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Dates at a Glance

♦ April 2, 2026

Maundy Thursday

♦ April 3, 2026

Good Friday

♦ April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

♦ April 6, 2026

Easter Monday

Office hours for
Faith Lutheran Church:
Tues. & Thurs.

10AM—2PM

Incase of Pastoral
Emergencies Pastor Elise
can be reached at
906-275-4410
Or by email at
pastorelisehynek@gmail.com

April 2026 An Easter Reflection from Pr. Elise

The resurrection story in the Gospel of Mark is a peculiar story. Like Matthew, Luke, and John, it begins after the Sabbath and the women going to a tomb that they will discover is empty. While at the tomb, they are told "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." The gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John then go detail how the news of Jesus's resurrection spread and the various encounters people who have with Jesus over the next 50 days. The Gospel of Mark ends in the very next verse "So [the women] went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

This ending is so uncomfortable that there's not one, but two, addendums that detail events that happened after the women encounter the empty tomb, such as the women going and telling the others what they saw and Jesus appearing to his followers.

I think these addendums do a disservice to the original ending and its intent. You reading this reflection is proof that the gospel didn't end with the women staying silent because they were afraid. The existence of you and I and our faith shows us that, while Mark's written story ends at the empty tomb, the full story extends far beyond the last period of Mark's last sentence. Mark ending the gospel in a cliffhanger invites us further into the story and into pondering the emotion, mindset, and actions of the first witnesses and the legacy of the eventual Church. We know the immediate emotions and response of the first witnesses, but it is clear they didn't stay there. What about the resurrection of Jesus, what about this new reality of conquered death and new life, caused them to move beyond their uncertainty. In Mark's cliffhanger, we are shown that there is something life changing and world moving about Jesus and his death and resurrection, that grave could not conquer and fear could not silence.

The cliffhanger also pulls the story of Christ's resurrection into our own story. It is common for people to not know what comes next. They are new to faith and unsure of next steps. They are curious about faith, but the idea of stepping into a church feels too risky. They have been faithful followers of Jesus but as their lives have changed and grown and shifted, they realize that God is calling them to something new or to recommit to what they know around them. The cliffhanger at the end of Mark bids us to consider the times when we, like the women, have been afraid and unsure of what following Jesus means, and it serves to reassure us that while we may be seized by terror and amazement at what God has done and is doing, the story never ends at our fear but always moves into new life in Christ.



Worship
SCHEDULE

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 Friends in Christ,

As you may know, I spent some time travelling during my sabbatical. My husband and I began a month-long trip beginning in Vietnam, then Cambodia, and finally Thailand to visit our former foreign exchange student. We had never been to that side of the planet before and found the food, the people, the scenery, and so much more to be unique, beautiful, and a completely new experience. We visited the Revolution Museum in Hanoi, North Vietnam, the Hoa La prison (known in the U.S. as the “Hanoi Hilton”), and learned the Vietnamese perspective on “The American War.” As you might imagine, the experience and conclusions about that war were from a different perspective, one that I had not been exposed to previously.

From Vietnam, we traveled to Cambodia. During our time there, tensions flared over disputed territory with Thailand. We heard from the Cambodians how this was Thailand’s fault. After crossing the border into Thailand, we heard from the Thai’s how the trouble was Cambodia’s fault. As peace talks continue, I wonder if anyone has the capacity to look at the situation with an unbiased lens. Narrative matters, meaning that the lens through which we interpret things shapes our opinions and informs our actions. Also, facts can be told in such a way as to influence the hearer’s opinion. It matters how the story is told and how the facts are relayed in order to produce a desired result, and how, at its worst, facts are ignored or denied if they challenge or do not support the narrative or lies are told in order to create an illusion of truth that supports the narrative. How are we to know what to believe is true in the face of competing narratives?

In Vietnam, I could not dismiss their narrative as invalid because first and foremost, it was their experience. And then, there were the facts that were still observable...of Agent Orange still in the soil and ongoing birth defects even to the second and third generation, of the pain and destruction caused by the conflict, of the exploitation of labor and resources by outside actors, of the deep resolve of the Vietnamese people for self-rule being underestimated by both the French and the U.S. Fifty years later, any scholar of this conflict largely agrees on what were the missed opportunities for peace, the hubris that blinded, and the missteps that harmed, on both sides. What we see in

hindsight can be heart breaking from any perspective. And after 50 years, that there is healing and a warm joyful welcome for former enemies is a gift.

