

## INSIDE

- p.1 Letter from Pastor Elise
- p.2 Letter from Bishop Finegan
- p.3 Council Minutes from July 15th
- p.4 Council Minutes from Sept. 16th
- p.5 "About Faith Lutheran" & Homebound members
- p.6 November Anniversaries and Birthdays!
- p.7 December Anniversaries and Birthdays!
- p.8 Recent Photos
- p.9 November Calander
- p.10 December Calander

*November  
&  
December  
2025*

### **Office hours for Faith Lutheran Church:**

Mon. through Thurs.  
9AM—2PM

### **In case of Pastoral Emergencies**

Pastor Elise can be reached  
at **906-275-4410**

Or by email at  
[pastorelisehynek@gmail.com](mailto:pastorelisehynek@gmail.com)

## **Letter from Pastor Elise**

**Dear Faith Lutheran Church,**

This is a letter that I, the Bishop, and the rest of my colleagues wish did not have to be written. Usually when a pastor leaves a call, it is after much prayer and discernment, and in our grief over the departure we can find solace in knowing that the pastor is following the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is one of those instances where the pastor's departure was not within our control, and any shock, concern, or worry you may be experiencing in the wake of Pastor Rita's leaving is understandable. We pray that Pastor Rita and her son, Derrick, land safely and settle well at their new congregation in Canada, and Faith Lutheran will continue its ministry until Pastor Rita is able to return or a new pastor is called.

Oftentimes when a pastoral vacancy is experienced, the Bishop will appoint another pastor to serve the congregation in some capacity as a full interim (or transitional) pastor or as an administrative interim. Bishop Finegan has asked me to step in as administrative interim for Faith Lutheran, which means I will be assisting in the basic operation of Faith's ministry, including setting up pulpit supply, attending necessary meetings, and providing emergency pastoral care. Additionally, I will be training lay leaders to step into other ministry roles, such as regular visitations. You may see me during the occasional Sunday worship, but most Sundays you'll have the joy of listening to a variety of preachers!

I prefer to be addressed by Pastor Elise, as my last name has two pronunciations (He-Nick or Hi-Nick). I switch between the two pronunciations, so don't worry if I or someone else pronounces it differently than you! I am in my third year of ministry, having been ordained in July 2023 and called to serve St James Lutheran Church in Rudyard. I follow where the Holy Spirit sends me. As a result, I have served in ministries across the country and across the spectrum. Prior to seminary, I spent a year as a Young Adult in Global Mission in England and, upon my return, I worked as a youth director for two churches in a rural agricultural town in Wisconsin. In seminary, I worked as a hospital chaplain in Denver during the summer of 2020, and I was the vicar (intern pastor) at a congregation in New York City. I was incredibly excited when my sponsoring synod called and informed me that I would be heading to the UP, and I am so thankful that this is where the Spirit sent me.

I wish our shared ministry was under better circumstances, but I am glad to have the opportunity to share this time with you. If you need to reach me, my number is 906-275-4410 and my email is [pastorelisehynek@gmail.com](mailto:pastorelisehynek@gmail.com)

**God bless you,  
Pastor Elise Hynek**



### **Join us Sundays 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,

As I make final preparations to leave on sabbatical, I feel it keenly that even if my desk will be clear, there is much in the world that remains messy. As people of faith, we are being challenged in new ways that we may feel ill-equipped to handle.

I see, and feel with increasing pressure, the world trying to divide us and tear us apart. I encourage you to make your community of faith, that is, the body of Christ which you help to animate, your priority. Political divisions are real, but the demonization of those who disagree with you has been brought to a new level. Do not lump people together and join the bandwagon that would declare them to be “of the devil.” As we look at our world through the lens of the open tomb, we cannot look at another and not see someone for whom Jesus died. This includes MAGA, the immigrant, the liberal, the refugee, the transgender individual, those on the other side of the political aisle, your neighbor, and those who get their news from only one source. In times of disaster or civil unrest, you will need your neighbor and your community of faith to meet the challenges.

