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DATES AT A GLANCE

- ♦ **July 1, 2026**
Canada Day
- ♦ **July 4, 2026**
Independence Day
- ♦ **July 12, 2026**
Worship in the Park

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

Bishop Finegan's Letter July — August 2026

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Our theme of "God gives the growth" becomes visible in all its glory in these lovely summer days of greenness, blooming flowers, and growing gardens.

At our Synod Assembly of 2026, we met under that theme in a hybrid format, meeting in person by conference connected to each other through zoom, common worship, and shared reports. Every year we have done this, the technology and our ability to use it have improved. This year's assembly was largely glitch free, except for some connectivity and bandwidth issues at some of our sites.

Huge thanks to the many people needed to pull off what amounts to eight mini-assemblies. When we are in one place, the lion's share of the details is managed by the synod staff with help from the venue. With eight host sites, we needed volunteers for all of it. Recruiting volunteers and communicating with everyone regarding their roles and expectations remains the greatest challenge.

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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>

The evaluations reflected the following responses:

1. Worship was appreciated. It worked well to move into Holy Communion at each host site during the Sharing of the Peace.
2. People enjoyed the videos: meeting the Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, learning more about LSS, the ELCA, the Youth Gathering, and more.
3. While the business portion is less than riveting by its very nature, we accomplished what was needed.
4. People both lamented not being in person with everyone and were appreciative of the shorter drive and one day schedule.
5. Problems with freezing, glitching, and hearing still happened in at least two of our conferences due to the lack of quality wifi/internet available in their context. This presents the challenge of equal access for the whole synod.
6. Some evaluations reflected frustration in what they experienced as a lack of instruction. Given that ample instruction was provided through copious emails, it may be that the voting member's personal email was not provided by the registrant but perhaps used the church's email instead. Always provide your personal email.
7. Things to know for the future:
 - A. The Pre-Assembly Report (PAR) is always posted on the Synod website under the "Synod Assembly" tab 30 days prior to assembly.
 - B. Sign up for E Notes.
 - C. If a voting member wishes to have a hard copy of the PAR, it is up to them to print it. Another option would be to download it to a laptop or tablet ahead of time.

Next year, Synod Assembly will be earlier. We will meet at Messiah Lutheran for opening worship on Thursday April 22, 2027, and then gather at Northern Michigan University in Marquette Friday and Saturday April 23 and 24.

I encourage congregations to do the following:

1. Elect/identify your voting members at or by your Annual Meeting.
2. If the same voting members have been the ones to attend every year, let someone else have a turn. The best way for us to experience who we are as church together is to take a turn attending Synod Assembly.
3. After Synod Assembly, share your experience with the congregation during announcements the following Sunday and write a brief article for your congregation newsletter.
4. Congregations should plan to cover the registration fee and expense of their voting members in their 2027 budget.
5. Register on time.

The things that people most appreciate about Synod Assembly happen when we meet in person. The worship, the fellowship, the energy, the learning, and so much more. I look forward to being with you and us together as a synod April 22 – 24, 2027. Plans are already in the works!

**In Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan**

Synod & Faith's News

There will be a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Sunday, July 26** to vote on accepting Kaysner Roofing's bid to replace all flat roofs.

Worship in the park!

Sunday, July 12th will be an Ecumenical Worship at **Sherman Park** starting at **10:30am**.

Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair to sit in.

PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN THE NARTHEX so we have an idea of how many will attend.



