



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

**FAITH'S  
FOUNDATIONS**

**February 2021**

---

*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](mailto:office6995@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm



## **NOTE FROM PASTOR JOHN**



The January 6th protest march on the U.S. Capitol was anything but peaceful. Many things about it were disturbing: the so-called “Stop the Steal” march was based on the false narrative that the election was fraudulent; the seat of our democracy where laws are made was treated with disrespect by rioters bent on destruction; the disrespect shown to law enforcement; the threat to harm the Vice-President, the Speaker of the House, and other law makers, and of course the lives that were lost.

Some of the photos taken were troubling. I think of a man wearing a t-shirt that said “Camp Auschwitz”. There was a man carrying in the Capitol a Confederate flag, a flag that represents the defense of slavery in its day and for our current time a symbol of white supremacy and disregard of the concerns of our black and brown fellow citizens.

There was a recent article in the New York Times commenting on the values and beliefs of

those who marched on the Capitol with the title “A Political Movement Buttressed by Grievance and God.” One of the marchers told a reporter that her husband explained to their children that as soon as President Biden is inaugurated the Bible will be declared as hate speech and thrown out. Falsehoods like this come from social media where one will find a trove of conspiracy theories all of which are false. It is hard for me to believe why people can be so gullible. Among all the various kinds of flags some crosses were carried during the march. One cross was painted white with the words “Trump Won”; another cross was draped with the American flag. Such displays of this important Christian symbol are surely disheartening. The cross has nothing to do with preferences with presidential candidates. The cross represents the sacrifice of Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Please don't politicize the cross to favor one candidate or party. The cross represents God's love for the world, people of the world

worth saving, people of the world worth forgiving so please do not nationalize the cross.

Martin Luther King wrote a sermon with the text of Jesus' words of forgiveness from the cross. In the gospel of Luke, as Jesus was nailed to the cross by those who mocked him, spit on him, and tortured him he responded by praying for them, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." King made the point that the ones who participated in Jesus' crucifixion were not necessarily bad people but they were blind people. Their spiritual blindness led them to condemn Jesus whose ministry consisted of healing and the preaching of justice and mercy. Think of some of the people who participated in the mayhem at the Capitol. What do you think of those who enjoyed the chaos they created or how about the loudmouths spouting racial epithets? What would you think of those guided by crazy conspiracy theories like the Q-anon idea that democrats are child-abusers? What do you think of those carried away by mob mentality and hoping to afflict harm to others? Was King right to say that such people are not bad but spiritually blind? Instead of blame and rising revenge in our own thinking King would say "Like Jesus on the cross we must look lovingly at the oppressors and pray "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

The Bible speaks of the cross as God's will to make peace with us. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, making peace through the blood of Jesus' cross. It is so easy to look at the world as "us versus them": "Black vs. White"; Republicans vs. Democrats, and with all this division what we get is hatred and hard hearts, mistrust and fear. But God does not

look at people in such divisive ways. God is love is not meant as a sentiment but the reason for our salvation, and the power to bring about healing among folks. We need to look at others through the lens of the cross. Such a view does not see others with judgments of fear and hatred, but as sisters and brothers Jesus died and rose to forgive and save.

I read about Arno Michaelis, a former white supremacist that played in a white power rock band. His body was covered with racist tattoos. But a startling transformation took place. He changed because during a particularly hard time in his life he was helped by strangers he once tried so hard to hate. The blinders of hate were removed when people reached out to him without judgment but with compassion, seeing him as a fellow human being on this journey called life who was in need. The racist tattoos have now been removed—must have been painful—and replaced with new tattoos with messages of peace.

Bishop Finegan recently sent out a letter where she was very clear: "Racism is a sin. White supremacy is sinful and in direct opposition to the Christian witness. It is an ideology incited by eh father of lies and has no place in communities of faith or people that proclaim themselves to be Christian." Yes, we don't want anything to do with racist ideology which blinds us to the truth of our Savior's love for all and call to live and work together for peace in our communities. And may we pray for Jesus' ideology: no supremacy only mutual service, no enemies list only friendship, and not to be ruled by grievance, but ruled by God who guides and equips us to love one another.



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

It may be 2021, but it still feels like 2020, as if we are in the 13th month of a year that refuses to end since not much has changed. We are still in a pandemic. Congregation leaders continue to discern the logistics and timing of in-person worship and ministry efforts. Please trust and respect their difficult discernment even as I know churches in your neighborhood may well be following different metrics. Your pastor and leadership have your safety as a priority, and paying attention to the advice of the health department and the number of available ICU beds is a faithful response to our current challenges.

