

INSIDE

- p. 1 Word of the Day from NGLS
- p. 2 Bishop's Letter
- p. 3 Synod / Faith's News
- p. 4 Council Meeting Minutes
- p. 5 "About Faith Lutheran", Homebound members
- p. 6 July & August Birthdays and Anniversaries!
- p. 7 Thank you Note & Pictures
- p. 8 July Calendar
- p. 9 August Calendar

DATES AT A GLANCE

♦ **July 1, 2025**

Canada Day

♦ **July 4, 2025**

Independence Day

♦ **July 20, 2025**

Worship in the Park

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

July - August 2025

Word of the Day

(in place of Pastor Rita's letter)

Creedal Voices

Martin Luther

Adapted from the Earth Gospel

God is substantially present everywhere,
in and through all creation, in all their parts and places,
so the world is filled with God, and God fills all,
but without God's being and encompassed by it.

God is at the same time outside, and above all creatures.
These are all exceedingly incomprehensible matters;
yet they are articles of our faith, and our attested clearly and
mightily in holy writ.

For how can reason tolerate it that the divine majesty is so small
that it can be
substantially present in a grain of wheat, on a grain, over a
grain, through a grain,
within and without, and that, although it is a single majesty, it is
never less is entirely
in each grain separately, no matter how immeasurably numerous
these grains can be?...

God's own divine essence can be in all creation collectively
and in each one individually more profoundly, more intimately,
more present
than the creature, or human, is themselves.

Source: E-Notes from Northern Great Lakes Synod (June 13, 2025).



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)

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Did you know that your Synod Council met in retreat at Fortune Lake Camp on June 6-7? I share with you my gratitude for these leaders whom you have raised up from your conferences. They commit to meeting at least quarterly to focus on the work that we do together as a synod. At this retreat, we reviewed the structure, finances, purpose, and mission of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Our time together included information about our Endowment Ministry, the evolution of ELCA Social Statements and Social Messages, the work of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, a tutorial on how to read the NGLS financial statements, review of a “Leaving a Legacy” resource and consideration of how each committee, task force, and team furthers the purpose of our NGLS mission – to equip the Saints for ministry.

Included in this Northern Light are some papers for your own information:

- A Synod Map
- A chart of how each group relates to each other. Note that the “Synod Assembly” is the highest governing authority.
- A list and description of each committee currently active in our synod.

I invite you to consult the map and see what conference you are in and review the committee list and see if serving on any committee interests you. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who invest themselves in synod-wide efforts as this is a different kind of work than congregational ministry. Serving on a synod committee, team, or task force requires a shift in perspective from a congregational view to a synod-wide lens, which also includes who we are in partnership with the greater ELCA church body. For this work, members of synod committees, at the very least, consider the following:

- Travel distance and cost. There is an effort to offer synod-wide events as centrally as possible, with the exception of Fortune Lake which is more than a four-hour drive for those at the eastern edge of our synod. Interestingly, it was noted on our Synod assembly evaluations that having the opening worship at Bethel in Ishpeming increased the driving distance by 30 minutes. However, it was not noted that this also decreased the driving distance for half of our synod assembly attendees coming from the south.
- We are a synod in two time zones. As we consider events and meetings, they cannot start too early for our CT attendees, nor end too late for our ET attendees. The synod office has two clocks in the conference room, so we are always mindful of our whole synod.

- We are a synod in two states. This was never more painfully obvious than during Covid, when governors were issuing executive orders that did not often agree with each other and pastors were grateful for the interpretive lens of the synod office. This also has a bearing on the efforts of LSS, who are more familiar with Wisconsin granting streams than the funding structures of Michigan. We are working on that.

While our distances feel like a barrier, know that our challenges are nothing like the Central States Synod or the Southwestern Synod that cover three or four states and the bishop has to regularly get on a plane to provide pulpit supply. So the good news is, it could be worse.

