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## DATES AT A GLANCE

- ♦ **September 1, 2025**  
Labor Day
- ♦ **September 7, 2025**  
Grandparent's Day
- ♦ **September 11, 2025**  
Patriot Day
- ♦ **September 22, 2025**  
First Day of Autumn!

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](mailto:critawilliam@gmail.com)**

## Letter from Pastor Rita

*"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: <sup>2</sup>a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; <sup>3</sup>a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup>a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)*

**Dear Faith family,**

Everything on Earth is under God's control, from leaves falling to birds migrating in preparation for a new season. The Hebrew Bible uses the term *ze-mān*, for seasons to refer to "God's appointed times."

All creation on Earth has its appointed time to glorify God. The transition from summer to fall brings a new season - the "appointed time" for fulfilling God's will. Let us marvel at the beauty of God's creation and offer our glory to Him. We had an amazing outdoor ecumenical worship service in July, with great weather, delicious food, and a great turnout. We are grateful for the participation of the churches and the outreach team, which made this event possible.

As fall begins, more events will take place such as Bible study, Thanksgiving dinner, choir practices, Sunday school, Advent devotions and various other activities for everyone to participate in. As we grow together in Christ, let us look forward to new possibilities in this season.

**May God's love and peace surround you forever.**

**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>

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Before my sabbatical begins, I have a host of annual medical check-ups that I want to get out of the way before boarding a plane to the other side of the world. While the tests are all routine, they are always accompanied by the question, “How are you today? Any complaints?” And I have to think about it. How AM I? How aware am I of what my body might be trying to tell me? Sure, there are the usual complaints. When I sit for awhile, as in a long car ride, I feel stiff and I might groan a little as I get out of the car. On my morning walk, I might feel a point of pain in a knee or hip, telling me to slow down or change my stride. If I’m tired already at 9 pm, I hear my body telling me to rest, even though I haven’t watched the news yet.

What does your body say to you?

And when we apply this kind of communication to the body of Christ, what might that look like? I have at least one answer; it looks like the Churchwide Assembly.

For one whole week at the end of July and into August, the body of Christ that is the voting members of all of our ELCA synods gathered in Phoenix, Arizona and we communicated. One body communicated with another, “I don’t care if it’s dry heat, it’s still HOT!” and in turn, different parts of the body of Christ communicated to the whole a host of concerns and joys with calls for solidarity, accompaniment, and reconciliation.

Paul writes in I Corinthians 12, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ...If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”

While gathered in assembly, we listened to points of pain...from the newly elected bishop of the Lutheran church in Jordan and the Holy Land, from our Jewish siblings, from our Young Adults, from our Indigenous members. And the body responded by adopting a Memorial on Indian Boarding School Remembrance and wearing red to raise awareness of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls. The body responded by adopting a Memorial that calls for the End of Occupation of Palestine. The body responded by moving the goal for young adult participation on Churchwide committees from 10% to 20%.

The body celebrated the strides taken toward greater clarity as we adopted our newest Social Statement: Faith and Civic Life which will be featured among the offerings of our Winter Lifelong Faith Formation classes.

We stood in solidarity with AMMPARO at a candlelit vigil and as one body, prayed for peace and welcome for so many fleeing violence and looking for a place of safety.

And the body rejoiced at the election of our new presiding bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry and a new Churchwide secretary, Rev. Cecee Mills. I have known Bishop Curry as a colleague in Region 5 for several years. He most recently also served as the Chair of the Conference of Bishops. Bishop Curry is financially astute, has gifts for leadership, is blessed with a pastor’s heart, is a powerful preacher, and I have every hope and confidence that he will be a blessing to the body of Christ that is the ELCA. I encourage you to watch the interviews that have been posted on the NGLS and ELCA Facebook pages.

Listening to the whole body takes intention. Responding to the needs of the body takes communication. There may well be actions taken at the churchwide assembly that for you, are too quick a pace or too slow for your stride. There may still be points of pain that you are experiencing that have not yet been addressed. For your own body, and for the body of Christ that is our ELCA Church, I believe we are all doing the best that we can, to work towards health and wholeness.

