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Dates at a Glance

- ♦ **May 5, 2025**
Cinco De Mayo
- ♦ **May 11, 2025**
Mother’s Day
- ♦ **May 26, 2025**
Memorial Day
- ♦ **May 29, 2025**
Ascension of Our Lord

Office hours for
Faith Lutheran Church:
Mon. through Thurs.
9AM—2PM
Incase of Pastoral
Emergencies Pastor Rita
can be reached at
1(312) 478-6212
Or by email at
critawilliam@gmail.com

Letter from Pastor Rita

May 2025

*This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.
(Psalm 118: 24)*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dear friends in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the Risen Christ, who gives us new life and hope every day of our lives. The Easter season has been filled with joy and celebration. Throughout the fifty days of Easter celebration, we commemorate Jesus' resurrection from the dead as part of our Christian Faith. It was an incredibly joyous Easter Season as we welcomed four new members into our church community. Let's continue to love and lift each other up as we grow in God's love as one family.

I want to thank the Fellowship Committee Members, Ushers, Lectors, Crucifiers, Sacristans, Altar workers, and Musicians. We were blessed with beautiful music during Holy Week and Easter Sunday, thanks to our music directors Ruth Ann, Dave Bean, and organist Dave Erfourth. Volunteers play a crucial role in the church's ministry and its operations. Without you, none of this would be possible.

I am grateful to the Fellowship Committee for arranging a wonderful Easter brunch!

I wish you a blessed Easter season!

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Rita.**



Join us Sunday's at 10:30AM

You can watch live on Facebook

*We begin with organ music at
10:20am.

[https://www.facebook.com/
FaithLC1966](https://www.facebook.com/FaithLC1966)

“Jesus answered them, ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” ~John 12: 24-25

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I write this, we are in the midst of spring in the U.P. I daresay that even spring in northern Wisconsin cannot compare as the residents at the southern edge of our Synod will welcome tulips and daffodils weeks, weeks! before their northern siblings.

Spring in the U.P. is characterized by heavy, wet, snow – frozen mud - dirty snowbanks – sap buckets hanging off of dead looking trees – and weather whiplash as temperatures vacillate between the arctic cold of January and the tease of sunshine warmth that has the power to thaw.

But just as Easter follows Good Friday, so also will spring eventually make a solid appearance (by summer). The sleeping earth will awaken. And what had been dormant and quiet within the darkness of snow and frozen dirt will once again grow and be green in the longer light of summer days.

I do love it that the light lingers longer. But let us not forget the value and blessing of darkness. In darkness, there is rest. When we finally get to plant seeds in warm soil, there is anticipation and hope for new life. It is in darkness that a seed gathers what it takes to grow. It is in darkness that its energy coalesces in preparation for change. Plant a seed in rested, thawed, and warm dirt....add water and Ta Da! In due time, the seed sends forth a shoot which grows exponentially - to become a potato plant or a tomato bush or a watermelon vine – something incredibly larger than the seed itself. It is miraculous even as it is ordinary.

When we plant seeds in our gardens, we have an expected timetable. We generally know how long a seed will lie in dark earth before we can predict when we will see the first signs of growth. Knowing the length of time helps us be patient even as we are expectant.

However, the germination of seeds of faith or the expectant hope of when some effort of ministry will bear fruit is a complete unknown. There is no timetable to which we can

refer to bolster our patience. We cannot predict the future. We cannot even know for certain whether the seeds that have been planted will grow. It may well be that given the uncertainty of these days – both in and out of the Church, that it feels like we are “in the dark”.

But again, let us not forget the value and blessing of darkness. What if the darkness, or this time of expectant hope, need not be a time of anxiety or fear but rather a time of coalescing our energy in preparation for future change? What if we are receiving now, when we cannot see the future, all that we need for the challenges ahead? The value of darkness can be in the waiting, in the hopefulness, in the preparation, in the being watered so that we have what we need for future growth. As we focus this year on “Apollos watered”, we think of what seeds of faith and ministry need in order for growth and new life to happen, not only for what we contribute to nurture seeds, but also in what we receive for new life to grow in and through us.

Jesus was planted in the darkness of a tomb for three days. While in that darkness, perhaps he rested, or perhaps God gave him what he needed to prepare him for transformation, or perhaps something coalesced in him so that he could burst forth from the tomb with light and life. Whatever his time in darkness looked like and felt like, it gives us hope that darkness and waiting, death and dormancy, are not the enemy.

In the pattern of the Christian life, we loose our grip on what we love: familiarity, certainty, what we think we need - and instead open our hand to receive what is good from God – even if it is only, at least for now, the gathering energy in preparation for change, for transformation, for the new life that will come... unexpectedly... from darkness.

**Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan**



Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date March 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dennis Brindley at 10:35AM

Members Present: Pastor Rita Chirala, Cathy Tibbett, Dennis Brindley, Sandy Lawson, Wayne Olsen, Kathy Flickinger, Cynthia Wright, Ben Deatruck, Ken Randall

Members Absent: None

Guest Attending: None

Devotions: Sandy Lawson April: Ben Deatruck

Next Meeting: April 15, 2025 10:30AM

Minutes: Ben Deatruck made a motion to accept the February 18, 2025 council minutes. Kathy Flickinger seconded. Motion passed.

Pastors Report: Pastor Rita presented her report

Old Business:

A: Kitchen license has been paid and renewed.

B: \$400.00 check received from QTC for use of two rooms at Faith.

C: Faith will pay for the registration and expenses for Pastor Rita and the two Synod Delegates, Dave and Ann Bean. The NGL Synod Assembly is May 15-17, 2025

D: Financial Audit for 2024 has been completed.

E: A policy on Child Protection suggested by NGL Synod was discussed and approved without changes. This policy is similar to the current practice at Faith. The policy will be presented to the congregation for inclusion in our constitution at 2nd Half Congregational Meeting February 2026. Cathy Tibbett made a motion to accept the policy. Sandy Lawson seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

A: A request was received for two youth and one adult to attend Fortune Lake Summer Camp 2025. The Council agreed to pay for the two youth and half the registration of one adult. Sandy Lawson made a motion to pay the registrations for the two youth and the one adult. Cathy Tibbett seconded. Motion passed with one dissent.

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: On Pause

Come to the Table: On Pause

Christian Education: Planning for VBS this year has started. VBS will be held at Central Methodist Church. The dates are June 23-26, 2025.

Endowment: No Report

Fellowship: Finalizing plans for Easter Brunch to follow Easter Sunday Church Service.

Finance: Wayne gave the Income and Expense report. Cash receipts and expenses are even.

Memorial: No Report

Membership: New members will be received on Easter Sunday during the Worship Service April 20, 2025. Progress is being made on the membership list.

Outreach: No Report

Property: The basement and parking lot require repairs.

Stewardship: No Report

WELCA: Meeting and Bible study was held on March 5, 2025. Next meeting and Bible study is April 2, 2025. Birthday cards were sent to shut in church members. WELCA Treasurers Book was audited. A neat and clean set of records was noted.

Worship and Music: Next meeting is May 13, 2025. Music is chosen until the first week of May.

Wayne Olsen made a motion to accept the committee reports including the Pastors Report and the Financial Report. Ben Deatruck seconded. Motion passed.

Ben Deatruck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cynthia Wright seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM with the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Sandy Lawson, Council Secretary

THE PATHFINDER is the monthly Newsletter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America community at:
Faith Lutheran Church, 1600 Park Street,
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. (906) 632-7246

The deadline for the Pathfinder is the 15th of each month. Please send articles, comment, news items c/o Pathfinder Editor, 1600 Park St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 Or e-mail to
faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Rita Chirala
Church Office: Lakeisha Richards
Congregational Council: Cathy Tibbett, Dennis Brindley, Kathy Flickinger, Sandy Lawson, Ken Randall, Ben Deatrick, Cynthia Wright, and Wayne Olsen.

Faith Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Synod website: nglsynod.org
Denomination website: elca.org

Online giving is here!

You can now make an electronic contribution on our website. Just go to our website:

www.faithlutheransaultstemarie.org

Scroll down to just above our videos. There, you will find a green button that says

“Online Giving”

Click that and enter in your information, and Faith will receive your contribution within 48 hours. The online giving company we went with (Tithe.ly) is one of the largest and most secure companies who specialize in online church giving, so your information is safe and secure. If you would like any help going over this process, please call the church office and we would be happy to help you.



Our homebound and nursing home members are often so isolated that your phone call, visit, even a card can mean the difference between lonely existence and continued life in our faith community. What can you do? Please reach out to those who have been such a vital part of our congregation and give back.

Beverly Tankersley— Medilodge—
Rm A10 1011 Meridian St. SSM, MI
49783

Linda Doran - 590 Three 1/2 Mile Rd.
SSM, MI 49783 (906) 630-1942

Mary Oja - McKinley Manor, 110-E
2023 W 4th, SSM, MI 49783 (906)
632-7496

Bill Markstrom - 3205 S Sunglow Dr.
SSM, MI 49783 (906) 635-1343



2nd Dennis Brindley

5th Josh Sanner

6th Chelsea Carr

6th Alice Reighard

8th Martha Cowan

9th Micah Brindley

12th Louise Rogers

22nd Rodney Kinnear

22nd James Trinkle

26th Jeanie Richards

28th Janet Robinson

29th Deb Carr

30th Don Hakala



Jack & Louise Armstrong

05/24/1975 - 49 years

Peggy & Gary Suriano

05/22/1982 - 42 years

Kathy & Craig Flickinger

05/12/1990 - 35 years

May 7th—
WELCA
meets the first
Wednesday of every
month
at 10:30am
for their bible
study, meeting,
and meal.

