



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

## FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

October 2020

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*Working to spread the Gospel here and throughout the world.*

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

### NOTE FROM PASTOR JOHN

Occasionally I dress in more formal attire. By 'formal' I do not mean a tuxedo (never wore one) but a black clergy shirt; you know the one, with a white tab in the center of the collar. This has advantages for hospital and nursing home visits; staff and residents recognize me as a clergyman. It is fun wearing such a shirt. I get a lot of "Hello Father!" from those who think I must be Roman Catholic priest. Those who have greeted me in that way have never asked about Mass schedules or when I am hearing confessions. By and large I think most people ignore me with my clergy duds. They may surmise I am some sort of religious dude and it would be best to stay away. But not always.

Recently I was having lunch at a local restaurant when a waitress—not the one who took my order—came over to my table. My appearance must have inspired a religious question. She asked "Do you think that the End of the World is soon upon us?" That was a serious question to be asked when all I really wanted was to sip my

coffee and slurp my soup. But I could not very well tell her that I will think about it and have an answer for you when you come to my church. Her question was certainly understandable after watching the news: unrest in cities, fires burning out West, and of course, a pandemic soon to claim 200,000 American lives. This was no time for fire and brimstone, heaven knows we have enough fear around us. So I told her not to worry about the End of all things or the timetable of God. But it is important to be ready. What is the best way to be ready: by keeping faith in God and the Savior who loves us beyond all measurements. She smiled and said thank you, and genuinely seemed relieved.

Our English language can sometimes trip us up. We may think of "End of the World" as "The End", nothing more to follow. But in the Bible the word "end" means completion, fulfillment, and consummation. Martin Luther understood the End of the World, or the Last Day as "that

great, dear day” which he longed for. He longed for that ‘dear day’ because it meant sin, death, crying, grief, and pain will be no more. We do not know when that great day will come, but the book of Revelation gives a fantastically hope-filled picture of heaven and earth unified, and that the home of God will be with human kind. God will be there to wipe away every tear from our eyes. I remember listening to an old gospel hymn designed to frighten: “Jesus is coming soon, morning, night, or noon, many will meet their doom, trumpets will sound.” Instead I prefer a hymn designed for encouraging faith, “Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee! (Hymn # 631 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”)

Not long ago I was wearing my black clergy shirt at Frederick Place. A meal was prepared at Pioneer Lake by Ron and me and we delivered it. We usually eat with the residents. (Wearing a black shirt at a meal is sloppy-resistant; you just cannot see the stains). The clergy-garb may have inspired the one resident to ask me to say grace. The place was particularly chaotic because of the eleven residents at the time, six were children, ranging in age from one year to eight. A boy and his sister came up to me and asked if I talk to God. They also asked if I talked to Jesus. Again, while eating, I was interrupted by the request of the eight year old: “Would you show me how to pray?” I said ‘sure’ but without any idea what I was going to say to an eight-year old. The Bible quotes Jesus saying “Let the children come to me” so I best let them come. I asked the lad to come with me into another room alone. After all, Jesus did recommend to pray in private, going into your own room and praying in secret so that your Father in heaven will see you in secret and reward you. So let’s see, where do I start? I asked the boy-named Jordan-if there was something on his mind, or something he would like to ask God. Yes, there was: he wanted his

grandpa back. I asked him where his grandpa was. Jordan told me his grandpa died.

I must confess that I panicked. I did not want the boy to pray before bedtime asking for his deceased grandpa then expecting him to show up by morning. Why couldn’t he ask for a puppy, or like a couple of boys a few weeks ago asked for internet access for their video games? I gave the best answer I thought of and he never made a comment or complaint. I did not want to give the idea that God was mean by taking his grandpa away. I said our loved ones sadly die and we miss them. We would like to see them again but that is not possible now. So I very simply told him that God would take care of his grandpa in heaven. I know that is not very theologically precise, but I was talking to a boy in the third grade. As I think about it now, I wished I would have taken some time talking about his grandpa asking Jordan to share some precious memories. I wonder if he needed a hug. This experience gave me insight into why Jesus wanted kids around. They are not to be shushed up or shooed away. They have deeply spiritual questions. At eight years of age Jordan already experienced the sorrow of loss and wondered about what happens to us after we die. Sometimes we have to give creative, but truthful answers to their probing questions about the mysteries of life. And I think about this young lad was spending weeks in a Homeless Shelter, and that his parents were separated. We must help troubled children know that God loves them, and that love has to be channeled through us. By the way his sister, six years old, cute as can be yet she kept pointing her finger at me, as if in accusation, “you talk to Jesus”.

