

INSIDE

- p. 1** Pastor Elise letter
- p. 2** Pastor Sharolyn Letter
- p. 3** Synod / Faith's News
- p. 4** Council Meeting minutes
- p. 5** "About Faith Lutheran",
Homebound members
- p. 6** February Birthdays and
Anniversaries
- p. 7** February Calendar

DATES AT A GLANCE

- * **Feb. 2, 2026**
Groundhog Day
- * **Feb. 14, 2026**
Valentine's Day
- * **Feb. 15 2026**
Annual Meeting
- * **Feb. 16, 2026**
Presidents' Day

Office hours for

Faith Lutheran Church:

Tues. & Thurs.

10AM—2PM

In case of Pastoral

Emergencies

Pastor Elise can be reached at

906-275-4410

Or by email at

pastorelisehynek@gmail.com

Letter From Pastor Elise

February 2026

Lent is my favorite liturgical season, which may seem odd because it's often described as a heavy season. It begins with us recognizing our mortality, and then, for 5 weeks no alleluia is uttered, things we enjoy are given up, and celebrations are ceased while we contemplate and repent. As a child, it was a scary season. It is the season when we hear about Jesus being tempted, and tension and anxiety is ramped up as those in power begin to plot and execute a plan to rid themselves of Jesus, culminating in Good Friday when God DIES.

It's no wonder why Lent comes with dread for many people.

But the heaviness can cover the beauty of the season as well. Lent is a season of the year many enter into with intention, picking up devotions or spiritual practices for the 40 days, attending midweek worship services, and examining what in our lives has taken a higher precedence in our lives. This is why it's my favorite season.

Many things can creep into our lives and distract us without us realizing it. Scrolling through social media, giving our attention and trust to people and networks who earn money from stoking our vitriol, staying up too late, or not listening to others, and whatever it is that distracts us changes, distorts, or quiets our relationship with God, ourselves, and each other.

Many give up pleasures and habits as a part of their examination of their lives. Others add practices of giving gratitude or habits. One friend strengthened her oral hygiene routine as a physical element to her Lenten spiritual practice, which was to be mindful about how she uses her voice and thoughts to uplift or tear down others. The similar thread between all these people is an intentional disruption to re-orientate themselves to God.

Lent is a season of disruption, reclaiming intention, and re-examining our relationship with God, which can seem like a dour activity but it is grounded in resurrection. Lent is a time of recognizing that our lives are short, that our lives have not gone and are not going the way the God intends, and is it a season when we are reminded that that is not the end of the story, that God is always making the world anew, and that we are not alone in our sorrow, strife, or struggles. God is there amid it all with us, and whatever turns us from God, whatever is holding us down will never have the last word.

May your Lent be a time of good, reflective disruption that brings you closer to God, who made and loves you.

Pastor Elise



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>

Candles

Candles are evocative. It is not just a way to shed light, but they stir in us a strong image, memory, or feeling, along with the sensorial pleasure of the light and aroma. The meaning attached to lighting candles varies across religions, denominations, congregations, and households.

This is the time of year that candle conversation can preoccupy Council or Altar Guild meetings. We swirl around blue or purple Advent candles. When do we light the pink Gaudete candle and do we even need it? When does the Christmas candle appear (and do we even need it?). And let's not forget the year-round wonder of decorative candles in many of our spaces, beyond the two that light the words of the Word...at the pulpit and on the Altar. Or the borrowed tradition of the red "eternal flame" denoting for our Catholic siblings the presence of the reserved sacrament...we will keep that spark burning even when we have no theological basis for it. There are the skinny beeswax tapers, carrying the light of our hearts, as we gather in Evening Prayer, as we remember loved ones, or sending out Advent hopes during the long nights.

The most important candle may be one we don't speak about often. We might assume everyone knows the ritual and symbolic load it bears in our religious language system. It is the Paschal Candle. It is the tall, (often) beeswax candle...inscribed with an Alpha and Omega and the year, standing at the ready near the baptismal font. "Paschal" means spring or Easter, and for liturgical Christians, it symbolizes the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

The way the Paschal Candle is imbibed with meaning is through story. The Paschal Candle is lighted for three occasions, all days full of story, with beginnings, endings, and life in between. The light of the Paschal Candle begins in the most storied night, the Easter Vigil, with the blessing of the new fire, to increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising. The Paschal Candle brings the light of the bonfire into the worship space and burns throughout our gatherings all through the Easter season. Just like the fire of Pentecost...the Paschal light

goes out in the streets to bear the Light of Christ in the wild. It is only lighted again at a Baptism, the beginning of a new Christ story, and at the Funeral, the completion of that story begun at baptism.