Remember the flooding in the Copper Country not so long ago? And how the larger community rallied to provide water and supplies to those impacted? Or the ice storm that knocked out power to so many for too long? With winter around the corner, you may well need the help of the neighbor you disagree with to plow your driveway. With troubles always around the corner, you may well need the pastor whose sermon and leadership you criticized to proclaim a word of hope and hold your hand in comfort. Now is not the time to be burning bridges, even as we, each of us, are called to work and advocate for justice. Write your congressional representative and extend grace to your disagreeable neighbor. Carry signs in protest and forgive those you consider misinformed. Be generous in your giving to those organizations that are on the ground, feeding the hungry, advocating for the immigrant, welcoming the stranger. Try not to be quick to criticize, to judge, to respond in anger or indignation. These are emotionally provoking times which make people vulnerable to manipulation and impulsive actions. Keeping a level head allows for creative solutions and conversations that deepen understanding, even as common ground may still be elusive.

As I write this, common ground regarding immigration policies continues to elude all of us. By the time you read this, our own Pastor Rita Chirala and her son will have left her congregation, and the country, despite our best efforts. Even as immigrants seek

to follow good law and order, the system is designed to fail them. And more than a few U.S. citizens have been swept up unlawfully. Even if our own Pastor Rita were to be able to fulfill all righteousness per a system that is stacked against her, I have no confidence, given a Supreme Court’s decision that allows for racial profiling, that she and her son would be safe, even if citizenship were secured.

I call out this gross injustice. It is indefensible that people of color should be afraid every day of being arrested on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant, that they should have to carry a copy of their passport to prove citizenship should the arresting agent even take the time to check. Or that immigrants who are striving to “follow the rules” and show up for their scheduled court date are summarily deported, and not necessarily to their country of origin.

I am grateful to our Canadian partners that a call has been secured for Pastor Rita so that she has a livelihood, and I continue to pray that the Canadian immigration lawyer will be able to secure the necessary visa in time. The work of providing comfort and support to Faith, Sault and to Pastor Rita’s colleagues and friends continues as they have suffered this abrupt separation even as it was necessary to keep Pastor Rita and her son safe.

I do not believe extending grace to people with whom we disagree means acquiescing to systems that are unjust. I pray for affection that transcends political division, for unified mission and purpose that binds us together in the face of all that tries to divide us, and for local community interdependence that is more reliable, generous, and available than government support.

I leave you, for now, with this blessing: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

The God of all grace +  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

(ELW, Service of the Word, p. 221)

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan



**Faith Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
July 15, 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 Deatrick, Kathy Flickinger, Ken Randall

**Member Absent:** Cynthia Wright, excused

**Council Meeting:** September 16, 2025.

**Devotions:** July: Cathy Tibbett      September: Wayne Olsen

**Minutes:** Ben Deatrick made a motion to accept June 17, 2025 Council Minutes. Wayne Olsen seconded. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**A:** Pastor Rita submitted an email to Council members to approve a building use request by Girl Scout Troop 5154 for use of the Fellowship Hall on July 14, 2025, from 2PM to 4:00PM. The request was approved by the Council.

**Pastors Report:** Pastor Rita gave her report for June 17, 2025, to July 17, 2025. Pastor Rita gave an update on her visa status. Her I-360 application has been approved however due to changes in the Immigration Policy and backlogs she unable to file her application for a Green Card. Different options are being investigated.

**Campus Ministry:** On Pause.

**Christian Education:** VBS was a huge success. Thank you to volunteers Cathy Tibbett, Nancy Gillette, Karla Webb, Ken Randall helping with VBS and Mike Lawson for placing the large VBS banner in front of the church. Next year VBS will be held at First Presbyterian Church.

**Endowment:** No Report.

**Fellowship:** Father's Day was celebrated with thirty people attending on June 22, 2025. On August 31, 2025 there will be an Ice Cream Social.