Healing Service

May 4th

following

worship

If you would like to have special
flowers on the altar in honor of a
birthday, memory, or anniver-
sary, please contact
Lily Randall at (734)-546-7037
to make arrangements.



Easter Sunday



**Easter Brunch
April 20, 2025**

Synod & Faith's News

The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to celebrate all Mothers and Graduates on **Sunday, May 18th** following the worship service. Please join us for some tasty treats as we recognize and remember those special people in our lives.

Vacation Bible School -
Registration forms for VBS will be available soon

Synod Assembly

The 2025 Synod Assembly will be held **May 15th to 17th**. The theme is Apollo's Watered. Thursday, May 15th will be at Bethel Lutheran in Ishpeming and Friday and Saturday, May 16th and 17th, will be at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.



2025 SCHEDULE

FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 8-13	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$645
Week 2	June 15-20	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12)	See website \$490
Week 3	June 22-27	High School Week (Grades 9-12) LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$490
Week 4	June 29-July 2	All Staff Reunion 3-night Event (with Special 1-day Event June 29!)	See website
Week 5	July 6-11	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Venturer (Grades 7-8) LIT #1 Option (*No charge)	\$460
	July 13-15	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$230
Week 6	July 13-16	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) MashUp (Grades 4-8)	\$320
	July 13-18	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) LIT #2 Option (*No charge)	\$460
Week 7	July 20-25	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-9) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8) Art Camp (Grades 3-9) Dungeons & Dragons Camp (Grades 6-9) <i>New!</i> LIT #3 Option (*No charge)	\$460 \$490
	July 21-24	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$135
Week 8	July 27-Aug 1	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) LIT #4 Option (*No charge)	See website \$460
	July 28-31	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$135
	July 29-Aug 1	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages)	See website
Week 9	August 4-7	Evergreen Camp (ages 55+)	See website

Scholarships Available
Everybody is welcome at camp regardless of ability to pay!

*LIT program requires an application process. Week #1 has a fee; subsequent weeks do not.

More info at FortuneLake.org

Looking for mountains of fun?

Join Central & Algonquin United Methodist Churches, Faith Lutheran Church and United Presbyterian Church as we hit the trail to guide our VBS children in discovering they can trust God in this wild world!



Central United Methodist Church
111 East Spruce Street, Sault Ste Marie
Monday, June 23rd through Thursday June 26th
From 9:00 am until 12:00 noon
Ages 3 years through 11 years

At **TRUE NORTH**, we will point children to Jesus our rock-solid foundation! **TRUE NORTH** is filled with awesome Bible-learning adventures; hands on science experiments, fun team building games, unforgettable Bible songs and tasty treats that help faith flow into real life. Plus, children will discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life – something we call God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Compass Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

You Otter be here!



May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Psalm 80 Yoga 9:30am	2 Act 10:1-34	3 Acts 10:34-43
4 Third Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30am Girl Scouts 2pm	5 Psalm 116:1-4a, 12-19 Quilting 1pm	6 1 Peter 1:17-23 Yoga 9:30am	7 Luke 24:13-35 Choir practice 6:30pm	8 Psalm 4 Yoga 9:30am	9 1 John 3:1-7	10 Acts 3:12-19
11 Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30am <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 Psalm 23 Quilting 1pm	13 John 10:1-10 Yoga 9:30am	14 Acts 4:5-12 Choir practice 6:30pm	15 Revelation 7:9-17 Yoga 9:30am	16 John 10:11-18	17 Acts 9:36-43 Girl Scouts 12pm
18 Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30am Mothers Day/ Grad brunch	19 Acts 8:26-40 Quilting 1pm	20 Psalm 31:1-5,15-16 Yoga 9:30am Council Meeting 10:30am	21 1 Peter 2:2-10 Choir practice 6:30pm	22 John 14:1-14 Yoga 9:30am	23 Psalm 148	24 Revelation 21:1-6
25 Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30am	26 Psalm 98 Quilting 1pm <i>Memorial Day</i>	27 1 John 5:1-6 Yoga 9:30am	28 Psalm 67 Choir practice 6:30pm	29 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i> Yoga 9:30am	30 John 14:23-29	31 Acts 7:55-60

PATHFINDER



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH*

Phone: 906-632-7246

Email: faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.faithlutheransaultstemarie.org>

***A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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SAULT STE. MARIE, MI 49783