



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

**FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS**

**January 2023**

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

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*Pastor Catie's Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm or by appointment*

*Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm*



**FROM PASTOR CATIE**



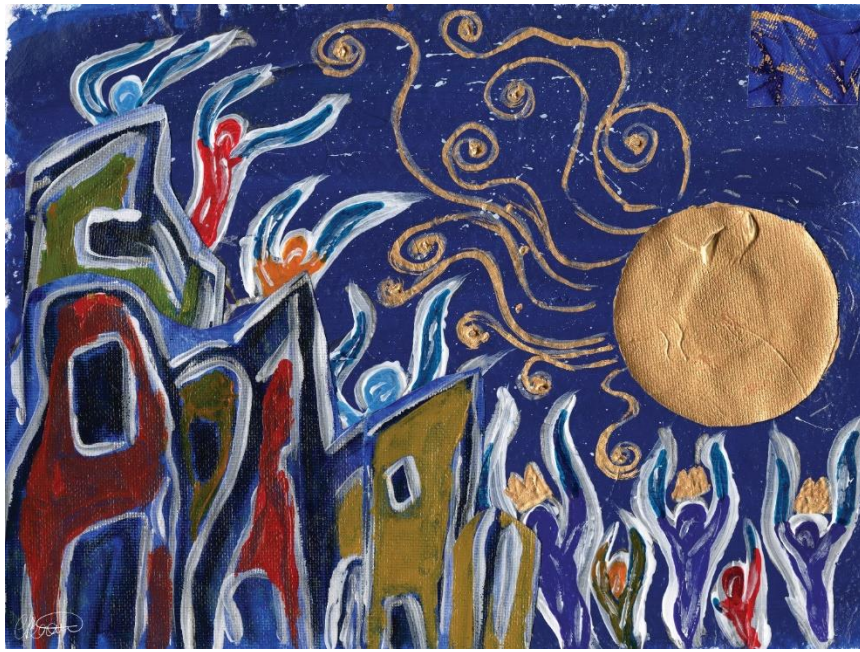
***“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.”***  
***-Matthew 2:10-12***

As we begin another year in our journeys, I am inspired by Carmelle Beaugelin's thoughts on Epiphany. Epiphany celebrates the pilgrimage of three prominent individuals to the newborn Christ child. It takes place on the last day of the Christmas season- January 6<sup>th</sup>. Whether there were only three wise men, kings, or Magi does not matter. However, many of them made the pilgrimage to the newborn Jesus, they were a part of each other's journey.

Beaugelin created the piece “The Golden Pilgrimage” as an illustration of this journey. When describing her piece, she states: “The Golden Pilgrimage depicts the kind of surrogacy that occurs when a friend, a sibling, a neighbor, or a parent steps in as a much-needed friend. Even in the story of our Savior's birth, it is not a matter of whether blood is thicker than water. Instead, what matters are the bonds that tie a community together when love and acceptance flow like the healing frankincense and myrrh of the gift-bearers.”

We often rush Epiphany; we have the wise men arrive with the shepherds to meet they baby Jesus. But maybe this year we can take our time on the journey. What would it look like to take note of the bonds we have created and the bonds we will create over the next year? Where is love and acceptance flowing in our lives and in our community? As we navigate 2023, I pray that we take our time and enjoy the journey.

Peace,  
 Pastor Catie



Artwork:

*“The Golden pilgrimage” by Carmelle Beaugelin  
Inspired by Matthew 2:1-12*

## Sign-up Now to Join the Conversations and Enjoy the Fellowship

**The Life of Martin Luther, Innovations in Stewardship, and Meeting Christ in Prayer** are among the topics to be discussed this winter through the diverse schedule of our synod’s Lifelong Formation program. Other studies include **A Spirituality of Death and Dying, Family Systems Thinking/Friedman’s Fables, The Big Picture Bible Study, Biblical Hebrew II, and Beyond Policy: Empowering the Faith Community to Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse and Sexual Assault.**



For more information and to register, visit the [synod website](#). To receive e-mail announcements on the class schedule and to ask any questions contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynod.org).