At the Synod Council retreat, we identified a current challenge that we will intentionally strive to meet, and that is the challenge of Communications. How does one communicate with 18,000 Northern Great Lakes Synod Lutherans over so many square miles? Even this newsletter will only reach those who receive it or find it on our website. Our goals to meet the challenges of communication across the synod include:

- Stressing the responsibility of pastors and the role of congregational newsletter editors to lift up the work of the NGLS and the ELCA. Know that any article posted on our synod website can be reprinted in your paper or electronic newsletter.
- Encouraging more people to sign up for the E-Notes Newsletter, open it up when it comes, and read it.
- Create and distribute short videos that can be shared before worship, at council meetings, at annual congregational meetings, and at fall conference gatherings.
- Encouraging participation of congregations to invite and welcome a Mission Interpreter this Fall whose main job is to say, “Thank you.” And along with this, to recruit Mission Interpreters who are provided a list of talking points celebrating each congregation’s efforts and partnership.

As we strive to educate the whole synod community as to our work together and how it functions, I encourage you to do your part. Know that Synod leadership and all the members of every committee, team and task force is working to equip the Saints and Sinners of the NGLS for ministry. We seek to provide resources, connectedness, clarity, education, hope and inspiration as together we proclaim the love of God in Christ Jesus and are sent into the world to make a difference in His name.

**Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan**

Synod & Faith's News

Thank you
for your
generosity!

**2025 Synod Assembly
Offering totals -**

Equipping the Saints Endowment: \$2,308.25
Synod Ministry Fund: \$2,057.15
Lutheran Social Services: \$1,867.00
World Hunger: \$26,612.67



The choir is on summer break. We look forward to hearing from them again when they resume in the Fall.

Worship in the park!

Sunday, July 20th

will be an Ecumenical Worship at
Sherman Park starting at **10:30am.**
Bring a dish to pass and a lawn **chair** to sit in.

PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN THE NARTHEX
so we have an idea of how many will attend.

Financial Statement

	May-25	Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget	Last Year Month of May 2025	May-25 Year-to-Date Actual	May-25 Year-to-Date Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget	Last Year May 2024 Year-to-Date
General Fund Revenue	\$ 10,413.58	\$ 11,390.00	\$ (976.42)	\$ 11,322.38	\$ 63,308.67	\$ 73,208.00	\$ (9,899.33)	\$ 72,973.41
Expenses	\$ 12,948.73	\$ 13,182.00	\$ (233.27)	\$ 12,045.71	\$ 64,302.40	\$ 65,758.00	\$ (1,455.60)	\$ 60,475.59
Operating Revenue								
Over (Under) Expenses	\$ (2,535.15)	\$ (1,792.00)	\$ (743.15)	\$ (723.33)	\$ (993.73)	\$ 7,450.00	\$ (8,443.73)	\$ 12,497.82
Total Other Non Operating Revenue	\$ 4,180.00	\$ -	\$ 4,180.00	\$ 2,435.53	\$ (4,292.36)	\$ -	\$ (4,292.36)	\$ (7,239.04)
Other Non Operating Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	
Balance with Non operating	\$ 1,644.85	\$ (1,792.00)	\$ 3,436.85	\$ 1,712.20	\$ (5,286.09)	\$ 7,450.00	\$ (12,736.09)	\$ 5,258.78

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting May 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Cathy at 10:30AM.

Members Present: Pastor Rita, Cathy Tibbett, Sandy Lawson, Wayne Olsen, Ben Deatrick, Kathy Flickinger, Ken Randall.

Member Absent: Cynthia Wright, Dennis Brindley, unexcused.

Council Meeting: June 17, 2025, 10:30AM

Devotions: Pastor Rita June: Kathy Flickinger

Minutes: Ben Deatrick made a motion to accept the April 15, 2025 Council Minutes.

Cathy Tibbett seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

A: The written report for the 2024 Financial Audit has been received. Kathy Flickinger made A motion to accept the 2024 Audit Report. Wayne Olsen seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

A: The Synod Assembly May 15th to May 17th, 2025 at Marquette, Michigan was well attended. We had three people representing Faith. Cathy Tibbett (non-voter) Dave Bean, Ann Bean and Pastor Rita (voters). Reverend Sharolyn Swenson was installed as the new Assistant to the Bishop. Faith was acknowledged for the return of unused Campus Ministry Money to NGL Synod. In return the Synod forwarded the money to MTU Campus Ministry in Houghton, Michigan. The 2026 Synod Assembly will be a Hybrid Meeting and will be held at St. James in Rudyard, Michigan.

