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Dates at a Glance

- ♦ **May 10, 2026**
Mother's Day
- ♦ **May 14, 2026**
Ascension of Our Lord
- ♦ **May 24, 2026**
Day of Pentecost
- ♦ **May 25, 2026**
Memorial Day
- ♦ **May 31, 2026**
Holy Trinity

Office hours for
Faith Lutheran Church:
Tues. & Thurs.
10AM—2PM
Incase of Pastoral
Emergencies Pastor Elise
can be reached at
(906) 475-4410
Or by email at
pastorelisehynek@gmail.com

Letter from Pastor Elise

May 2026

In the summer of 2027, the ELCA is renting out the Viking stadium in Minneapolis in order to welcome 30,000 Lutheran youth from around the country and the world to spend a week together, worshipping, learning, and serving. June 28-July 2, 2027 will be the latest in the National Youth Gathering that happens every three years.

This Gathering's theme is Imagine more, based on Ephesians 3:20.

"To God – whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine."

This theme is exactly what it sounds like, an invitation to imagine how God is working in our lives and the world, and how God's love and forgiveness transforms a world when we allow our faith to imagine a world with more love, welcome, grace, joy, and courage.

In order to help youth explore this theme, Imagine More, they will spend three days learning, serving, and connecting. One day will be spent in a convention center, learning all about ministries that the church does, building empathy with hands on activities, listening to stories, and imagining how they can put their faith into action. The second day will be spent putting that imagination to action, as they participate in service activities, from restoring places in Minneapolis to creating public art to bring awareness to social issues. Finally, the third day will be spent making connections with local youth by spending a day with their home synod. Each day is capped off by all 30,000 people gathering together in the Viking's stadium for worship and a talk by a presenter about how they live out their faith in their lives.

It's hard to imagine such an event, especially 30,000 Lutherans in a single stadium, and, while the Gathering shares the activities on social media and livestreams portions of the evening worship, the best way is to experience it in person. The Three Lakes conference will hopefully have a group attending this year, but did you know you could attend as well, as a volunteer serving our youth in their faith formation while forming your own faith?

Applications open next month, June 17, 2026, and will remain open until August 19, 2026. You can find more information about volunteering at this website <https://www.elca.org/gathering-2027/attend-volunteers>

If volunteering isn't something you're able to do, please pray for the Gathering staff, the adult leaders, volunteers, and the youth, who will be preparing and attending this next year.



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)

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain.
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain. Laid
in the earth, like grain that sleeps unseen. Love is
come again like wheat arising green.*

**Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes
Synod,**

At the end of this month, I look forward to preparing soil, turning and mulching it, and then creating orderly rows in which to plant bean seeds, in addition to sugar snaps, carrots, tomatoes, and more.

I continue to be astounded how such a small seed can break open and lose itself in the growth of a small tendril shoot that grows into a vine that grows leaves, eventually budding with flowers, and bearing the fruit of vegetables. It is amazing. I prepare the soil, plant the seed, water it, and one day, lo and behold, green shoots reach out of the soil. God gives the growth.

Also this month of May, we gather in assembly under the theme, “God gives the growth.” In the previous two years, we have focused on “I planted,” and “Apollos Watered.” These first two themes invite our action, our participation. It is the task of the congregation and the person of faith to plant and water seeds of faith. And we are all blessed to recognize and give thanks for the seeds of faith that have been planted and watered by previous generations, the fruit of which we now enjoy.

The challenge of “God gives the growth” to anyone who is a doer, and I think most congregations have a core team of doers, is that God giving the growth is completely outside our action, our direction, our influence. We can totally participate in the first two actions. We can plant seeds of faith – offer welcome, prayers at meals and bedtime, devotions at home, baptism education, send kids to camp, engage people in God conversations.... We can nurture those seeds...Lifelong Faith Formation, Bible study, gathering for worship, being Christ in the community, trips for youth and adults, listening to God, community, and each other. But what do we do about growth?

As a gardener, I can only wait and watch, hope and pray. Keep watering? Weeding? But I cannot reach into the earth, break open the seed with a dirty fingernail, and pull out the tender shoot of new growth. Growth is God’s job, the miracle of creation packed into a little seed.

I would LOVE for us to have power over growth. Any person who loves their church would be happy to will into existence the growth of their be-

loved congregation.