Thankfully, there is a vaccine. And in some ways, this makes people even more anxious – impatient to get it, impatient to see results, impatient to return to “normal” worship, economy, and so much more.

All in good time.

And truthfully, we are distracted from that impatience as we worry and wonder about the challenges to the democratic systems of our great republic. Last Wednesday, January 6, on a day when we celebrate Epiphany, rioters breached our nation’s Capitol building; destroying and defacing, looting and injuring. Five people died. Some say security guards were complicit, some say they were overrun. Some watched what was happening with satisfaction. Some watched with horror. There is a lot I do not understand about all that went on. There is even more that grieves me: the violence and the lies that drove it, the blatant racism, the partnering of “Jesus Saves” signs with a noose and gallows and calls to hang Vice President Pence, the beating of police officers by those who carried flags in support of police. It was an Epiphany moment that gave the whole country new clarity as to the depth of our divisions, the power of disinformation to deceive, and hypocrisy.

Where do we go from here? As people of faith, as Christians who believe and proclaim the law of love in Christ, I want to offer a clear word about what I do know.

Racism is a sin.

White supremacy is sinful and in direct opposition to the Christian witness. It is an ideology incited by the father of lies and has no place in communities of faith or people that proclaim themselves to be Christian.

I do not know what is going to happen in the next week, ten days, or ten months. But I remain hopeful that the Church, and our congregations, are filled with the Holy Spirit of Christ to embody a voice of reason and truth, create spaces for rational discourse where we can meaningfully discuss our disagreements, and be a unifying influence that will nurture healing, patience, and compassion.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

### ***From the President...***

Thank you to everyone that participated in our Christmas and Advent services! A very special thanks to Peter and Rhonda for the beautiful music!

Thank you also to Tom and Doe Muench for helping me take down the Christmas tree and decorations.

We donated \$300 each to NATH (homeless shelter) and the Salvation Army from rent money. We also donated \$250 to the ELCA Good Gifts when they had a matching funds opportunity. Do you have any suggestions for other places in need?

Our printer died several weeks ago and we now have a new one in place. MaryBeth will have a new adventure in learning!

A big thank you to everyone that has contributed in helping us run smoothly, and a reminder that there are communion packets available during office hours so that you can fully participate with us as you live stream our worship.

Prayers for a healthy 2021!

Marge Anderson

## **Lifting Up to God in Prayer**

- We pray for a peaceful transition of power, for our elected leaders, for the healing of divisions.
- We pray for your blessing upon the efforts of Pastor Dwaine Sutherland and Deacon Lori Ward.
- We pray for your presence with all those who feel anxious and weary.
- We thank you for creative solutions, peace that passes understanding, and the blessings of the community of faith.



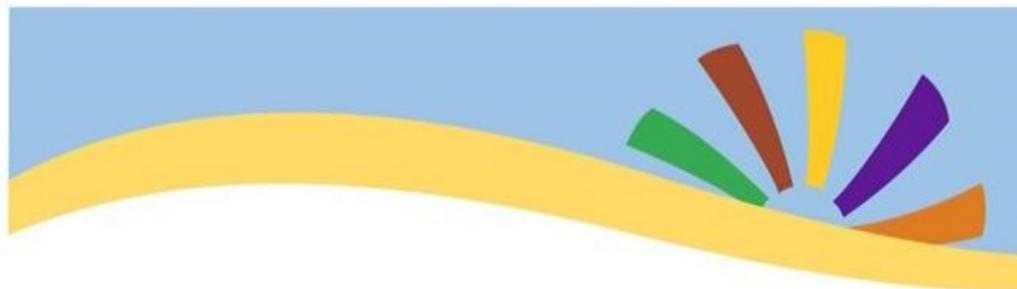
## The Season of Epiphany

### Word of the Day

Poem by Langston Hughes and the inspiration for the "I Have a Dream" speech of Martin Lutheran King Jr.

