way to the dying of autumn.

Our lives are filled with life and death. Yet, in the midst of the joy of life and the grief of death – hope remains; hope promised in the cross of Jesus Christ!

In our baptism, we receive the hopeful promises of the cross. In our faith, we trust the grace of Jesus Christ. During September, allow God's Holy Spirit rekindle your trust in the gifts of baptism, and remember our brothers and sisters who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism into Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tammy Schroeder
- 6<sup>th</sup> Jan Lederhaus
- 8<sup>th</sup> Betty Roth
- 9<sup>th</sup> Joyce Hegland and Ty Larson
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dora James
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Maria Madl
- 28<sup>th</sup> Traeton Fogerty

Also remember: Corwin Schroeder

### OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Year: 2020

Month: April

Number of Sundays: 4

Average Attendance: 29

#### Month: April

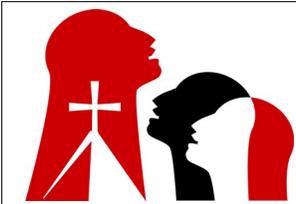
Number of Sundays: 4, 0 due to COVID-19

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 Sandstone, Ann Wolfe, Bill Matt son, Scott Otto, 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 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...***

It's September and we are getting back to school and other fall activities. It also means the end of our fiscal year and with that comes our annual meeting. Since we need a quorum to conduct business, we will do things a little differently. Our meeting will be held after a special outdoor worship service on September 13. Bring your own chair and the usual requirements (mask, hand sanitizer) and be prepared to worship on the lawn with social distancing practices active.

In Person worship has been going well with small numbers in attendance (13-23). Even with such small numbers, it is wonderful to be able to gather in God's house after months of strictly online options. Live streaming has been successful as long as there is someone in attendance that knows how to maneuver the equipment!

September 20 has been chosen as the date for the long-postponed confirmation of our youth. We celebrate as they join us as full members of our congregation.

I hope to see you in September!

Marge Anderson

## ***Prayers Needed!***

- Please pray for the people of Louisiana and Texas as a massive hurricane approaches landfall.
- Please pray for a stop to the deadly violence occurring in Kenosha.
- Please pray for firefighters battling fires in California and to all those who lost their homes.
- Please pray for all those battling Covid.
- And finally, please pray for our country in the midst of all these crises.





*<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."*

~Numbers 11: 4-6

Dear Friends in Christ,

Does your strength feel dried up? Is there nothing at all but online worship or half-empty pews to look at? Do you remember when we took regular in-the-sanctuary worship for granted? We remember the fellowship, the potlucks, the singing, gathering around the altar for the Lord's Supper. Do you have a strong craving for going back to the way things used to be? The thing is...we are in the wilderness. We have left Egypt (the good and the bad) behind, and God is making us, the church (and maybe society too), into something new. And if the experience of the Israelites is any guide, we are only in the beginning of our journey. If, as Dr. Osterholm says (an epidemiologist) we are only in the second inning of a nine-inning game, then we are only in the first decade of a forty-year journey, or in the first months of what will take a year to two years. It is rather remarkable how the wilderness experience of the Israelites and our own pandemic wilderness experience is similar.

- **Moses was under a lot of stress, and so is your pastor.**

Every day is full of new decisions. There is much to take into consideration and pastors are being pulled and pushed into exhaustion. Do we resume in person worship? How? When? What if cases in the community are rising? What if someone shows up and won't wear a mask? What if more people show up than we can accommodate for social distancing? What if the most vulnerable come, how can we be sure they'll be safe? What do I say to someone who doesn't believe the threat is real? Please be patient with your pastor and your leadership. The way forward is far from clear... for returning to worship, fall programming, and so much more.

- **Moses learned not to be a solo leader and others stepped up to help.**

At first it was all Moses. He went up the mountain alone and came down alone. But then he appointed more leaders to help shoulder the burden of leadership. When the pandemic first started, your pastoral leader scrambled to provide resources and/or an online worship. There wasn't time to recruit volunteers, there was too much else to do. He or she may not have had the means or initiative to get the council or others involved in meeting the needs of ministry in the congregation, much less the community.

But now, as we settle in for the long haul, councils and other congregation members would do well to ask their pastor how they can help, if they are not already doing so. Ask:

~Who needs a phone call and to be prayed with?

~What new technology can I learn that would help?

~Are there mailings I can help put together?

~Are there email lists and cell phone lists that need to be updated?

~Can I be a part of the online worship effort?

~Can I help someone use ZOOM?

Or please simply send a note of thanks and affirmation, so your pastoral leader knows their efforts are appreciated, and hold them in prayer.

- **As their wilderness journey continued, the Israelites complained about a few things and so do we.**

Wilderness times are full of high anxiety and stress. There is confusion. There is grief because we have lost the familiar and fear about an uncertain future. These feelings sometimes come out as anger or sadness or just untethered emotion.