On All Saints Sunday (November 2, 2025) at Zion Lutheran Church in St. Ignace, Michigan the candles illumined the leader books. The ELW were carefully laid out in the narthex so folks might find ones they had given in honor or memory of loved ones. There were special doughnuts and coffee. And many more folks than expected. And tapered beeswax candles were ready to light for the ones we'd lost this year, and the ones we've carried in our hearts a long time. AND the Paschal Candle was lighted. One last time...proclaiming Christ's life, death, and resurrection...the Alpha and Omega...the beginning and the end. As Zion celebrated the completion of its mission as a congregation, stories were shared, smiles and tears were abundant, peace seeped in, and the candles burned. When the other candles were extinguished for the smoke to drift around the room and out the door... the Paschal candle was still burning (but poignantly short for all the baptisms and funerals) with the promise of Christ...yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending, belonging in all of time and all the ages, now and forever.

Shalom+

Pastor Sharolyn Swenson



Synod News & Faith's News

Bishop Finegan has returned from sabbatical!

Thank you

to everyone who helped with putting up and taking down the Christmas decorations in the church. We are so appreciative of everyone's willingness to help out.

Flower Arrangements

If you would like to have special flowers on the altar in honor of a birthday, memory, or anniversary, please contact the office

Safety & Security training for all churches in Chippewa County

LSSU Cisler Center

March 19, 2026

2pm—5pm

If any congregation members are interested in attending, please contact the office to us know as soon as possible. Limited spots are available.

Annual Meeting

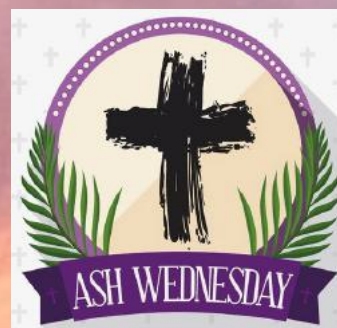
We invite you to attend Faith's annual meeting following the worship service on **Sunday, February 15th.**

Elections will be held at the meeting, and offices will be elected.

Please plan to join us for this important annual event for our church committee.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

We will be holding 5 weeks of Lenten Devotions using the Holden Evening Prayer service on Wednesday evenings starting **February 25th to March 25th** with a soup supper at 5PM followed by the devotion at 6PM.



Feb. 18th

7pm service

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting November 11, 2025

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

Members Present: Pastor Elise, Cathy Tibbett, Dennis Brindley, Sandy Lawson, Wayne Olsen
Kathy Flickinger, Ben Deatrick, Ken Randall, Cynthia Wright.

Member Absent: None

Devotion: November: Dennis Brindley January: Cynthia Wright

Future Council Meeting: January 20, 2026.

Minutes: Ben Deatrick made a motion to accept October 21, 2025, council minutes and the November 2, 2025 Annual Congregational Budget for 2026. Wayne Olsen seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

A: Two gas cards and two Walmart credit cards have been bought for pastors' discretionary fund.

B: Wayne has sent in the paperwork to the State of Michigan for Faith to be listed as non-profit.

C: Council Christmas Dinner will be on December 11, 2025 6:00PM at the Country Club.

D: The 2026 Annual Congregational Budget Meeting was held on November 2, 2025.

New Business:

A: Nominating Committee meeting in the near future.

B: 2026 Offering envelopes will be available December 1, 2025

C: The Annual Congregational meeting will be February 8, 2026.

D: QTC will rent 1 room on November 19, 2025 for \$200.00 for 1 day.

E: Pastor Elise is working on the shut in list and finding church members to consider being volunteer to visit and give communion to these people. Volunteers will be given instruction on how to conduct the visits and administer communion.

F: Pulpit supply schedule is set.

Pastors Report: Pastor Elise gave her Pastors report for October 14 to November 10, 2025.

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: On Pause.

Christian Education: On Pause.

Come to the Table: On Pause.

Endowment: \$1000.00 still available from the 2025 Endowment disbursement. Sandy Lawson will investigate the cost of an AED for the church.