But that is not in our power. I like to think that if we are faithful in the first two actions, then we will be blessed with growth. But the world has changed, and church has changed, some of our communities have changed, and congregations devoted to planting and nourishing may well find that their most faithful next step is to plant seeds for future generations, seeds for the next generation to nourish, and the generation after that to enjoy the growth.

The arc of the life of the Church began before us, will extend after us, and encompasses the global Church community, of which your community of faith is a part. Our role is to be faithful in the time we are given. In that time, some congregations are awakening to the reality that the mission for which God created their congregation has been accomplished. Their most faithful next step is to apply their assets to the work of Christ in ministries not their own, ministries that will plant and nourish seeds that will bear fruit for future generations that may or may not be in their community.

As we focus on “God gives the growth,” hear both a word of promise and of grace. If your congregation is experiencing growth (and churches grow in a variety of ways)...in numbers, in discipleship, in deepening understanding of our relationship to God and each other, in generosity, in awareness of community and energy for ministry efforts... then give thanks to God for it, for it is God’s doing through the work of the Holy Spirit of Christ and to God be the glory.

And hold in prayer those congregations doing the hard work and faithful stewardship of ending well. Together, we celebrate their years of ministry. Together, we remember all that God has accomplished through them. And together we embrace them in their grief with the comfort and hope of new life, new growth, and the new beginnings that will come from their ending.

Our God is the God of new life, who brings Easter from Good Friday, green shoots from buried grain...death does not have the final word. New life will come in God’s time and in surprising, unexpected ways.



**Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan**

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date March 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President David Bean at 2:32PM.

Members Present: Pastor Elise Hynek, David Bean, Kathleen Flickinger, Wayne Olsen, Ann Li Bean, Karla Webb, Ben Deatruck

Member Absent: Sandra Lawson, excused

Devotion: March: May: Sandra Lawson

Future Council Meeting: April 21, 2026.

Minutes: Ben made a motion to accept the February 17, 2026 council minutes with one correction. Karla seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

A: Ken Randall has resigned from the church council. President Bean contacted Ben Deatruck to see if he was interested in filling the vacant position, and Ben agreed. President Bean sent an email to Pastor Elise and all council members to notify them that Ben agreed to fill the vacant position. All council members voted unanimously to approve Ben to fill the position. Ken, Thank You for your years of service on the Church Council.

B: A discussion on the ordering of Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias was held, no decision was made.

C: Lay members will be needed to visit shut-in members of Faith. Training will be provided by Pastor Elise.

D: Pastor Elise will be away from April 6-16th, 2026, while she is away Pastoral Care will be listed in the Pathfinder and weekly bulletins

E: A request by Ese Osumili to rent the Fellowship Hall on May 1, 2026 from 12 noon to 6:00PM. Ann made a motion to approve the request. Wayne seconded. Motion passed.

F: The Constitution committee will meet in June to update Faiths current constitution, with the updates from the 2025 ELCA Church Wide Assembly.

Pastors Report: Pastor Elise gave her Pastors report for February 18-March 16 2026. Maundy Thursday Service will be conducted by Pastor Elise at 1PM. Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Sharolyn Swenson will preside at Easter Service April 5, 2026. Pastor Elise will be gone April 6-16, 2026. Pastor Elise days off are Thursday – Friday.

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: On Pause

Christian Education: Vacation Bible School will be June 22 -26 2026 at the First Presbyterian Church. Next meeting is April 23, 2026.

Come to the Table: On Pause

Endowment: The 2026 Endowment distribution of approximately \$4417.00 moved to General Fund for future use. The Youth Money of \$2463.82 was transferred from the General Fund to the Endowment Fund and will be available if needed.

Fellowship: A date to finalize the Annual Easter Brunch following Easter Service will be determined. The menu will be similar to past meals.

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

Membership: Faith membership includes 70 active members and 10 housebound members.

Memorial: No Report.

Outreach: No Report.

Property: New paper towel holders have been installed in both the men's and unisex bathrooms.

Staff Support: Staff evaluations will take place in March.

Stewardship: Stewardship Committee planning will start this summer.

WELCA: The monthly meeting and Bible Study were held on March 4, 2026. Visits to church shut-ins are being discussed.

Worship and Music: Plans were held on February 26, 2026. Next meeting will be April 28, 2026. Music selected through Easter. Holy Week planning is underway. Pastor Mike Herman Palm Sunday Service, Pastor Elise Hynek Maundy Thursday Service at 1PM, Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7PM, Easter Sunday Service Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Sharolyn Swenson.

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:10PM with a closing prayer by Pastor Elise.