Sometimes the best we can do is to take a deep breath and invite others to do the same. The words of Julian of Norwich come to mind...again, "All will be well. All will be well. In all manner of things, all will be well."

It is not up to you or me to fix the church or solve the pandemic or answer every question in the moment it is asked. This is a time of prayer and discernment, of conversation together to determine what is best, of asking how God is at work, and erring on the side of care for the neighbor. Easier said than done. But being gentle with yourself and others is a good beginning.

- **The Israelites arrived in the promised land a different people than when they left Egypt and we will emerge from this pandemic a different people too.**

We are practicing our faith differently. At a time when we have not been gathering for worship as we used to means that feeding one's faith is not as easy as simply showing up to worship. This pandemic has challenged us to find new ways to deepen our discipleship and our relationship to God in Christ Jesus. Many pastoral leaders have done their best to provide online devotions, Bible studies, emails of encouragement, phone call prayers, and more.

In addition, I see the need for congregation members to take a new kind of initiative. For some, it may be more difficult to turn on the computer than get in the car to go to church. It may be more difficult to pray at home, than in the gathered assembly. Personal devotions depend on a person doing them. Online Bible studies are helpful only if one participates. Our rhythms are off. The regular habits of faith have been disrupted.

By the time this pandemic is over, new patterns and practices will emerge, new insights will give greater clarity, and who we are as Lutheran Christians in the Northern Great Lakes Synod will look and feel differently than it does now.

- **The Israelites were closer to God when they were in the wilderness - intimately dependent on God in a whole new way.**

In wilderness times, that is, in times of fear and uncertainty, we pray all the harder and more frequently. We look for God more fervently. We rely on the presence of Christ walking with us with greater dependence. God is nearer, more palpably present, and this is an unexpected blessing. As the Israelites traveled in the wilderness, their patience wore thin. They were tired of the journey, tired of Moses, critical of their situation and their leaders. I hope we can travel our wilderness road with a little more grace. 😊

As your leaders consider next steps, please understand that their priority is your health. And their primary challenge is how to nurture your relationship with God in Christ Jesus while observing the best practices for the safety of all.

So, as you travel this wilderness journey, watch out for your friends and neighbors. We don't want to lose anyone along the way. Check in on each other. Pray. Take your own initiative to deepen your discipleship and care for your congregation and community. Your pastor can only do so much. And just as God led the Israelites through the wilderness, so does God lead you and me. These are trying days that will stretch into months and longer. But God is with you, your congregation, and with the Church that is the body of Christ.

Take heart and do not lose faith...or patience.

Yours in Christ,  
**Bishop Katherine Finegan**



**[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.](#)**

## STEWARDSHIP CALENDARS



### August

	8/2/20	8/9/20	8/16/20	8/23/20	8/30/20
Assisting Minister	---	---	<b>Ken Huebner</b>	<b>Ken Huebner</b>	<b>Ken Huebner</b>
Lay Reader	<b>Marge Anderson</b>	<b>Robin Peterson</b>	<b>Marge Anderson</b>	<b>Jan Harris</b>	<b>Rob Peterson</b>
Altar Guild	---	---	---	---	---
Greeters	<b>Jan Harris &amp; Lily Medeiros-Harris</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Sue Sorg and Jan Harris</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Jan Harris and Lily Medeiros-Harris</b>
Music	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Erich Zorr</b>	<b>Dawn Gonitzke</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
Fellowship	---	---	---	---	---
Video Streaming	---	---	---	---	---

### September

	9/6/20	9/13/20	9/20/20	9/27/20
Assisting Minister	<b>Ken Huebner</b>	<b>Ken Huebner</b>	<b>Ken Huebner</b>	<b>Ken Huebner</b>
Lay Reader	<b>Marge Anderson</b>	<b>Jan Harris</b>	<b>Marge Anderson</b>	<b>Rob Peterson</b>
Altar Guild	---	---	---	---
Greeters	<b>Jan Harris &amp; Lily Medeiros-Harris</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Jan Harris &amp; Lily Medeiros-Harris</b>	<b>Sue Sorg and Jan Harris</b>
Music	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
Fellowship	---	---	---	---
Video Streaming	---	---	---	---

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

## SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John's Office Hours	2	3	4  Office Closed	5
6  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	7  Office Closed   <b>Labor Day</b>	8  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John's Office Hours <b>1:00 pm</b> Council Meeting	9	10	11  Office Closed	12
13  <b>9:00 am</b> Outdoor Service Holy Communion <b>After Worship Service</b> Annual Meeting  	14  Office Closed	15  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John's Office Hours	16	17	18  Office Closed	19

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion  <b>Confirmation</b>  	Office Closed	<b>10:00 am –            12:00 pm</b> Pastor John's Office Hours			Office Closed	
27	28	29	30			
<b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	Office Closed	<b>10:00 am –            12:00 pm</b> Pastor John's Office Hours				

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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