Whatever your narrative, whatever conclusions you are drawing about current events, whatever your predisposition that shapes what you hear and how you hear it, I ask you to pray; for safety, for clarity, for wisdom, for courage, and for what is lifegiving for all concerned.

In this Lenten Season we remember our baptismal promises and the threefold renouncements that precede the Apostles Creed in our baptismal liturgy.

- “Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?”
- Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?”

As people of faith, my hope would be that our narrative would be guided by the light that Christ shines and by the cross that bears witness. Jesus calls us to lift up the lowly and have compassion for the neighbor. Whatever your narrative, your baptismal promise is to work for justice and renounce the forces that defy God. Together, we work to make a positive difference in the world and my hope is that at the very least, within the community of faith and through it, we always extend warm and joyful welcome.

**Yours In Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan**



Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President David Bean at 10:40AM.

Members Present: Pastor Elise Hynek, David Bean, Kathleen Flickinger, Sandra Lawson, Wayne Olsen, Ann Li Bean, Karla Webb, Kenneth Randall via phone.

Member Absent: Dennis Brindley excused.

Devotion: February: Ann Li Bean March 17 Kathleen Flickinger

Future Council Meeting: March 17, 2026.

Minutes: Kathleen made a motion to accept the January 20, 2026 council minutes with one correction. Wayne seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

A: The AED has a battery with a green light that indicates it is working. During scheduled council meetings the council will check if the green light is visible and log the date on the attached tag. On unscheduled meetings the council president will check the battery.

New Business:

A: The Republican Party requested the use of the Fellowship Hall for a Fund Raiser and introduction of Party candidates. Wayne asked for a discussion on this request. After the discussion Wayne made a motion that the Fellowship Hall will not be rented to any political party unless all other party candidates are involved. Ann seconded. Motion passed.

B: Equipping Council Members for Ministry workshops are being offered online for two days days, March 14th 9:30AM-11:00AM and March 19th 7:00PM-8:00PM.

C: Kathleen presented two flyers on ways to raise funds for the church. No decision was made.

D: Wayne made a motion to transfer the Youth Group balance of \$2463.82 from the General Fund to the Endowment Fund. The money will be available for any youth activity if needed.

Ann seconded. Motion passed.

E: Council members were assigned to serve on various church committees.

Pastors Report: Pastor Elise gave her Pastors report for November 11- January 19. Pastor Elise will not be available from April 7-16, 2026 for continuing education.

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: On Pause.

Christian Education: Sunday School on pause. Vacation Bible School 2026 planning will begin soon.

Come to the Table: On Pause.

Endowment: Treasurer Wayne proposed that the 2026 Endowment distribution of approximately \$4300.00 be moved to Faiths General Fund for future use.

Sandra made a motion to transfer the funds. Kathleen seconded. Motion passed.

Fellowship: The Chili and Bingo event was successful and enjoyed by all attending. A date is needed to make plans for the brunch following Easter Sunday Service.

Finance: Wayne gave the financial report for January 2026. All bills are paid up to date.

Wayne suggested that any money left over and not needed for operations go into the Investments accounts.

Membership: Faith has 70 active members and 10 housebound members.

Memorial: No Report.

Outreach: No Report.

Property: Continuing to do repairs for the unisex and men's bathrooms. Paper towel holders should be replaced in both bathrooms. The men's bathroom has a new LED light bulb.

Staff Support: No Report.

Stewardship: No Report.

WELCA: As there wasn't a monthly WELCA meeting on February 4th, they prepared and set up the funeral luncheon for Bill Markstrom on February 5th.

Worship and Music: Music selected for March 2026. Holy Week planning is underway. Soup supper at 5:00PM and Holden Service at 6:00PM will continue until March 25, 2026.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:15PM 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: Dave Bean, Kathy Flickinger, Dennis Brindley, Sandy Lawson, Ken Randall, Wayne Olsen, Ann Bean, and Karla Webb.