That is not a bad thing, being pointed out as a Friend of Jesus. I wonder if people would have approached me with their questions if I was not wearing a shirt that identified me as a pastor. But it came home to me that even though they say church attendance is declining, people’s

fears are rising. We need hope that comes from God who has absolutely no interest in dooming us. In fearful times we may not know what is going to happen, or how we are going to get through troubled times, but may we know what faith is: to trust God to be gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We need this love. We hear of so much death on the TV news. And we have our personal sorrows

when precious people become sick and die. We need the love of God, proven and assured in Jesus who died for us and lives again to pray for us and be our peace. Don't worry about wearing a black clergy shirt to look religious or sound like an authority. You know folks who need hope and love and may you share your faith, authentically and lovingly from the heart.

### *From the President...*

We had a successful Annual Meeting that unfortunately had to be held inside (sorry to those who could not attend because it was inside). The budget was passed, similar to last year's, and elections were held (President - Marge Anderson, Vice President - Ken Huebner, Secretary, Rhonda Buss, Treasurer, Nora Stauner, Financial Secretary, Jan Harris). Anyone that might like to serve on a board let us know. Be part of the action!

Thank you to Tom Bredesen for organizing the painting of the brown on the outside of the church and his wonderful helpers - Larry Roth, Perry Anderson, Marge Anderson, and Miriam. It looks wonderfully refreshed.

A beautiful confirmation service was held and we welcome the newest voting members of the congregation to our fold. We are blessed to have you with us! Thank you to Beth Schomisch for the many hours she spent teaching and preparing them for renewing their baptismal vows.

We have no immediate news on the call of a pastor, although we are now near the top of the list and may be receiving a candidate soon. Keep praying for the right person to come to us!

Remain safe and healthy!

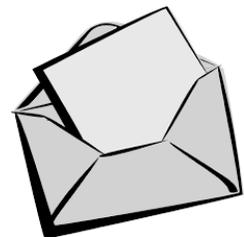
Marge

### *Update on a friend of our Congregation...*

From Joel Heiland: Hope you all have had a great summer, take care and stay safe. I've had a wonderful summer in Boulder Colorado with my son John now on to my new home near my sister and her family. Love to all, Joel

If you wish to contact Joel, his new contact information is below:

4861 E Morning Vista Ln  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331-2932  
Phone: (720) 775-4666, or [Joel.b.heiland@gmail.com](mailto:Joel.b.heiland@gmail.com)



# Thoughts of the Day

“Your capacity for self-regulation is more important than the ideas you try to get into other peoples’ heads.”

~Rabbi Ed Friedman

“And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in thee.”

Psalm 39:7



## Join Us Online for Walking Together

Because of the uncertainty in a Covid future, we will be gathering as conferences through Zoom instead of in person. Please mark your calendar for your conference event and check out more information [here](#). We are looking forward to connecting with you this fall!

<b>2020 Walking Together Events in Date Order</b>		
<u>Conference</u>	<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Superior Central	Thursday, September 17	6-8 pm ET
Iron-Gogebic-Ontonagon	Sunday, September 20	2-4 pm CT
Delta	Thursday, October 8	6-8 pm ET
Headwaters	Saturday, October 17	9:30-11:30 am CT
Three Lakes	Saturday, October 24	12-2 pm ET



*I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert. ~Isaiah 43.19*

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

God is indeed doing a new thing, and if we are not perceiving it, we haven't been paying attention. While bingeing Netflix certainly has its place, especially during a pandemic, there is value in taking a break now and again, to consider what God is up to in these days. 😊

I see God at work as the Church discovers again what is necessary and what can be dispensed with. Many of our congregations have taken a hiatus from in-person worship at some point. Some still are, as cases continue to rise in their counties making in-person, inside worship irresponsible. But what I think we have discovered is how much we miss in-person, inside worship. We miss the gathering, seeing each other, the liturgy, the rhythm, the fellowship, the food, and more. For something that we took for granted in pre-pandemic days, we now know, without a doubt, that no matter how necessary online worship is, it will never completely replace the blessing of being together as the community of faith in worship.