**Finance:** Thank you to the congregation for keeping current with their pledges.

**Membership:** The church received a letter from two non-active members to remove them from the membership list.

**Memorial:** No Report.

**Outreach:** Ecumenical Service and Picnic to be held on July 22, 2025, at Sherman Park.

**Property:** A total of \$2600.00 in donations has been received to help with the cost of repairing the foundation in the boiler room. A special Congregational Meeting to approve the repair will be held on August 24, 2025. The kitchen oven is repaired.

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

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

**WELCA:** No meeting until September 2025. A special Thank You to WELCA for a donation on behalf of the Congregation of Faith to Sault High School Technology in honor of Jackson Gervasio.

**Worship and Music:** Meeting was held on July 14, 2025. Music is selected up to September 11, 2025.

Ben Deatrick 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 Deatrick seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Lawson, Council Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church Council

Minutes September 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dennis Brindley at 10:32am.

Members present: Dennis Brindley, Catherine Tibbett, Wayne Olsen, Ken Randall, Cynthia Wright, Ben Detrick, and Pastor Rita Chirla.

Sandra Lawson was excused, *Kathy Fleckinger excused*

Devotions by Wayne Olsen.

Motion to accept minutes of July 15, 2025, made by Ken second by Cathy. Motion passed.

Motion to accept minutes of Special Congregational Meeting on August 24, 2025, made by Wayne, second by Ben. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

Pastor Rita requested Vacation from October 12 to October 25, 2025. Motion made by Cathy, second by Cynthia. Motion Passed.

**New Business:**

QTC will use our building on October 7<sup>th</sup>. They do health screenings for veterans. The company will use 2 rooms at \$200 each.

The Girl Scouts requested the use of the building. A list of dates was presented.

November 2, 2025 is the date for the Annual meeting where the budget for 2026 will be presented.

**Committee Reports:**

**Pastor** Pastor Rita has been busy. She made several home visits.

**Campus Ministry** On pause

**Come to the Table** On pause

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

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](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 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 special-  
ize 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** Sandee Raappana  
**3rd** Stephanie Sanderson  
**6th** Bob Mattson  
**7th** Keith Nortch  
**24th** Shue Shea  
**26th** Norman Webb

Our ladies group, **WELCA**, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10:30AM for bible study and a meeting. Bring something to eat for lunch.

There will be a **Thanksgiving lunch** following worship service on **November 2nd**. We will also be honoring our veterans and church volunteers.



No anniversaries in November



**Daylight Savings Time Ends** November 2nd

Don't forget to turn the clock **back** an hour !

### **Dates at a Glance**

- ♦ **November 2, 2025**  
All Saints Sunday
- ♦ **November 11, 2025**  
Veteran's Day
- ♦ **November 27, 2025**  
Thanksgiving Day

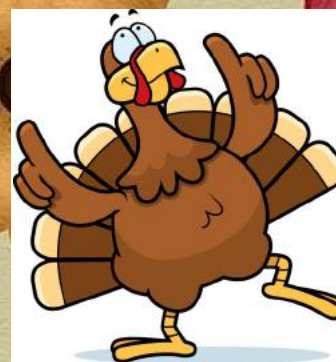
*Sunday School has started!*

Come to Sunday school and experience the joy of learning about God and His word. We have games, crafts, stories, and snacks for kids of all ages. You don't want to miss it Please bring your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, etc.

*All children are welcome!*



We are looking to gather a few volunteers who would be willing to teach one or two Sundays a month. Sunday school will be held **during** worship service rather than before worship service.



We are once again collecting money that will go towards **turkeys** for the **United Way's food distribution**.



**10th** Ben Deatrick  
**10th** Jill Webber  
**20th** Dave Bean  
**29th** Connie Mattson



**Dennis & Ruth Ann Brindley**  
55 years 12/27/70

### ***Youth Wreath Fundraiser***



It's that time of year again!