I am so very glad to be a part of the body of Christ that is the Northern Great Lakes Synod. I returned home from Phoenix all the more grateful for trees and grass, for dewy mornings and evening rain. And I am grateful for who we are in relationship with each other, whatever your pace, whatever the length of your stride, as we walk together in faith.



**Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan**

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

### **June 17, 2025**

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

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

**Member Absent:** None

**Council Meeting:** July 15, 2025.

**Devotions:** June: Kathy Flickinger                      July: Cathy Tibbett

**Minutes:** Ben Deatruck made a motion to accept May 20, 2025 Council Minutes. Ken Randall seconded. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

**A:** A Thank You card was received from Michigan Tech Lutheran Ministry for the unused Campus Money that Faith returned to NGLS. NGLS forwarded the money to MTU. The Thank You note is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

**B:** VBS is next week at Central Methodist Church from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM to 12 Noon.

**New Business:**

**A:** A reminder that if a church member wishes to borrow ANY item that is church property or on loan to the church to request the item by calling the Church Office, Pastor Rita, or a council member. There is a book that borrowed items are logged in and out. The items should be returned promptly and in the original condition.

**B:** A discussion on the need for a commercial stove for the church kitchen. In order to have a kitchen license the stove needs to be commercial.

**Pastors Report:** Pastor Rita gave her report for May 21 to June 17, 2025.

**Campus Ministry:** On Pause.

**Christian Education:** No Report.

**Come to the Table:** On Pause.

**Endowment:** No Report.

**Fellowship:** Father's Day to be celebrated on June 22, 2025 for all fathers, grandfathers, and uncles.

**Finance:** Revenue is approximately \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00 under the estimated budget through May 2025. Thank you to the congregation for keeping current with their pledges.

**Memorial:** No Report.

**Outreach:** Final plans for the Ecumenical Service and Picnic were held on June 12, 2025.

**Property:** A donation was received to help with the cost of repairing the boiler room. The repair should be completed before this upcoming winter. Some light bulbs need to be replaced in the Sanctuary.

**Staff Support:** There is an open position for the custodian.

**Stewardship:** An upcoming meeting will be scheduled soon.

**WELCA:** No meeting until September 2025.

**Worship and Music:** Meeting was held on May 22, 2025. Next meeting will be on July 14, 2025 at 6:30PM. Music is selected up to July 27, 2025.

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

Wayne Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ben Deatruck seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was Adjourned at 11:45AM 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 Deatricks, 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](http://nglsynod.org)  
**Denomination website:** [elca.org](http://elca.org)

### **Online giving is here!**

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

[www.faithlutheransaultstemarie.org](http://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

## Synod & Faith's News



ELCA  
CHURCHWIDE  
ASSEMBLY



*The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop-elect of the ELCA*

We are pleased to announce the election of the Rev. Yehiel Curry as presiding bishop of the ELCA!

Bishop-elect Curry was elected on the fifth ballot with 70.34% of the vote.

### Three Lakes Conference

will take place

**September 28th**

at St. James Lutheran Church in  
Rudyard.

Details on time of the  
meeting will be provided soon.

We invite you to our **Annual Bazaar & Salad Buffet** to be held on **Saturday, October 11th, 11:30am – 1:30pm**. The tickets will be mailed to you shortly. Please send them to friends, family, and neighbors. If you need additional tickets, they will be available in the church office. **Vicki Luoma** will accept ticket money or it can be left in the office. Checks should be written to **WELCA or Faith Lutheran Women**.

We are asking for help with the following:  
Handwork and craft items of all kinds, baked goods for the bake sale, items for the Attic Treasures, salads for the buffet, and use of your card tables. If you know what you'd like to prepare, please call **Joy Lake** at 906-259-2300.  
Thank you in advance for all your contributions.