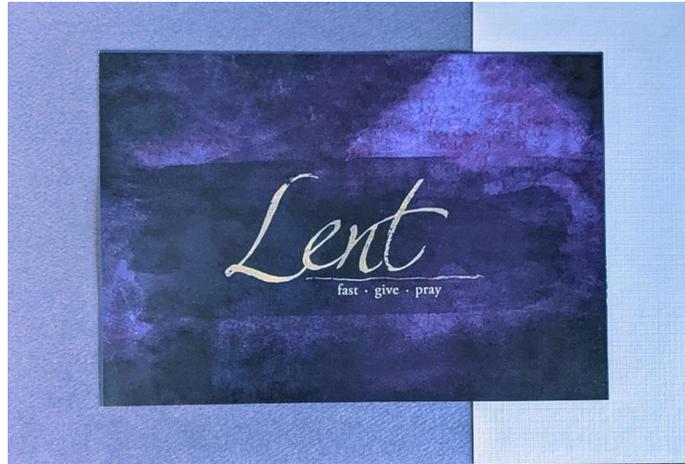
### I Dream a World

I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind-  
Of such I dream, my world!



## Racial Equity Challenge

This Lent, you are invited to participate in the Synod-wide Racial Equity Challenge. Participating in the Racial Equity Challenge is a personal commitment to devote time during Lent to engage in provided resources about the history and impact of racism, and the ways that bias, prejudice, privilege, and oppression show up in our everyday lives. Each participant will access the Challenge material here on our website and be encouraged, but not required, to join a cohort that will meet weekly for conversation via Zoom. To find out more and to register for a cohort, please [visit our website](#).



"Remember that Lent and Ash Wednesday are not just about putting away the bad things. It is more about creating good things and helping the poor and needy, being kind to people, and much more."-- Jacob Winters

*What to give up ...*

Complaining  
Pessimism  
Worry  
Bitterness  
Hatred  
Negativity  
Anger  
Pettiness  
Gloom  
Jealousy  
Gossip  
Sin



What else can you add to this List?

# A Lenten Prayer

From Catholic Relief Service - Rice Bowl

<https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

**O Lord,**

*In my prayer, make me a hungry child  
that I may know solidarity with the poor.*

*In my fast, make me an empty bowl  
that you may fill the hollow space with love.*

*In my alms-giving, make me a grain of rice  
that in the company of others, my gifts may feed a starving world.*

*We pray this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ.*

**AMEN.**



**From The Last Chapter <https://thelastchapterdotblog.wordpress.com/home/>**

Reflections from the Journey

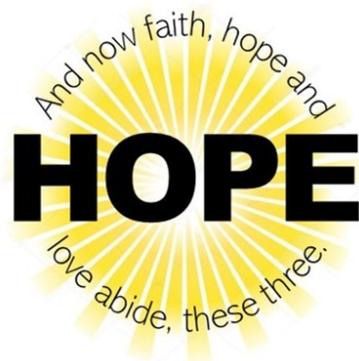
## **The Distress of Jan. 6, 2021**

I, like you, was distressed and dismayed, but not necessarily surprised, by the events that occurred in Washington D.C. on January 6. Over the next few months, we will hear many political, social, and psychological attempts to explain, understand, and rationalize these events. We may, indeed, learn some helpful things from those attempts. But, as a life-long student of human behavior, I have come to the conclusion that there is much about human behavior that cannot be explained, understood, or rationalized. I believe that much of human behavior, both benevolent and malevolent, occurs, because we have the freedom and power to choose it, and the means to implement it.

Much of the evil that occurs in our world is the result of the abuse of God's good gift of human freedom. In Deuteronomy, Chapter 31, verses 19-20, the following words are attributed to God: "I have set before you, life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live by loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him. For that will mean life for you, a long life for you to live in the land which the Lord your God has given to you...." We cannot force others to choose the way of life, but, day by day, we can choose the way of life.

The following is a prayer attributed to George Washington: "Almighty God, we earnestly pray that you will keep the United States in your holy protection, and that you will incline the hearts of its citizens to cultivate a spirit to do what is right, to entertain affection and love for one another, and for their fellow-citizens of the United States. And finally, that you will most graciously be pleased to incline us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to conduct ourselves with that love, humility, and peaceful temper of mind which are manifestations of yourself. Without a humble imitation of these examples, we can never hope to be a happy, united nation. Amen."

By John Yungerberg



## **Synod Assembly May 10-15, 2021**

Mark your calendars and join us for a week full of opportunities for engagement, discussion, worship, and information, all with the theme of Hope. Here's a tentative overview of what to expect:

### **Monday, May 10**

Pre-recorded Opening Worship

### **Tuesday, May 11**

Workshops for the whole Synod

### **Wednesday, May 12**

Workshops for the whole Synod

### **Thursday, May 13**

Workshops for the whole Synod

Installation service live-stream

### **Friday, May 14**

Social gathering online

### **Saturday, May 15**

Business meeting (required for voting members)

**Voting members** will be required to complete orientation sessions online prior to Synod Assembly week. Stay tuned for more detailed information!