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, Ben Deatrack, Wayne Olsen, Karla Webb, and Ann Bean.

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.



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



2nd Dennis Brindley
5th Josh Sanner
6th Chelsea Carr
8th Martha Cowan
26th Jeanie Richards
29th Deb Carr
30th Don Hakala



Kathy & Craig Flickinger

05/12/1990 - 36 years

Jack & Louise Armstrong

05/24/1975 - 51 years

Dave & Ann Bean

05/27/1978 - 48 years

If you would like to have special flowers on the altar in honor of a birthday, memory, or anniversary, please contact
Lily Randall at (734)-546-7037
 to make arrangements.

Faith Lutheran Community Garden

Any congregation members who are interested in participating in the community garden and being on the garden council can find more information and a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

All are welcome and encouraged to join! If there are any other questions, you can **contact Jena Miles (Shoe) at 715-617-1589**

May 6th **WELCA**

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

Synod & Faith's News

The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to celebrate all Mothers on **Sunday, May 17th** following the worship service. Please join us for some tasty treats as we recognize and remember those special people in our lives.

Vacation Bible School

This year VBS will be held **June 22—26** at **First United Presbyterian Church**

Synod Assembly

The 2026 Synod Assembly will be held **May 16th** at **St. James in Rudyard** and will be hybrid.

We are looking for volunteers to help with hospitality, tech, and check-in. We ask volunteers are not delegates for Faith so that voting members can be present for legal proceedings. **If interested, please contact Pastor Elise at 906-275-4410**

MAY 5TH IS NATIONAL AWARENESS DAY OF MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND RELATIVES

All are encouraged to wear **red** in recognition of MMIWR as we pray for Native communities and families who have been directly impacted by the loss or disappearance of loved ones. While also acknowledging the role of the church in the boarding school movement and other aspects of colonization that have contributed to the generational trauma of our indigenous neighbors.

Financial Statement

	Mar-26	Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget	Last Year Month of March 2025	Mar-26 Year-to-Date Actual	Mar-26 Year-to-Date Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget	Last Year March 2025 Year-to-Date
General Fund Revenue	\$ 13,118.00	\$ 9,796.00	\$ 3,322.00	\$ 8,404.65	\$ 38,720.04	\$ 36,576.00	\$ 2,144.04	\$ 40,742.96
Expenses	\$ 8,668.59	\$ 7,651.00	\$ 1,017.59	\$ 12,260.60	\$ 24,285.87	\$ 23,730.00	\$ 555.87	\$ 38,751.31
Operating Revenue								
Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 4,449.41	\$ 2,145.00	\$ 2,304.41	\$ (3,855.95)	\$ 14,434.17	\$ 12,846.00	\$ 1,588.17	\$ 1,991.65
Total Other Non Operating Revenue	\$ (7,320.83)	\$ -	\$ (7,320.83)	\$ (1,855.21)	\$ (2,373.77)	\$ -	\$ (2,373.77)	\$ (7,626.53)
Other Non Operating Expenditures		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	
Balance with Non operating	\$ (2,871.42)	\$ 2,145.00	\$ (5,016.42)	\$ (5,711.16)	\$ 12,060.40	\$ 12,846.00	\$ (785.60)	\$ (5,634.88)

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Acts 4:5-12	2 1 Peter 2:19-25
3 Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30am Girl Scouts 2pm	4 John 14:1-14 Quilting 1pm	5 Acts 7:55-60 Yoga 9:30am	6 1 Peter 2:2-10 WELCA 10:30am	7 Psalm 148	8 Revelation 21:1-6	9 1 John 4:7-21
10 Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30am <i>Mother's Day</i>	11 Psalm 98 Quilting 1pm	12 John 5:1-9 Yoga 9:30am	13 Acts 10:44-48	14 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i> Acts 1:1-11	15 John 15:9-17	16 1 Peter 3:13-22 <i>Synod Assembly St. James—Rudyard, MI</i>
17 Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30am	18 Acts 16:16-34 Quilting 1pm	19 Psalm 1 Yoga 9:30am <i>Council meeting</i>	20 John 17:6-19	21 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	22 Psalm 97	23 John 17:1-11
24 Day of Pentecost Worship 10:30am	25 Numbers 11:24-30 Quilting 1pm <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 Acts 2:1-21 Yoga 9:30am	27 Romans 8:14-17	28 Ezekiel 37:1-14	29 Genesis 11:1-9	30 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13
31 First Sunday of Pentecost Holy Trinity 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**

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