### ELCA Day of Remembrance Sunday Indian Boarding Schools



**Sunday, September 28, 2025**

Day of Remembrance is September 30th

## Financial Statement

|                                      | Jul-25       | Budget       | Net Activity<br>Over (Under) Budget | Last Year<br>Month of July 2024 | Jul-25<br>Year-to-Date Actual | Jul-25<br>Year-to-Date Budget | Net Activity<br>Over (Under) Budget | Last Year<br>July 2024 Year-to-Date |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Fund Revenue                 | \$ 10,890.25 | \$ 11,785.00 | \$ (994.75)                         | \$ 12,629.56                    | \$ 82,919.17                  | \$ 95,826.00                  | \$ (12,906.83)                      | \$ 101,616.07                       |
| Expenses                             | \$ 10,486.17 | \$ 12,365.00 | \$ (1,818.83)                       | \$ 18,657.87                    | \$ 84,857.39                  | \$ 90,986.00                  | \$ (6,228.61)                       | \$ 91,024.57                        |
| Operating Revenue                    |              |              |                                     |                                 |                               |                               |                                     |                                     |
| Over (Under) Expenses                | \$ 914.08    | \$ (520.00)  | \$ 834.08                           | \$ (6,028.31)                   | \$ (1,938.22)                 | \$ 4,840.00                   | \$ (6,778.22)                       | \$ 10,591.50                        |
| Total Other Non Operating<br>Revenue | \$ 2,384.93  | \$ -         | \$ 2,384.93                         | \$ 2,477.63                     | \$ 428.94                     | \$ -                          | \$ 428.94                           | \$ (2,967.49)                       |
| Other Non Operating<br>Expenditures  | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ -                                |                                 |                               | \$ -                          | \$ -                                |                                     |
| Balance with Non operating           | \$ 2,699.01  | \$ (520.00)  | \$ 3,219.01                         | \$ (3,550.68)                   | \$ (1,506.28)                 | \$ 4,840.00                   | \$ (6,346.18)                       | \$ 7,624.01                         |



## September BIRTHDAYS

**3rd** Lynnea Ackerman  
**3rd** Kathy Flickinger  
**8th** Marilyn White  
**10th** Eric Marken  
**11th** Chris Camp  
**12th** Marek McCallum  
**12th** Bruce Anderson  
**13th** Lindsay Bricco  
**13th** Emma Kempfert  
**13th** Jenna Sanderson  
**13th** Jess Sanner  
**15th** Mark Nelson  
**17th** Lily Randall  
**20th** Benjamin Peterman  
**23rd** Vicki Luoma  
**23rd** Steven Rogers  
**25th** Lee Sanner  
**26th** Matthew Kagarise  
**26th** Lynne Nortch  
**28th** Nancy Skidmore  
**29th** Diane Markstrom



## October BIRTHDAYS

**1st** Terri East  
**4th** Thomas Brewster  
**6th** Sandra Lawson  
**9th** Jack Armstrong  
**9th** Robin Jackson  
**10th** Alleyah Sanderson  
**11th** Louise Armstrong  
**11th** Gail Knight  
**21st** Cynthia Suppa  
**27th** Lori Strickland  
**28th** Scott Kagarise  
**31st** Carly Suriano




## September anniversaries

**Connie & Bob Mattson**

9/1/61— 64 years

**Dennis & Gwenn Aho**

9/24/66 — 59 years

**Sandee & Paul Raappana**

9/7/74 — 51 years

**Jennifer & Adam Mohagen**

9/8/07 — 18 years

**Mike & Jill Lawson**

9/17



## October anniversaries

**Ken & Lily Randall**

10/18/80 — 45 years

**Darryl & Terri East**

10/14/00 — 25 years

### WELCA - Sept. 3rd

resumes on the first Wednesday  
of each month

at 10:30am for bible study,  
meeting, and meal.