A Prayer during Civil Unrest

**We pray to you almighty God,  
in this time of civil unrest.**

**You are our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in time of trouble.**

**Do not let us fail in the face of these events.**

**Uphold us with your love,  
and give us the strength we need.**

**Help us in our confusion,  
and guide our actions.**

**Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted,  
protect the innocent and helpless,  
and deliver any who are still in peril;**

**for the sake of your great mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



**"We are simply asked to make gentle our bruised world to tame its savageness to be compassionate of all (including ourselves) then in the time leftover to repeat the Ancient Tale and go the way of God's foolish ones." ~Peter Byrne, S.J.**

**This poem seems so very appropriate for a time like this. In this poem, I hear powerful truths. And those truths are echoed in Holy Scripture. Consider them during these challenging days. Meditate on their truthful power.**

- **"We are simply asked to make gentle our bruised world" Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." -Matthew 5:9**
- **"To tame its savageness" Paul wrote, "They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice." -Romans 1:29**
- **"To be compassionate of all (including ourselves)" Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." -John 13:34**
- **"To repeat the Ancient Tale, Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise." -Deuteronomy 6:7**
- **"To go the way of God's foolish ones" Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "We are fools for the sake of Christ." -I Corinthians 4:10**

**God's peace abide with you now and always,  
Pastor Jim Duehring  
Assistant to the Bishop, DEM**

## 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's sermon as it's delivered LIVE on Sunday morning? You can! Simply go to our church's website (<https://www.faihlutheran-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



February is the month of *love*- for on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day, we remember those whom we love.

God also remembers those whom He loves. Through baptism, God has claimed us! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God backs up his claim with *actions*! The objects of God's love received more than cards or flowers...they have received new life!

But God's love is not limited to one day of the year, for God's love is never-ending. For God, every day is Valentine's Day!

- 10<sup>th</sup> Kailyn Fogerty
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jean St. Lawrence

Also remember: Jennifer Korten Hof, Duane Bonack and Scott Wick

## MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Year: 2020

Month: December

Number of Sundays: 4, plus Christmas Eve

Average Attendance: 17

NOVEMBER 2020	MONTH	YTD
Budget Income	\$ 5,942	\$ 13,969
Expenses	\$ 4,679	\$ 10,974
Net Income	\$ 2,763	\$ 5,995

DECEMBER 2020	MONTH	YTD
Budget Income	\$ 17,654	\$ 31,626
Expenses	\$ 11,421	\$ 24,392
Net Income	\$ 7,985	\$ 10,983

\*\*\* 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:** Kyle Smith, Paul Kragh, Monte James, Rick Jacobson, Ollie DeMuth, Megan Schiller, Ann Woelfel, John and Connie Lyons, Donna Weiss and family, Dave Lederhaus, Sonia and John Dionne, and Sue Sorg.

**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



### January 2021

	1/3/21	1/10/21	1/17/21	1/24/21	1/31/21
Assisting Minister	---	---	---	---	---
Lay Reader	<b>Marge Anderson</b>	<b>Jan Harris</b>	<b>Rob Peterson</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Marge Anderson</b>
Altar Guild	---	---	---	---	---
Greeters	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Andersons</b>
Music	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
Video-streaming	---	---	---	---	---

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

### February 2021

	2/7/21	2/14/21	2/17/21	2/21/21	2/28/21
Assisting Minister	---	---	---	---	---
Lay Reader	<b>Jan Harris</b>	<b>Rob Peterson</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Marge Anderson</b>	<b>Jan Harris</b>
Altar Guild	---	---	---	---	---
Greeters	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Andersons</b>
Music	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Dawn Gonitzke</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
Video-streaming	---	---	---	---	---

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

## February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	8  Office Closed	9  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John’s Office Hours <b>1:00 pm</b> Council Meeting	10	11	12	13
14  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion <i>Valentine’s Day</i>  	15  Office Closed	16  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John’s Office Hours	17  <b>Service – Time to Be Determined</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>  	18	19	20
21  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	22  Office Closed	23  <b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Pastor John’s Office Hours	24	25	26	27
28  <b>9:00 am</b> Service of the Word						

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>

## **VISIT US ON FACEBOOK**

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



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