Financial Statement

Faith Lutheran
Year To Date
Revenue and Expenses
as of May 31, 2026

	2026 Actual	2026 Budget	Variance
Total Revenue	\$ 58,894.35	\$ 60,956.00	\$ (2,061.65)
Expenses			
Office Staff & Custodial	\$ 5,878.78	\$ 5,008.00	\$ 870.78
Benefits	\$ 612.57	\$ 970.00	\$ (357.43)
Total	\$ 6,491.35	\$ 5,978.00	\$ 513.35
Building & Grounds	\$ 4,822.10	\$ 4,410.00	\$ 412.10
Utilities	\$ 7,728.65	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 1,478.65
Insurance Building & Liability	\$ 1,991.51	\$ 2,294.00	\$ (302.49)
Total	\$ 14,542.26	\$ 12,954.00	\$ 1,588.26
Education Adult	\$ 120.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (280.00)
Youth.	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ (450.00)
Office Expense	\$ 1,385.82	\$ 3,090.00	\$ (1,704.18)
Other Expenses	\$ 614.76	\$ 2,254.00	\$ (1,639.24)
Benevolence Fund	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 10.00
Donations	\$ 1,876.40	\$ 707.00	\$ 1,169.40
Pulpit Supply & Interim Pastor	\$ 7,216.38	\$ 7,450.00	\$ (233.62)
Organ supply & Worship Expenses	\$ 3,224.23	\$ 3,287.00	\$ (62.77)
Total	\$ 16,947.59	\$ 20,138.00	\$ (3,190.41)
Total Expenses	\$ 37,981.20	\$ 39,070.00	\$ (1,088.80)

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting May 12, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President David Bean at 1:59PM.

Members Present: Pastor Elise Hynek, David Bean, Kathleen Flickinger, Dennis Brinley, Karla Webb, Ann Li Bean via phone, Ben Deatruck via phone.

Member Absent: Sandra Lawson, Wayne Olsen both excused.

Visitor: None

Devotion: Dave June: Sandra Lawson

Future Council Meeting: June 16, 2026.

Minutes: Dennis made a motion to accept April 21, 2026 council minutes. Kathy seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

A: Roof Task Group report was presented by Dave. Dave presented a flyer he made to handout to the congregation members detailing what is needed and how to fund the project over a 3-year period. He is investigating the best plan for borrowing money as this project needs to start soon. The distribution date is still being decided. Safety issues for checking out the roof condition were also discussed.

B: Community Garden update. David reviewed Shoe's timeline for building the community Garden. Information sheets are available on the table in the Narthex. If anyone would like to make a momentary donation, put Community Garden on the memo line on your checks and place in the plate offering. Synod Grant Application for grant money requires collaboration within the community to receive funds. Reaching out to First Presbyterian and United Methodist Church in Sault Ste. Marie, MI and St. James Lutheran Church (Rudyard) as well as Thrivent members. Also discussed was distributing flyers door-to-door in the neighborhood surrounding Faith.

New Business:

A: Task Force meeting for the flat roof of the church met on May 14 at 10:00AM

B: Use of Building Request Task Force group will meet on June 9 at 10:00AM

C: Constitution Task group will meet on June 9 at 1:00PM.

D: 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 28th– July 2nd 2027. Applications open June 17, 2026. Students entering 9th grade through finishing 12th grade can attend. The adult ratio is 1:6-7. Cost for the gathering is approximately \$1200.00. Pastor Elise shared fundraising ideas.

E: Altar Guild will be ordering Lillies for Easter and Poinsettias for Christmas.

Pastors Report: Pastor Elise gave her Pastors report for May 2026. Pastor Elise will be on vacation May 18-30, June 17-27, August 5-13 and Camp pastor at Fortune Lake on July 13-19. Synod Assembly at St. James May 16.

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: On Pause.

Christian Education: No Report.

Come to the Table: On Pause

Endowment: No Report.

Fellowship: All women received a carnation will be on May 10th. The event celebrating and remembering all mothers will be on May 17th. An elegant continental brunch is planned. All gentlemen will receive a sweet treat on June 21st. The fellowship celebration will be on June 28th. A Sloppy Joe meal is planned. Finance: The April 2026 financial report was presented by Dave. Monthly giving is down by \$3800.00, however the year-to-date budget is over by approximately \$1500.00. Membership: Dave will reach out to new church attendees. Pastor Elise is comprising a class regarding introduction to the ELCA.

Memorial: No Report

Outreach: The Ecumenical picnic date to be decided. There is interest in having the same Band as last year and invite Denise Gilbert from the Salvation Army to do the sermon.

Property: No Report

Staff Support: No Report

Stewardship: August meeting is planned. Date to be decided.

WELCA: The monthly meeting and Bible Study were held on May 6, 2026. WELCA paid for ½ of the cost of the license renewal for the kitchen. Karla is gathering a list of the shut-ins and who has been visiting them.

Worship and Music: Meeting on May 5th. Hymns selected through June 14th. Discussion was held regarding the sound system and doing live stream for the service. Dave has been using a tripod and his phone which works. Discussion regarding changing permission on file to access system and also obtaining a second router. Next meeting June 9, 2026 at 1PM.