## ***From the President:***

Godt Nyt Aar! When the Norwegians say this greeting it sounds like one word. So as an American I had better stick to our traditional greeting of Happy New Year. If you are like me I don't really make New Year's resolutions but rather set the goal of keep doing certain things and continue to "Be good, do good". And at this time of year the Kneever family is really doing some good for our Congregation. The Kneevers worshiped with us in the past, usually in the summer as they spent time in the Three Lakes area. The family has sent our congregation a very generous donation in remembrance of Earl Kneever at his passing this past September. We are so grateful for this gift. Pastor Catie and I have worked on a combination Sympathy/Thank you card for the Kneever family. And as we reflect on this generous thought of the Kneever family thinking of our congregation, we are reminded that everyone will find something when they worship with us. Hopefully they find exactly what they need at that particular time in their life. For the Kneever family they found warmth and a greeting from the people of Faith. Someone must have reached out to them to at least say "Hi" and maybe a "Thanks for Worshiping with us today". I have heard some of you go out of your way to do this very thing even as recently as the past Sunday I was in church. Coming through Advent with its message of God's Love for us shows through us as we are able to show love and acceptance for those who worship with us. We are really only doing what God wants us to do as we remember how much we are blessed. Now we certainly aren't recommending we greet new people worshiping with us in hopes of getting a 'payday' in return. That's not what we are about. But as we pray to God for help in all the areas we need help in, we need to remember He already knows what our situation is and what we need. He provides. And another gentle reminder to all of us is we should not rely on generous donations to do the work of our church. All of us need to keep supporting the work stated in the mission of our church: "Working to spread the Gospel here and throughout the World."

The small committee looking at the Constitution of Faith has met and has started the work of revising, where necessary, to update our Constitution to keep it a working document for us. That work will continue in the new year.

The Council continues to do the work of the Church and we are thankful for all the efforts and help we get from the members of Faith. I hope you all have a healthy and productive New Year.

Respectfully,  
Robin Peterson

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

- For all those experiencing mental or physical pain. May God grant comfort and relief.
- For all those who are unhoused, fleeing violence, looking for safety, waiting for welcome.
- For generosity, that as we share what has first been given to us, our wealth will further the purposes of God.
- For our NGLS Pastors, Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers, and our NGLS congregations in transition.

*No one has ever seen God;  
if we love one another,  
God lives in us, and his love  
is perfected in us.*



~1 John 4.12

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Grace and peace to you as we begin the Year of our Lord 2023!

The fulcrum of history continues to turn as the Church and your church experience the pushes and pulls of being re-formed, re-shaped, and re-focused. I believe we are feeling both the pressure points and the possibilities as we move into the future. The Holy Spirit of Christ is at work! Our job, our challenge, is to discern that work and participate in it, or at least, get out of the way.

When in doubt about the direction or the effort, I find it helps to apply the command that Jesus gave: Love. To love others is the commandment that Jesus repeats consistently throughout his ministry. Jesus embodies love as he heals, teaches, and forgives. Jesus instructs love as he washes the feet of his disciples and chooses not to either escape death or wreak vengeance on the population that is so angry with Jesus that they crucify him.

The temptation, the propensity, to vilify and demonize people who make us angry has not diminished. No wonder Jesus commands us to love. As sinful, broken people, loving those we don't know or particularly care for certainly does not come naturally. Sure, it's easy to love the lovable; spouses and partners, our children and grandchildren, family members, people we know and enjoy. But Jesus is talking about Agape Love...Holy Love...Unconditional Love; the love that is less an emotional feeling and more an intentional and strategic action.

This year of Love completes a three-year focus on the passage, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three." And the passage goes on to say, "and the greatest of these is love." This year, I encourage you to think how you personally, and your congregation collectively, will show God's love to each other, your community, and the world. There is much, I know, that you are already doing. Between Lutheran World Relief efforts, food pantries, backpack programs, and the financial support you give to ministry, I am impressed and rather proud of how we are making a difference to those challenged by poverty and hunger.

I also encourage you to consider participation in the Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge: a new effort focusing a lens of love on racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

At this time in history, we have a unique opportunity to push back against the current momentum to divide, demonize, and vilify the other. I pray that we can give authentic witness to a world that seeks to judge, condemn, and polarize...that God is love, and God lives in us, is perfected in us, as we show that love.

May God bless your efforts!

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

***“Physician, heal thyself.”***

~Luke 4:23

***“What does this mean?”***

~Luther’s Small Catechism



One of my favorite books is Viktor Frankl’s, *Man’s Search for Meaning*. Recently I saw that familiar quote from his book, “When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.” I recall my campus pastor at Wartburg College, Larry Trachte, who often quoted from Frankl and did special studies on Logotherapy. How do I find meaning during so many challenges in my church duties as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission? There are more and more situations regarding local churches, the national church, and society in general that I simply cannot change. To what degree do I accept those things I cannot change and instead focus on my functioning and reflecting on my emotional relationships to these varied tasks and roles? All of this is a work in progress for me.

So many of our natural emotional desires are to control and influence the other. I was never a biological parent, but I see parents wishing to influence their children in a manner that results in behavior in line with their own values. As a math teacher for 12 years, I saw the amazing “dances” of parents dealing with their child and teacher. Often at a parent/teacher conference I would hear: “Oh, I wasn’t good at math either.” While acknowledging that this attitude could be consciously or unconsciously influencing their child to under function in their math classes, I needed to work from my standards and individualize instruction as much as reasonably possible. If my preconceived notion of pedagogy didn’t work well for a child, I had the power to change my approach. I worked hard at not cutting myself off from the student. Yet, at the end of the day, I tried not to feel as if the learning process was entirely up to me.