Starting November 1st, you will be able to place an order for Christmas Wreaths. Wreaths will cost \$30 each and will be ready for pick-up December 8th. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support Faith Lutheran's youth.

### **Dates at a Glance**

- ♦ **December 24, 2025**  
Christmas Eve
- ♦ **December 25, 2025**  
Christmas Day
- ♦ **December 31, 2025**  
New Year's Eve

### **Ways to worship with us through Advent and Christmas Eve**

First Sunday in Advent – November 30th at 10:30am  
Second Sunday in Advent – December 7th at 10:30am  
Third Sunday in Advent – December 14th at 10:30am  
Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 21st at 10:30am  
Candlelight Christmas Eve – December 24th at 7:00pm  
Christmas Day Service – December 25th at 10:30am



thank  
you!

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who helped out at the 2025 Bazaar and Salad Luncheon. Those that donated items, time, money, and put together the event made a huge difference in our community. Your generosity and dedication are truly appreciated. Thank you for making the bazaar a success!

## Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday, **November 2nd** will be the congregational budget meeting. It will begin following the 10:30am worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to review and vote on the 2026 budget.

## Advent Devotions

Join us for the mid-week soup suppers and Advent devotions on Wednesday evenings and feel free to bring a friend! More details will be provided closer to the start of the season.

## Financial Statement

|                            | Sep-25       | Budget       | Net Activity<br>Over (Under) Budget | Last Year<br>Month of September 2024 | Sep-25<br>Year-to-Date Actual | Sep-25<br>Year-to-Date Budget | Net Activity<br>Over (Under) Budget | Last Year<br>September 2024 Year-to-Date |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| General Fund Revenue       | \$ 15,243.00 | \$ 10,671.00 | \$ 4,572.00                         | \$ 10,881.00                         | \$ 115,610.56                 | \$ 115,463.00                 | \$ 147.56                           | \$ 123,359.84                            |
| Expenses                   | \$ 10,264.68 | \$ 11,522.00 | \$ (1,257.32)                       | \$ 10,865.36                         | \$ 117,704.48                 | \$ 114,592.00                 | \$ 3,112.48                         | \$ 112,882.98                            |
| Operating Revenue          |              |              |                                     |                                      |                               |                               |                                     |                                          |
| Over (Under) Expenses      | \$ 4,978.32  | \$ (851.00)  | \$ 5,829.32                         | \$ (34.36)                           | \$ (2,093.92)                 | \$ 871.00                     | \$ (2,964.92)                       | \$ 10,476.86                             |
| Total Other Non Operating  |              |              |                                     |                                      |                               |                               |                                     |                                          |
| Revenue                    | \$ 1,091.01  | \$ -         | \$ 1,091.01                         | \$ 1,953.14                          | \$ (5,184.09)                 | \$ -                          | \$ (5,184.09)                       | \$ 3,514.98                              |
| Other Non Operating        |              |              |                                     |                                      |                               |                               |                                     |                                          |
| Expenditures               |              | \$ -         | \$ -                                |                                      | \$ 2.27                       | \$ -                          | \$ 2.27                             |                                          |
| Balance with Non operating | \$ 6,069.33  | \$ (851.00)  | \$ 6,920.33                         | \$ 1,918.78                          | \$ (7,280.28)                 | \$ 871.00                     | \$ (8,151.28)                       | \$ 13,991.84                             |

