



FAITH'S FOUNDATIONS

January 2024

FROM PASTOR CATIE

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God."

-Isaiah 61:10-62:3

As we begin a new year, I find myself thinking about the time after Christmas. During that final week of December, you may have traveled. You may have slowed down after the rush of the holiday and the celebrations. You may have prepared for a whole other round of celebrating as you prepared for the new year. During worship on the first Sunday after Christmas as we sat in comfort knowing that the baby Jesus was born and waited with excitement for the wisemen to arrive, we heard this reading from Isaiah. I found the artwork and the artist's reflections on this text particularly moving.

Lisle Gwynn Garrity's reflections are the following:

"When I read through Isaiah's words, I immediately visualized Mary, wrapped in a robe of righteousness, proclaiming what she knew to be true: "God has lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things." Mary could not keep silent. Then I thought of the prophet Isaiah, whose fierce visions for a weary world welled up from within him: "For Jerusalem's sake, I won't sit still." He could not keep silent.

And then I thought of myself—of the times I have held back, buried my pain, avoided a hard conversation, worried about others' perceptions, or become numb to the wrongs of the world. I cannot keep silent. And yet, what I find most compelling about this passage is its particular emphasis and global reach. The prophet speaks for the sake of Zion, a city desperate to be revived. But as the prophet pursues God's dreams for his battered home and for the people he loves, the Divine Dreamer has more to grow: righteousness and praise in every nation. For the difference between a pipe dream and God's dreams is that God's dreams hold timeless and expansive power. We can't be silent because there's too much at stake. There are too many seeds in the ground, ready to spring up from the soil."

Garrity's reflection made me wonder, when am I keeping silent? Am I missing seeds that are ready to spring up?

As I sit with these questions, I plan on taking them with me into this new year as reminders. I hope you will join me.

There are times when silence is powerful and there are times when words are necessary. May we be able to know the difference and speak up when needed. There are seeds that are ready to spring up. May we notice them. May we nurture them.

One way that I plan on intentionally wondering about these questions is through "Worship in the Wild "

"Worship in the Wild" will present opportunities in our area throughout the year to experience God in nature. It is open to all people: those in our church, those in neighboring churches, and those with no church home. How can you ponder these questions in the new year?

Peace,
 Pastor Catie



Artwork: *Can't Keep Silent* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Received from "A Sanctified Art"

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! It is my goal for the early months of this new year to talk about Stewardship. Right away when people hear this they think of money management for the church. Or environmental concerns in managing our natural resources if talking politics, or even the treatment of the poor, neglected, and marginalized if talking about social concerns. Biblical Stewardship is all of these of course. We may disagree on many things because of the deep and enduring divisions in our society, but I think we agree on some basic points from the Bible. We have been appointed managers. The question is for whom? The Bible says we are God's managers. As early as Genesis 1, we hear God is creator and sole owner of Creation, our Universe. He then appoints us as managers. At no point does God ever give up ownership. He really does not need people to manage his estate for him. If God is powerful enough to create everything, He certainly has the ability to manage it as well. So we have a very unique calling. God has entrusted these resources to our management. Stewardship is not just about what we do; it is ultimately about who God is and who He desires us to be. No book is more important to our understanding of stewardship than Genesis. God makes it clear that He longs for us to love Him and desires for stewardship of all we are and all we have to flow from our love for Him. Please look at that last sentence again. With the risk of being redundant, take out the prepositional phrases and read it like this: God wants stewardship to flow from our love for Him. So stewardship is ultimately (there's that word again, sorry) a reflection of our relationship with the living God. These ideas are not solely mine but rather taken from the introduction to a book we are very familiar with: the Bible. So all credit goes to the authors of the introduction to the edition I am currently using. They are scholars whereas I am certainly not.

Now to some New Year's Resolutions. These are not my personal resolutions but rather some I would like all of us to consider for the new year. One being to realize when to take a step back from our duties here at Faith and allow new people to step forward to fulfill these duties. When I was coaching I was concerned that there was no one who would take over, but someone very wise told me that until I stepped aside no one would step forward. They were right. When I stepped aside someone filled my spot. The other resolution for the new year is very related to the first. When we study a situation and realize it just isn't working as it once was, be very open to trying new ideas. And many times these new ideas are coming from those who can step up and take over for us. We need to allow these new ideas to be tried and the fresh faces to become involved in all that we do here at Faith.

I leave you with one more thought: where in the world is that new constitution!?!?! I say this with the knowledge and assurance the committee is doing the best they can to get this back to us. So we look forward to this in the

new year also. As always, if you have questions or concerns about anything please seek out a Church Council member.

Robin Peterson

FROM THE BISHOP

I PLANTED
Apollos WATERED
But God gave the GROWTH.

~I Corinthians 3:6

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Year of our Lord 2024!

In this new year, I announce our Synod themes for the next three years,

Seed Sowers:

2024: I Planted
2025: Apollos Watered
2026: God gave the
Growth



Last year at Synod Assembly, Seed Sowers was the theme for our inaugural Seed Sowers Luncheon that thanked people who had made a planned gift (meaning that they remembered

NGLS/ELCA in their will) or were considering doing so. In essence, they were a "Seed Sower," planting seeds for future ministry, seeds that they knew they would not see grow and bear fruit.