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 process, 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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2nd Karla Webb
8th Ruth Ann Brindley
18th Victor Gordon
20th Lakeisha Richards
21st Margaret Laursen
24th Ann Bean
28th Jackie Sanderson
30th David Deatrick



Katriina Manner & Brian Smith

04/04/2014 12 years

Lori & Corey Strickland

04/24/2004 22 years

Karla & Norman Webb

04/26/2007 19 years

Ways to Worship during Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 29th at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday – April 2nd at 1pm

Good Friday – April 3rd at 7pm

Easter Sunday – April 5th at 10:30am

Quarters for Hunger

During the Season of Lent, we put out boxes to be taken home, and kept for the 40 days of Lent. We ask that you collect quarters, or any kind of change, that will go towards the ELCA's World Hunger Campaign.

Please return your filled boxes by April 19th.

WELCA—April 1st

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

Synod News & Faith's News

Synod Assembly



Register Now!

Late registration starts April 6!

Late fee increase is \$25.

Registration closes permanently on April 30.

Out Of Office

Pastor Elise will be away from April 6th to April 16th. In case emergency pastoral care is needed during this time, **Pastor Melinda VanderSys** is available and can be reached at **906-291-0897**

The Ultimate Date Night Tour with authors and speakers Jay & Laura Laffoon has been rescheduled.

They will be coming to Sault Ste. Marie on **Saturday, April 25th at St. Joseph Parrish!**
1101 Minneapolis Street

Couples from all churches in the area are invited to attend. There will also be a dinner served beforehand, around 5:30pm, right after Mass. **Dinner cost is \$20 per person.** And the program will begin at 6:30pm.

You can RSVP to the event by calling St. Joseph's office at 906-632-9625

Financial Statement

	Feb-26	Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget	Last Year Month of February 2025	Feb-26 Year-to-Date Actual	Feb-26 Year-to-Date Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget	Last Year February 2025 Year -to-Date
General Fund Revenue	\$ 12,136.04	\$ 15,987.00	\$ (3,850.96)	\$ 21,503.31	\$ 25,602.04	\$ 26,780.00	\$ (1,177.96)	\$ 32,338.31
Expenses	\$ 7,604.13	\$ 8,609.00	\$ (1,004.87)	\$ 13,420.63	\$ 15,617.28	\$ 16,079.00	\$ (461.72)	\$ 26,490.71
Operating Revenue								
Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 4,531.91	\$ 7,378.00	\$ (2,846.09)	\$ 8,082.68	\$ 9,984.76	\$ 10,701.00	\$ (716.24)	\$ 5,847.60
Total Other Non Operating Revenue	\$ 2,213.90	\$ -	\$ 2,213.90	\$ 1,283.66	\$ 4,947.06	\$ -	\$ 4,947.06	\$ (5,771.32)
Other Non Operating Expenditures		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	
Balance with Non operating	\$ 6,745.81	\$ 7,378.00	\$ (632.19)	\$ 9,366.34	\$ 14,931.82	\$ 10,701.00	\$ 4,230.82	\$ 76.28

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 John 13:21-32 WELCA 10:30am	2 Maundy Thursday Service at 1pm Exodus 12:1-14	3 Good Friday Service at 7pm Hebrews 10:26-25	4 Philippians 2:5-11
5 Easter Sunday Worship 10:30am	6 Easter Monday Acts 10:34-43 Quilting 1pm	7 Jeremiah 31:1-6 Yoga 9:30am	8 Mark 16:1-8	9 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26	10 John 20:1-18	11 Luke 24:1-12
12 <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10:30am Girl Scouts 2pm	13 Psalm 16 Quilting 1pm	14 Daniel 12:1-3 Yoga 9:30am	15 Acts 4:32-35	16 1 Peter 1:3-9	17 Revelation 1:4-8	18 John 20:19-31
19 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10:30am	20 Acts 3:12-19 Quilting 1pm	21 Psalm 4 Yoga 9:30am Council Meeting	22 Luke 24:13-35	23 Acts 9:1-20	24 John 21:1-19	25 Psalm 30
26 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10:30am Girl Scouts 2pm	27 John 10:11-18 Quilting 1pm	28 Acts 9:36-43 Yoga 9:30am	29 Psalm 23	30 Revelation 7:9-17		



PATHFINDER



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