I believe online worship is here to stay. But we will eventually be able to gather again as we did, with singing and trumpets and sharing the peace with hand shaking and hugs shared. Not yet, but someday. We would do well to be patient as that day will not come soon, even though we are well past wanting it to be today.

I also think we would do well to acknowledge the power of grief and lament in these days. Grief is a powerful force, even when it is unacknowledged. In these last months, we have experienced significant loss. Even if you have not lost a loved one to COVID-19, even if you have not had to navigate what a funeral looks like in these days, there is still loss.

Church is not the same. Gathering with family and friends is not the same. Work and school are not the same. Visiting is not the same. We can't sing, even if we do gather. Meetings are canceled or online. "You're on mute" has become the most frequently uttered sentence in all of history. We feel ourselves stretched thin. We sigh more often. We have trouble making decisions. There's maybe a lack of motivation. A lack of patience, a lack of energy, of having a shallow emotional stamina to cope with anything else that comes at us. Maybe you feel your reserves are spent, wrung out, dried up, close to tears more often than you'd like to own. This, my dear synod, is grief.

When a person is grieving, it helps to see that the shadow that is cast, is indeed the power of loss over our lives. This is your cue, to be gentle with yourselves. And since we are all experiencing grief in some capacity, then please be patient and gentle with each other as well. Grief can present as anger, as a quick temper, as impatience. So I ask you again, breathe deep, and exhale. Do not let fear, or grief, or all that comes with it, steal your joy, undermine your faith, or add to your worry. God is up to

something. God is at work. And God is with you, and your congregation, and your pastor, and your leaders, as you together figure out, in prayerful discernment, how to meet our current challenges.

As we continue to journey through these wilderness days, these days darkened by the shadows of death and loss, be comforted as it is precisely at these times that Christ our Lord promises to be with you. Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Christ is with you. And God will indeed make a way in the wilderness and will guide us along that way toward all that we are becoming and all that God would have us be.

I pray that you have such a sense of God's presence with you, that your spirit will find peace, that your fears will be at rest, and you will be surprised by joy and unexpected blessing.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

## **ANNOUNCEMENT!**

### **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021 WILL BE ONLINE**

On September 11, the Synod Council passed a motion to begin plans for an online assembly in May of 2021. Their reasons for doing so include the following:

- The timeline for the availability of a vaccine remains unclear. Large gatherings may still not be possible or advisable.
- Congregations are planning their budgets for 2021.
- Congregations can appoint/recruit voting members who will have time to prepare to be online participants.
- The planning team has time to make arrangements. Energy will be spent putting together a good online assembly rather than scrambling in a last-minute shift.
- Opportunities for in-person gatherings may be more possible in the Fall of 2021 for our Conference Walking Together events.

The online assembly agenda has yet to be decided. However, participants can plan on the assembly taking place over the course of May 13-15, 2021. Times and agenda will be available in March of 2021.

Included in our business meeting will be voting for Church-wide Assembly 2022 participants, members of the Consultation and Discipline committees, and on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.



## Lifting Up to God in Prayer

- For those whose work is unappreciated.
- For those seeking justice.
- For those tired and weary of the challenges of pandemic times.
- For those who lead and make decisions affecting the lives of others.
- For those who don't know the love of God in Christ the Lord.
- For all the Lifelong Faith Formation classes offered in our synod.
- For newly elected synod bishops in the ELCA.
- Healing mercies for Pastor Matt Lamb and Pastor Gerald Anderson.
- For Pastor Rita Chirala who awaits VISA approval to start working at Faith, Sault Ste. Marie.



Sunday, October 11, 2020

“God laid His hand upon them, and breathed hope into their spirits. He filled them with His strength, and placed a message of urgency around their lives. God challenged them to greater works than He had ever done. Then, with His own hand of blessing, He wrapped them up in His mantle of love and called them Pastors.”

~Author Unknown

Let's celebrate all of our Pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers as the wonderful leaders and friends they are to us all, especially during this time.