## **Farewell & God's Speed to Pastor Rita & Derrick**



# NOVEMBER



| Sunday                                                                               | Monday                              | Tuesday                                         | Wednesday                         | Thursday                              | Friday                      | Saturday              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                                                      |                                     |                                                 |                                   |                                       |                             | 1<br>Psalm 126        |
| 2 All Saints<br>Sunday<br>Worship 10:30am<br>Budget Meeting<br>Thanksgiving<br>Lunch | 3<br>Micah 3:5-12<br>Quilting 1pm   | 4<br>Matthew 23:1-12<br>9:30am Yoga             | 5<br>Psalm 43<br>WELCA<br>10:30am | 6<br>Hebrews 9:11-14                  | 7<br>Mark 12:28-34          | 8<br>Ruth 1:1-18      |
| 9<br>22nd Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br>Worship<br>10:30am                            | 10<br>Amos 5:18-24<br>Quilting 1pm  | 11 Luke 20:27-38<br>Yoga 9:30a<br>Veteran's Day | 12<br>Matthew 25:1-13             | 13<br>Psalm 127                       | 14<br>Job 19:23-27a         | 15<br>Hebrews 9:24-28 |
| 16 23rd Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br>Worship 10:30am<br>Thanksgiving<br>Lunch        | 17<br>Judges 4:1-7<br>Quilting 1pm  | 18<br>Psalm 123<br>Yoga 9:30a                   | 19<br>Daniel 12:1-3               | 20<br>Malachi 4:1-2a                  | 21<br>Luke 21:5-19          | 22<br>Psalm 98        |
| 23<br>Christ the King<br>Worship 10:30am                                             | 24<br>John 18:33-37<br>Quilting 1pm | 25<br>Eohesians1:15-23<br>Yoga 9:30a            | 26<br>Revelation 1:4b-8           | 27<br>Psalm 46<br>Thanksgiving<br>Day | 28<br>Colossians<br>1:11-20 | 29<br>Jeremiah 23:1-6 |
| 30<br>First Sunday of<br>Advent<br>Worship 10:30am                                   |                                     |                                                 |                                   |                                       |                             |                       |

# DECEMBER

| Sunday                                                                    | Monday                                | Tuesday                             | Wednesday                                                    | Thursday                                                      | Friday                  | Saturday           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|                                                                           | 1<br>Isaiah 2:1-5<br>Quilting 1pm     | 2<br>Romans 13:11-14<br>Yoga 9:30am | 3<br>Psalm 122<br>WELCA 10:30a                               | 4<br>Matthew 24:36-44                                         | 5<br>Mark 13:24-37      | 6<br>Isaiah 64:1-9 |
| 7 <b>Second Sunday in Advent</b><br>Worship 10:30am                       | 8<br>Isaiah 11:1-10<br>Quilting 1pm   | 9<br>Matthew 3:1-12<br>Yoga 9:30am  | 10<br>Romans 15:4-13                                         | 11<br>2 Peter 3:8-15a                                         | 12<br>Malachi 3:1-4     | 13<br>Luke 3:1-6   |
| 14 <b>Third Sunday in Advent</b><br>Worship 10:30am                       | 15<br>James 5:7-10<br>Quilting 1pm    | 16<br>Psalm 146:5-10<br>Yoga 9:30am | 17<br>Isaiah 35:1-10                                         | 18<br>Matthew 11:2-11                                         | 19<br>Philippians 4:4-7 | 20<br>Luke 3:7-18  |
| 21 <b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b><br>Worship 10:30am<br>1st day of Winter | 22<br>Romans 1:1-7<br>Quilting 1pm    | 23<br>Psalm 96                      | 24<br>Titus 3:4-7<br>Candlelight 7pm<br><b>Christmas Eve</b> | 25<br>Hebrews 1:1-4<br>Worship 10:30a<br><b>Christmas Day</b> | 26<br>John 1:1-14       | 27<br>Psalm 98     |
| 28 <b>First Sunday in Christmas</b><br>Worship 10:30am                    | 29<br>Hebrews 2:10-18<br>Quilting 1pm | 30<br>Luke 2:41-52                  | 31<br>Psalm 148<br><b>New Year's Eve</b>                     |                                                               |                         |                    |



**PATHFINDER**



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH\***

Phone number: 906-632-7246

Email: [faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com)

\*a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith Lutheran Church  
1600 Park Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
49783