*Photos from our Father's Day celebration!*  
*June 22, 2025*



# September 2025

| Sun                                                                                                 | Mon                                                                 | Tue                                                                  | Wed                      | Thu                                                      | Fri                        | Sat                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                                                                                     | 1<br>Jeremiah<br>15:15-21<br>Quilting 1pm<br><i>Labor Day</i>       | 2<br>Romans 12:9-21<br>Yoga 9:30am                                   | 3<br>Matthew<br>16:21-28 | 4<br>Proverbs 25:6-7<br>Yoga 9:30am                      | 5<br>Psalm 15              | 6<br>Exodus 3:1-15         |
| 7 Thirteenth<br>Sunday of<br>Pentecost<br><b>Worship<br/>10:30am</b><br><i>Grandparents<br/>Day</i> | 8<br>Romans 13:8-14<br>Quilting 1pm                                 | 9<br>Matthew<br>18:15-20<br>Yoga 9:30am                              | 10<br>Psalm 119:33-40    | 11<br>Luke 14:25-33<br>Yoga 9:30am<br><i>Patriot Day</i> | 12<br>Ezekiel 33: 7-11     | 13<br>Jeremiah 18:1-11     |
| 14 Fourteenth<br>Sunday of<br>Pentecost<br><b>Worship<br/>10:30am</b>                               | 15<br>Genesis 50:15-21<br>Quilting 1pm                              | 16<br>Psalm 114<br>Yoga 9:30am<br><i>Council Meeting<br/>10:30am</i> | 17<br>Romans 14:1-12     | 18<br>Matthew<br>18:21-35<br>Yoga 9:30am                 | 19<br>Exodus 14:19-31      | 20<br>James 3:1-12         |
| 21 Fifteenth<br>Sunday of<br>Pentecost<br><b>Worship<br/>10:30am</b>                                | 22<br>Amos 8:4-7<br>Quilting 1pm<br><i>First Day of<br/>Autumn!</i> | 23<br>Mark 9:30-37<br>Yoga 9:30am                                    | 24<br>Luke 16:1-13       | 25<br>Psalm 113<br>Yoga 9:30am                           | 26<br>Jeremiah<br>11:18-20 | 27<br>Proverbs<br>31:10-31 |
| 28 Sixteenth<br>Sunday of<br>Pentecost<br><b>Worship<br/>10:30am</b>                                | 29<br>Philippians<br>2:1-13<br>Quilting 1pm                         | 30<br>Exodus 17:1-17<br>Yoga 9:30am                                  |                          |                                                          |                            |                            |



# October 2025

| Sun                                                             | Mon                                   | Tue                                                                 | Wed                       | Thu                                    | Fri                       | Sat                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                 |                                       |                                                                     | 1<br>James 5:13-20        | 2<br>Luke 16:19-31<br><br>Yoga 9:30am  | 3<br>Psalm 124            | 4<br>Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32                                |
| 5 Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost<br><br><b>Worship 10:30am</b> | 6<br>Isaiah 5:1-7<br><br>Quilting 1pm | 7<br>Mark 10:2-16<br><br>Yoga 9:30am                                | 8<br>Psalm 26             | 9<br>Luke 17:5-10<br><br>Yoga 9:30am   | 10<br>Philippians 3:4b-14 | 11 Psalm 19<br><br><b>Annual Bazaar</b><br>11:30am-1:30pm |
| 12 Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost<br><br><b>Worship 10:30am</b> | 13<br>Psalm 23<br><br>Quilting 1pm    | 14<br>Matthew 22:1-14<br><br>Yoga 9:30am                            | 15<br>Exodus 32:1-4       | 16<br>Isaiah 25:1-9<br><br>Yoga 9:30am | 17<br>Philippians 4:1-9   | 18<br>Hebrews 4:12-16                                     |
| 19 Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost<br><br><b>Worship 10:30am</b> | 20<br>Exodus 33:12-23                 | 21 Psalm 99<br>Yoga 9:30am<br><br><b>Council Meeting</b><br>10:30am | 22<br>Genesis 32:22-31    | 23<br>Mark 10:35-45                    | 24<br>Job 38:1-7          | 25<br>Luke 18:1-8                                         |
| 26 Reformation Sunday<br><br><b>Worship 10:30am</b>             | 27<br>Leviticus 19:1-5, 15-18         | 28<br>Jeremiah 31:7-9                                               | 29<br>Deuteronomy 34:1-12 | 30<br>Psalm 1<br><br>Yoga 9:30am       | 31<br>Hebrews 7:23-28     |                                                           |

**PATHFINDER**



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH\***

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

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