When we see fewer people coming to worship services and volunteering to serve parish ministries, do we automatically seek to change them? Do we actually believe that we can “fix” others?

Rabbi Ed Friedman offers this perspective: “There is the ultimate spiritual concept, which is: ‘Unless you are focusing on the spiritual side of you, there is just no way you can promote it in others.’”

What are you working on to change about yourself and thereby grow spiritually? How are you avoiding the emotional trap of trying to change everyone else, but not working on your own functioning?

Jesus said that I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly. Perhaps by not obsessing about changing others, we might find more “life” that is ultimately more abundant and thus attractive to others. We likely will not “debate or argue” others into the Kingdom of God. Let the work of God begin with us as we each seek to better ourselves as followers of Christ the Lord.

Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission



## 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.



### LIVE STREAMING

Did you know that when you're away, you can watch the entire service 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 which usually happens around 8:55, 9:00 am, 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 our services on our website. Simply go to our church website and click "Click here to view recordings of worship" to watch any past services. It's that easy!

### QUILTING

Quilting is back in session! Please join us every Wednesday at 12:30 pm in the lower level of the church. No experience necessary!

### ONLINE GIVING

You can support our mission easier than ever with our donation platform! You can visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/YHQE/home> and contribute securely online. Thank you for your continued support!

### BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is offered following Sunday church services EVERY Sunday! All are invited and welcome to attend! No bible required! Please join us for some lively discussions!

## BAPTISMS WE REMEMBER THIS MONTH



This month we continue our remembrance of baptisms among members and friends of Faith Lutheran.

Each month, we will list the baptisms for that month. The listing will include those for whom we have their baptism date, those for whom we have only their baptismal month, and some of those for whom we have no baptismal date.

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Alycia Madl
- 21<sup>st</sup> Gretchen Dobbins
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Brooke Kowalski
- 25<sup>th</sup> Miriam Bredesen

Also remember: Tom Nykolayko and Michelle Huml

## MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Year: 2022  
 Monthly: October  
 Number of Sundays: 5  
 Average in person: 24  
 Average online: 18

JUNE 2022	MONTH	YTD Sep. - Aug.
Income	\$6,871	\$78,326
Expenses	\$9,888	\$77,202
Net	- \$3,017	\$1,123

JULY 2022	MONTH	YTD Sep. - Aug.
Income	\$5,570	\$84,376
Expenses	\$7,064	\$86,801
Net	- \$1,493	-\$2,425

\*\*\* 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 and Dora James, Ollie DeMuth, Megan Schiller, Ann Woelfel, Duane and Colleen Bonack, Debbie Koslowski, Abby Swanson, Rick Gensler Sr., Hailey Schultz, and Ruth Sammetinger

**Our armed forces including** David Bredesen, Kaley Ebann, Jamie Madl, Charlie and Will Starke, Nicole Young, Emily Fink, Jared Benter Scott Williams, Nathan and Nick Lamal

**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

### December 2022

	12/4/22	12/11/22	12/18/22	12/24/22 <b><u>NO SERVICE</u></b> <b><u>12/25/22!!!</u></b>
Lay Reader	<b>Jan Harris</b>	<b>Robin Peterson</b>	<b>Gretchen Dobbins</b>	<b>Phoebe Pettingell</b>
Greeters	<b>Jan Harris</b>	-	-	-
Music	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Jane Crosson</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
Video-streaming	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<b>Linda Swanson</b>	<b>Dillon Ford</b>	<b>Linda Swanson</b>

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

### January 2023

	1/1/23	1/8/23	1/15/23	1/22/23	1/29/23
Lay Reader	<b>Jan Lederhaus</b>	<b>Jan Harris</b>	<b>Robin Peterson</b>	<b>Gretchen Dobbins</b>	<b>Phoebe Pettingell</b>
Greeters	-	<b>Jan Harris</b>	-	-	-
Music	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>	<b>Rhonda Buss</b>
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## January 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
1  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion  	2	3	4  <b>12:30 pm</b> Quilting	5	6  Office Closed	7
8  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	9	10	11  <b>12:30 pm</b> Quilting	12	13  Office Closed	14
15  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	16	17	18  <b>12:30 pm</b> Quilting	19	20  Office Closed	21
22  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	23	24	25  <b>12:30 pm</b> Quilting	26	27  Office Closed	28
29  <b>9:00 am</b> Holy Communion	30	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

Pastor Catie's Office Hours: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Monday – Thursday

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Tuesday – Thursday

## **WEEKLY WORSHIP**

Sunday Morning – 9:00 am  
Holy Communion

## **STAFF**

*Office Administrator:* MaryBeth Koslowski  
office6995@gmail.com

*Pastor:* Reverend Catie Ford  
pastorcatieford@gmail.com  
Work Phone: 715-600-3980

*Organist:* Rhonda Buss

## **VISIT US ON THE WEB**

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