However, being a Seed Sower is not limited to those who have planned a legacy gift. After all, are we not all Seed Sowers? Do we not, all of us, plant seeds for future ministry, even as we enjoy the growth from seeds that were planted generations ago? We plant seeds as we try and pass the faith on to the next generation. We want our children and grandchildren to be blessed by the community of faith in the same way we have been. We stretch our financial capacity to ensure sustainability for years to come. We build a reputation in our communities that we care, and we're ready to serve those in need. We raise up leaders for future generations by nurturing their gifts for ministry. We are every day, Seed Sowers.

At this time of great transformation and change in the Church, it is good to be reminded that the Church is about more than what we experience in the here and now. And there are many ways that a congregation can plant seeds for future ministry.

I think of the faithfulness of St. James in Marinette, Wi. Founded in 1918, this community of faith has been hard at work for the sake of Christ for 106 years. This past autumn, the people of St. James discerned that their last worship service will be Sunday April 14, 2024.



While this decision is difficult for all who love St. James, it also witnesses to their faithfulness. As people who believe in a God who brings new life from death and light from darkness, the work of St. James has not been in vain. This community of faith has accomplished that for which it was created and has completed that for which it was purposed. God will bring new life and growth from the seeds that St. James will plant. In the weeks to come, the people of St. James will consider how best to use their assets to support the work of Christ through ministry partners. Their legacy will provide resources to further the purposes of God long after the doors of St. James are closed.

As we focus on Planting this year, we celebrate the history of each and every one of our Northern Great Lakes congregations and the foresight of founding mothers and fathers who by the grace of God, planted our churches. We give thanks for adults who noticed gifts for ministry and planted the idea of future pastoral leadership in young hearts and minds. And we look to see what seeds we can plant today that will bear fruit in a future church, that for now, we can only imagine.

*The church of Christ,
in every age beset by change, but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
~ELW #729, vs. 1*

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE NICKOLODEON

(Tom Nykolayko's home)

WHAT: Watch the movie "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood", a movie about Mr. Rogers
WHERE: Tom Nykolayko's movie room: 692 Bollom Road, Three Lakes. Phone: 715-546-3731
WHEN: Sunday, 1/14/24, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm (In case of bad weather, it will be postponed to 1/21/24)
BOWL (Board Of Worship Life) is sponsoring this event as we have in the past. This is a PG movie and we encourage you to invite your family and friends for a fun evening, Please bring a dish to pass and your beverage of choice. BOWL will provide plates and utensils.

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.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, 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 the date of their baptism, those for whom we only have the month, and some of those for which we have no date.

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers,

1st – Beth Schomisch
 5th – Alycia Madl
 9th – Emilee Bauknecht
 21st – Gretchen Dobbins
 22nd – Brooke Kowalski
 25th – Miriam Bredesen

Others to remember: Tom Nykolayko and Michelle Huml

MONTHLY OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

SEPTEMBER 2023	MONTH	YTD SEP – JULY
INCOME	\$5,967	\$84,447
RESTRICTED	\$600 (fence)	\$22,061
EXPENSES	\$7,914	\$152,218
NET	\$ -1,309	\$-5751

****THIS WILL BE PROVIDED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS**

Year: 2023	Year: 2023
Month: October	Month: November
# of Sun.: 5	# of Sun.: 4
Average: 35	Average:27
Average online:6	Average online:5

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ILLNESS, PAIN, LOSS OF HEALTH IN MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT:

Kyle Smith, Paul Kragh, Ollie DeMuth, Megan Schiller, Ann Woelfel, Duane and Colleen Bonack, Abby Swanson, Rick Gensler, Sr., Hailey Schultz, Ruth Sammetinger, Beth Schomisch, Jim Stroschein, Bonnie Pegel, Kris Tenges, Kris Tenges, Lou Medeiros, Myrna Stroschein, Heidi Lulloff, Don Paremski and Olivia

ALL THOSE WHO ARE ANXIOUS AND WORRIED ABOUT MANY THINGS

OUR CHURCH MINISTRIES

Congregational Care
 Congregation Council
 Board of Worship Life (BOWL)
 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 CALENDAR

JANUARY 2024

	1/7/24	1/14/24	1/21/24	1/28/24
Reader	Gretchen Dobbins	Phoebe Pettingell	Jan Harris	Johnathon Coggins
Greeter	-	-	Jan Harris	-
Music	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss	Rhonda Buss
Video	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford	Dillon Ford

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

JANUARY 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect	4	5 Office Closed	6
7 9:00 am Holy Communion	8	9 6:15 pm Boards Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	10 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 9:00 am Holy Communion Sunday School 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Movie Night	15	16	17 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect	18	19 Office Closed	20
21 9:00 am Holy Communion	22	23	24 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:00 am Holy Communion Sunday School	29	30	31 12:30 pm Quilting 5:15 pm-7:00 pm Wednesday Night Connect			

Faith Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 436
Three Lakes, WI 54562

WORKING TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

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: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Monday – Thursday

Office Hours: 10:00 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

Custodian: Sara Palubicki

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.