B: A discussion was made on having an updated Church Directory. No action taken.

Pastors Report: Pastor Rita gave her report.

Christian Education: VBS will be held at Central Methodist Church from June 23rd to June 26. Contact Cathy Tibbett if you wish to volunteer for any or all of the four days.

Campus Ministry: On Pause.

Come to the Table: On Pause.

Endowment: The registration cost for two youth and half cost for one adult to Fortune Lake Summer Camp has been paid.

Fellowship: Forty-five people enjoyed the Easter Brunch. Thank you to Dr. Craig Flickinger and Ashley Flickinger for their help at the Easter Brunch. We honored Kiahana Sanderson and Savannah Fellows on their graduation from Sault High Class of 2025. Both received a quilt from the Congregation of Faith. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for their help with both events. Father's Day celebration will be held on June 22, 2025.

Finance: Receipts are \$8,000.00 under year-to-date projects. **We encourage all members of Faith to keep their pledges up to date by using online giving (Tithe.ly) if they are on vacation.**

Memorial: No Report.

Membership: Pastor Rita has sent a letter to inactive church members.

Outreach: The Ecumenical Service and Picnic will be held on July 20, 2025, at Sherman Park.

Property: Basement Foundation of Michigan submitted a quote of \$15,820.00 to repair the leaks in the boiler room. The leaks are from rain and snow and should be repaired as soon as possible.

Stewardship: No Report.

WELCA: Meeting on May 7th with Bible Study. No scheduled meeting until September 2025. May Birthday Cards were sent out. Finalizing plans for the Fall Bazaar on October 11, 2025.

Worship and Music: Music is selected up to May 15, 2025. Next meeting is May 22, 2025.

Ben Deatrick made a motion to accept the Committee Reports including the Pastors Report and the Financial Report. Wayne Olsen seconded. Motion passed.

Kathy Flickinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wayne Olsen seconded. Motion passed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:40AM with the Lord's 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

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 and 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 Diane McDonald
4th Lauren Suppa
5th Louie Kinnear IV
8th Taylor Mills
13th Ronald Kagarise
15th Jeffrey Oja
18th Laura Marken
19th Pamela Markstrom
20th Bert Kinnear III
22nd Daniel Kinnear
23rd William (Liam) Karr
24th Lorna Bricco
26th Linda Guisbert
26th Gordon Lake
26th John Roesse
29th Landon Reighard
29th Patricia Keller
29th Marianne Kinnear
30th Jennifer Fields
30th Corey Strickland



1st Ella Trinkle
5th Luke Sanner
6th Paul Raappana
8th Bobbie Levine
9th Elliana Kagarise
10th Gloria McKinney
15th Rachael Kinnear
17th Patricia Olsen
18th Joel Lake
20th Kristin Flickinger
22nd Anna Lawson
24th Daniel Mills
25th Tristan Karr
26th Andrew Markstrom
27th Wayne Olsen