Fellowship: A delicious Thanksgiving meal in honor of service members and volunteers of Faith was enjoyed by approximately 50 people. Approximately \$210.00 in donations was received during the meal and it was suggested that the money be donated to an organization that would be providing Thanksgiving dinner to those in need. Three organizations were presented to the congregation and they voted to choose the Salvation Army Food Bank in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Finance: Wayne Olsen presented the November financial report. Revenue is down

Membership: Three new members joined Faith in September 2025.

Memorial: No Report.

Outreach: No Report.

Property: Written report received on the repair and maintenance of church's flat roof. The roof should be replaced in two to three years.

Staff Support: No Report.

Stewardship: To date \$92,000.00 pledges for the 2026 Church budget have been received.

WELCA: At the December 3, 2025 meeting Christmas baskets were put together and distributed to shut in members of Faith. The next meeting will be January 7, 2026.

Worship and Music: Music selected for November 2025. Next meeting is November 11, 2025.

Cynthia Wright made a motion to accept the committee reports including the Pastors Report and Financial Report. Dennis Brindley seconded. Motion passed.

Dennis Brindley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ben Deatrick seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM 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

Church Office: Lakeisha Richards
Congregational Council: Cathy Tibbett, Dennis Brind-
ley, Kathy Flickinger, Sandy Lawson, Ken Randall, Ben
Deatrick, Cynthia Wright, and Wayne Olsen.



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.

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 pro-
cess, please call the church office and we would be
happy to help you.

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

Jack Armstrong - 528 Clubhouse Boulevard
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168



3rd Dennis Aho
 3rd Cynthia Wright
 4th Russell White
 6th Bonnie White
 6th Caroline Shovan
 8th Eunice Kinnear
 9th John McDonald
 11th Jamie Sanderson
 13th Steve Sanderson
 19th Marc Carr
 21st Beverly Tankersley
 26th Kiahna Sanderson

February 4th WELCA

Meets on the 1st Wednesday every month at **10:30am** for their bible study, meeting, and meal.

Financial Statement

Faith Lutheran

Statement of Financial Position For All Funds as of 12/31/2025

	12/31/2025	12/31/2024	\$ Change	% Change
Total Net Assets	-15,951.54	-13,588.05	-2,363.49	17.4%
Total Liabilities + Net Assets	115,254.39	119,309.90	-4,055.51	-3.4%



Ken & Joy Lake

64 years 2/3/62

Patricia & Wayne Olsen

57 years 2/15/69

Everyone is invited to join the Fellowship Committee for a heartwarming meal and an afternoon of friendly competition on **Sunday, February 22nd** following worship.

You will have your choice of chili with fixings or a delicious veggie-based soup for lunch, followed by Bingo!

The congregation is asked to bring a small dessert donation if you are able, along with a wrapped, usable or consumable item for bingo prizes.

Mark your calendar to attend; it should chase away any cabin fever blues!

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany Worship 10:30am	2 Micah 6:1-8 Quilting 1pm	3 Matthew 5:1-12 Yoga 9:30am	4 Mark 1:21-28 WELCA	5 Psalm 111	6 1 Corinthians 1:18-31	7 Mark 1:21-28
8 Fifth Sunday of Epiphany Worship 10:30am	9 Isaiah 40:21-31 Quilting 1pm	10 Psalm 112:1-9 Yoga 9:30am	11 Mark 1:29-39 QTC 9-11am	12 Matthew 5:13-20	13 Luke 5:1-11	14 Psalm 138 Valentine's Day
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting	16 Exodus 24:12-18 Quilting 1pm	17 Matthew 17:1-9 Yoga 9:30am Council Meeting	18 Joel 2:1-2,12-17 Ash Wednesday 7pm	19 Mark 9:2-9	20 Exodus 34: 29-35	21 Psalm 99
22 First Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30am Bingo	23 Romans 5:12-19 Quilting 1pm	24 Genesis 9:8-17 Yoga 9:30am	25 Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Lent Devotions 6pm	26 Psalm 25:1-10	27 Romans 10:8b-13	28 Luke 4:1-13

PATHFINDER



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH*

Phone: 906 - 632 - 7246

Email: faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com

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

*** A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF AMERICA**

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
1600 PARK STREET
SAULT STE. MARIE, MI 49783