Dennis made a motion to accept the committee reports including the Pastors Report and Financial Report. Karla seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:51PM, with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Flickinger, Vice President

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 Deatrick, 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 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 of Gaylord 508 Random Lane
Gaylord, MI 49735

Linda Doran - 590 Three 1/2 Mile Rd. SSM, MI 49783 (906) 630-1942

Mary Oja - McKinley Manor, 110-E 2023 W 4th Ave, SSM, MI 49783 (906) 632-7496

Margaret Laursen - McKinley Manor, 119-E 2023 W 4th Ave SSM, MI 49783



2nd Diane McDonald

18th Laura Marken

20th Bert Kinnear III

22nd Daniel Kinnear

23rd William (Liam) Karr

23rd Brian Smith

29th Marianne Kinnear

30th Corey Strickland



6th Paul Raappana

8th Bobbie Levine

10th Gloria McKinney

25th Tristan Karr

27th Wayne Olsen



Duane & Millie Barclay

7/7/77 – 49 years

Pat & Don Hakala

7/10/98 – 28 years

Diane & John McDonald

7/25/70 – 56 years

The choir is on summer break. We look forward to hearing from them again when they resume in the Fall.



Keith & Lynne Nortch

8/11/01 – 25 years

John & Cynthia Suppa

8/12/72 – 54 years

Bobbie & Barry Levine

8/27/67 – 59 years

Marianne & Ken Kinnear

8/31/91 – 35 years



Thank you to all those who volunteered to help with VBS, also to those who helped with the Synod Assembly in May!



Pastor Rita is moved into her new home in Ontario! We wish her all the best in this new chapter of her ministry.

Recent Photos!



The community garden is off to a great start! Anyone in the community is welcome to participate. We can't wait to see the fruits (and veggies) of our labor!

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Romans 6:12-23 VBS @ Presbyterian 9am-noon	2 Genesis 22:1-14 VBS @ Presbyterian 9am-noon	3 Matthew 10:40-42	4 Psalm 89:1-4,15-18 <i>Independence Day</i>
5 6th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	6 Zechariah 9:9-12 Quilting 1pm	7 Romans 7:15-25a Yoga 9:30am	8 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	9 Psalm 145:8-14	10 Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67	11 Psalm 45:10-17
12 <i>Worship in the Park!</i> 10:30am Sherman Park	13 Isaiah 55:10-13 Quilting 1pm	14 Psalm 65:9-13 Yoga 9:30am	15 Romans 8:1-11	16 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	17 Psalm 24	18 Genesis 25:19-34
19 8th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	20 Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Quilting 1pm	21 Romans 8:12-25 Yoga 9:30am <i>Council meeting</i>	22 Psalm 86:11-27	23 Genesis 28:10-19a	24 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	25 Isaiah 44:6-8 <i>Girl Scouts</i>
26 9th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am <i>Congregational Meeting</i>	27 Romans 8:26-39 Quilting 1pm	28 Psalm 128 Yoga 9:30am	29 1 Kings 3:5-12	30 Matthew 13:31-33,44-52	31 Genesis 29:15-28	

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Psalm 119:129-136
2 10th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	3 Isaiah 55:1-5 Quilting 1pm	4 Romans 9:1-5 Yoga 9:30am	5 Matthew 14:13-21	6 Psalm 17:1-7,15	7 Genesis 32:22-31	8 Psalm 145:8-9,14-21
9 11th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	10 1 Kings 19:4-8 Quilting 1pm	11 Psalm 85:8-13 Yoga 9:30am	12 Romans 10:5-15	13 Matthew 14:22-33	14 Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b	15 Genesis 37:1-4,12-28
16 12th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	17 Matthew 15:21-18 Quilting 1pm	18 Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Yoga 9:30am	19 Psalm 67	20 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	21 Genesis 45:1-15	22 Psalm 133
23 13th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	24 Isaiah 51:1-6 Quilting 1pm	25 Psalm 138 Yoga 9:30am	26 Romans 12:1-8	27 Matthew 16:13-20	28 Psalm 124	29 Exodus 1:8 - 2:10
30 14th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	31 Jeremiah 15:15-21 Quilting 1pm					

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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