David & Linda Guisbert

7/8/67 – 58 years

Diane & John McDonald

7/25/70 – 55 years

Pat & Don Hakala

7/10/98 – 27 years



Bobbie & Barry Levine

8/27/67 – 58 years

John & Cynthia Suppa

8/12/72 – 53 years

Marianne & Ken Kinnear

8/31/91 – 34 years

Keith & Lynne Nortch

8/11/01 – 24 years

William Karr & Laura Marken

8/27/05 – 20 years

WELCA

The next scheduled
WELCA meeting
is in **September**

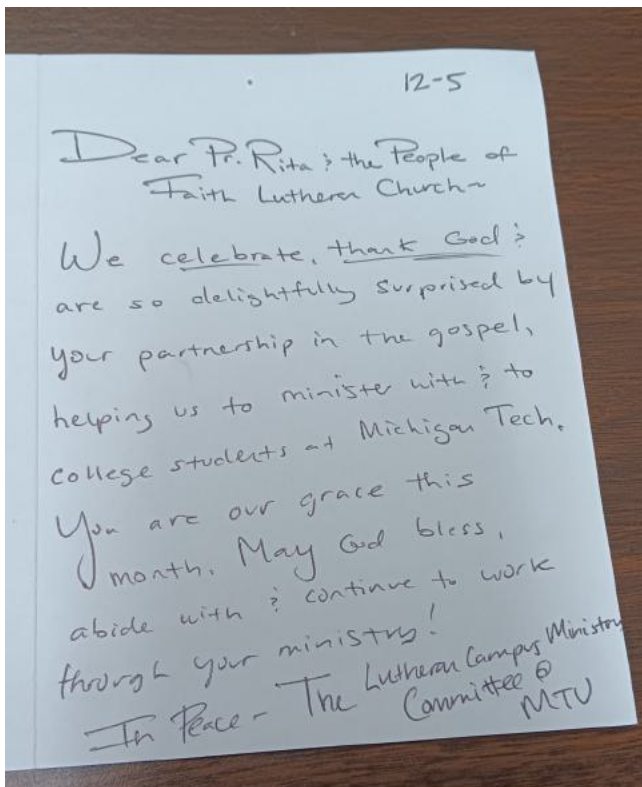


THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who volunteered to help with VBS!



Thank you Jill, Mike & Sandy Lawson for putting up the VBS banner.



Thank you note from Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan Tech University



Flowers planted in honor of Erma Nelson
by Diane McDonald and
Kristen & Ella Trinkle.

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Jeremiah 28:5-9 Yoga 9:30am	2 Matthew 10:40-42	3 Psalm 13	4 Romans 6:12-23	5 Genesis 22:1-14
6 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	7 Ezekiel 2:1-5 Quilting 1pm	8 Romans 7:15-25a Yoga 9:30am	9 2 Corinthians 12:2-10	10 Mark 6:1-13	11 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	12 Psalm 123
13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	14 Romans 8:1-11 Quilting 1pm Worship & Music meeting	15 Isaiah 55:10-13 Yoga 9:30am Council meeting 10:30am	16 Genesis 25:19-34	17 Psalm 24	18 Colossians 1:1-14	19 Luke 10:25-37
20 Worship in the Park! 10:30am at Sherman Park	21 Psalm 86:11-17 Quilting 1pm	22 Romans 8:12-25 Yoga 9:30am	23 Jeremiah 23:1-6	24 Psalm 23	25 Genesis 28:10-19a	26 Colossians 1:15-28
27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	28 1 Kings 3:5-12 Quilting 1pm	29 John 6:1-21 Yoga 9:30am	30 Luke 11: 1-13	31 Ephesians 3:14-21		

*** The gentle yoga class will meet on Tuesdays only during July and August! They will resume the regular scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays in September.

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Psalm 138	2 Romans 8: 26-39
3 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	4 Isaiah 55:1-5 Quilting 1pm	5 Matthew 14:13-21 Yoga 9:30am	6 Romans 9:1-5	7 Genesis 32:22-31	8 John 6:24-35	9 Exodus 16:2-4,9-15
10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	11 1 Kings 19:9-18 Quilting 1pm	12 Psalm 85:8-13 Yoga 9:30am	13 Matthew 14:22-33	14 Luke 12:32-40	15 Isaiah 1:1,10-20	16 Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16
17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	18 Isaiah 56:1,6-8 Quilting 1pm	19 Proverbs 9:1-6 Yoga 9:30am	20 John 6:51-58	21 Psalm 111	22 Jeremiah 23:23-29	23 Ephesians 5:15-20
24 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	25 John 6:56-69 Quilting 1pm	26 Psalm 124 Yoga 9:30am	27 Isaiah 51:1-6	28 Matthew 16:13-20	29 Exodus 1:8—2:10	30 Jeremiah 1:4-10
31 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am						

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
1600 PARK STREET
SAULT STE. MARIE, MI
49783