## Upcoming UP Wild Events

Faith communities join together offering wisdom on how to restore our communion with all of Creation. Submit a prayer and watch online.

### **Live from the Lake**

**Friday, October 2 | 6:30 pm | YouTube Live**

We will sit (virtually) on the shores of Superior at Little Presque Isle with the Huron Mountains, Garlic Point & Granite Loma in the distance. We will open with quiet meditation and hear the voices of the Northern Great Lakes Water Stewards.

### **Fall Colors Hike**

**Saturday, October 10 | 11:30 am | In Person**

People travel from afar to witness the beauty of the changing of seasons in the Upper Peninsula- we get an insiders view of the majestic Huron Mountains with a guided hike and some meditative stops to enjoy the beauty and wonder of God's creation. Intermediate level hike with some hill climbing involved. We must adhere to safety guidelines so all participants must pre-register by sending an email to [lanni@upwild.org](mailto:lanni@upwild.org). Location on where to meet will also be given once registered- it will be off Highway 550 towards Big Bay.

## 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.



### 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.

### LIVE-STREAMING

Did you know that when you're away, you can watch Pastor Ken'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 Ken'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



Autumn is here!

The fallen leaves remind us of the summer that now is in the past. The life which is gone, as the cold of winter approaches.

The waters of baptism also remind us of life – of the life that is past, present and future! The life we share in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

During October, listen to water,,from the tap, the shower, the lakes, the falling rain. Be reminded of the new life you share in Christ. Remember also members and friends of Faith who celebrate baptismal anniversaries this month.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Sis Tenges
- 6<sup>th</sup> Piersen Rawoens
- 9<sup>th</sup> Jenna Erikson
- 9<sup>th</sup> Lily Medeiros-Harris
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tom Bredesen
- 19<sup>th</sup> Connie Lyons
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Willow Schroeder
- 24<sup>th</sup> Doe Muench
- 26<sup>th</sup> Logan Erikson
- 27<sup>th</sup> Monte James

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

## MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Year: 2020

Month: August

Number of Sundays: 5

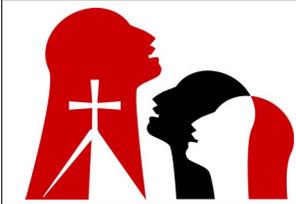
Average Attendance: 15

AUGUST '20	MONTH	YTD
Budget Income	\$ 6,938	\$ 66,483
Expenses	\$ 4,056	\$ 56,078
Net Income	\$ 5,276	\$ 35,034

\*\*\* This will be provided on a quarterly basis

Year-End 2019 – 2020

2019 – 2020	YTD
Budget Income	\$ 66,483
Expenses	\$ 56,078
Net Income (Includes Parsonage Rent)	\$ 35,034



## 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, 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, Tammy Schroeder, Val Otto and the family of Brittain and Courtney Lorenz.

**Our home-bound:** Norm Frauenfelder

**Our armed forces including:** David Bredesen, Kaley Ebann, Tyler Kaltenberg, Nick, Brandy and 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.**



## STEWARDSHIP CALENDARS



### 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>Rob Peterson</b>
Altar Guild	---	---	---	---
Greeters	<b>Jan Harris</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Andersons</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	---	---	---	---

### October

	10/4/20	10/11/20	10/18/20	10/25/20
Assisting Minister	---	---	---	---
Lay Reader	<b>Marge Anderson</b>	<b>Marge Anderson</b>	<b>Rob Peterson</b>	<b>Jan Harris</b>
Altar Guild	---	---	---	---
Greeters	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Sue Sorg and Jan Harris</b>	<b>Sue Sorg and Jan Harris</b>	<b>Andersons</b>
Music	<b>Sue Sorg</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. \**

## October 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Office Closed	3
4  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	5  Office Closed	6  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John’s Office Hours	7	8	9  Office Closed	10
11  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	12  Office Closed	13  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John’s Office Hours  <b>1:00 pm</b> Council Meeting	14	15	16  Office Closed	17
18  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	19  Office Closed	20  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John’s Office Hours	21	22	23  Office Closed	24
25  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion Reformation Sunday	26  Office Closed	27  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John’s Office Hour	28	29	30  Office Closed	31  

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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