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Dates at a Glance

- † Feb. 2, 2023
Groundhog Day
- † Feb. 12, 2023
Annual Meeting
- † Feb. 19, 2023
Meal and Bingo
- † Feb. 21, 2023
Council Meeting
- † Feb. 22, 2023
Ash Wednesday

**Office hours for
Faith Lutheran Church:**
Mon. through Thurs.
9AM—2PM

**Incase of Pastoral
Emergencies Pastor Rita
can be reached at
1(312) 478-6212
Or by email at**



Join us Sundays at 10:30am*
You can also watch live on Facebook
*We begin with organ music at 10:20am
Later the service may be watched on our website
<https://www.faithlutheransaultstemarie.org/>

Letter From Pastor Rita

February 1, 2023

Rejoiceⁱⁿ in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.ⁱⁿ ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4: 4-6)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Every day is an opportunity to rejoice in the Lord! Rejoicing allows us to be joyful despite the stress and overwhelming busyness of our lives. Putting God first gives us the token to feel gladness in the midst of our many sorrows.

Most people have found the past two months challenging, for example, having our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service cancelled due to the raging forecast. Still, I was delighted to reschedule Christmas Eve Service for January 1, 2023 -- a perfect way to begin the New Year. Although it was a holiday weekend with severe weather conditions, it was nice to see many people come to worship and participate.

We have seen God's grace in a variety of ways, especially during this time. Many members of the congregation expressed their love for the Christmas music, performed by our lovely guest musicians Rev. Paul Donelson, Dave Bean, primary musician Dave Erforth, and our music director Ruth Ann.

Our church, including myself, has experienced God's grace, joy, and love by filling in some absent roles in order to run our church smoothly. I give thanks to all those who have played a role in keeping our church steady

Entering the spring and Lent season, you will be introduced to many activities and ministries. During Lent, we will have soup supper followed by lantern devotions on Wednesday evenings, Foot Washing on Maundy Thursday, and Stations of the Cross on Good Friday— which I look forward to. If all goes according to plan, we will seek to start a bible study this summer.

We have seen God at work in our lives despite some challenges. We have been blessed, as a church, to have congregation and staff with such faith, love, and patience in wonderful ways.

With your love and support, the Lord is bearing His people's burden and building up our community.

Your's in Christ,
Pastor Rita.



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, comments, news items
c/o Pathfinder Editor, 1600 Park St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
or e-mail to faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. **Rita Chirala**

Church Office:

Rebecca Booth (4 hrs/week only)

Congregational Council: Cathy Tibbett, Will Karr, Vicki Luoma,
Wayne Olsen, Ese Osumili, Steve Sanderson, Ken Randall
and Sandy Lawson.

Homebound



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

Beverly Tankersley– Medilodge– Rm A10
1011 Meridian St. SSM, MI 49783

Copper Garrett- 5036 W. Five Mile Rd.
SSM, MI 49783 (906)632-8727

Linda Doran- 590 Three 1/2 Mile Rd.
SSM, MI 49783 (906)632-6483

Ruth Ronquist- Merlin Home– 1703 Hyde St.
SSM, MI 49783 (906)253-2331

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

Louise Rogers- 332 Arlington Ct. #102
SSM, MI 49783
(906) 253-1580

Annual Meeting will be held on February 12th following the worship service. We have a revised Church Constitution which will need to be approved at the annual meeting by the congregation. This year the annual meeting will be in-person only. There are three positions on the church council this year, that need to be filled. If interested please contact the church office.



Annual Meetings are Coming Up!

As congregations prepare for annual meetings, keep in mind the following:

- Electing/appointing voting members to Synod Assembly, **May 18-20, 2023** in Marquette, MI.
 - This in-person assembly includes a Bishop's election. Bishop Finegan is available to serve another term.
 - Registration will be online. Materials and information will be available beginning in March.
 - Plan to cover the expense of travel, registration, and lodging for your voting members.
 - The theme is "Love."

We will be holding 5 weeks of Lantern Devotions starting March 1st to March 29th with soup supper at 5pm. Followed by the devotion 6-6:30PM.





Note from the Bishop

Northern Great Lakes Synod

Word of the Day

When I was on internship, I was instructed to come up with a family project that invited deeper engagement for the season of Epiphany. While Advent and Lent have a ton of resources to draw from, the same cannot be said for Epiphany. After much consternation, I came up with a star made of felt and little felt circles that each had a symbol on it, highlighting something in the gospel readings that spanned from Epiphany to the Transfiguration. While I hoped the accompanying devotions and craftiness would add meaning to our families with small children, an unexpected blessing was my own deeper engagement with the season of Epiphany and what it means for its place in the liturgical calendar of our church. I had my own Epiphany as what was revealed to me was how each gospel reading contributed to the growing light, that is, the expanding understanding of who Jesus is and why he came. The light that shone from the manger bed increases in brightness and spills out into the world. And what happens as light increases? We see better. Objects come into clearer focus.

In the northern hemisphere, as days lengthen and light lingers longer, understanding of Jesus increases and comes into clearer focus every time we gather for worship. The light grows with each reading of scripture, with each hymn sung, with each sermon proclaimed. The light grows each week until it will reach its apex at the Transfiguration when the glory of Jesus will be revealed in all its fullness for a bright, shining, terrifying moment.

May the light of Christ grow in brilliance for you and bless your worship in this Epiphany season with meaningful revelation.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan



Faith Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

January 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Cathy Tibbett at 7:10 p.m.

Members Present: Cathy Tibbett, Vicki Luoma, Pastor Rita Chirala, Ken Randall, Sandy Lawson, Steve Sanderson,

Members Absent: Wayne Olsen, excused. Will Karr, unexcused, Ese Osumili, unexcused.

Devotions: Pastor Rita gave a prayer.

Minutes: Ken Randall made a motion to accept the minutes of November 2, 2022. Seconded by Sandy Lawson. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 12, 2023 after the church service

Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Counters: January – Cathy Tibbett & Wayne Olsen, February – Steve Sanderson & Cathy Tibbett

Old Business:

Pastor's Visa update – Pastor Rita's visa has been extended until 2025. Pastor is waiting for information from the lawyer as to the next step.

New Business:

Office Staff: Rebecca Booth has been hired for 4 hours to work in the office mainly on printing the bulletins. Ann Bean is typing the Annual Report and sending emails to the readers for each Sunday. Sandy Lawson has been folding the bulletins and mailing out bulletins and information to members who can't attend services. Cathy Tibbett has been filling in on a variety of tasks in the office. Cynthia Wright has volunteered to work in the office as needed. Thanks to all of these members for the help.

Kitchen inspection: The kitchen was inspected by the Health Dept. and passed inspection. A kitchen manager is needed. It can be more than one person. They would need to take a course.

New Constitution Update: Sandy Lawson made a motion to accept the revised Faith Constitution. Seconded by Ken Randall. Motion carried.

Outgoing Mail: There are four people who will receive outgoing mailings.

Confirmation presentation: The confirmands will present their Faith statements to the Council on March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Date for Confirmation: Confirmation will be on April 9 at the Easter Sunday service. Sandy Lawson made a motion to set the date of March 21 for the Confirmation presentation to Council and April 9 for Confirmation. Seconded by Ken Randall. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting: The Annual meeting is set for February 12, 2023 after the church service.

Council Members: There are three vacancies on the Council. Election will be at the Annual Meeting. Also, two delegates will be elected to attend the Synod Meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rita gave her Pastor's report.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education – There have been up to 3 children attending Sunday School. Vacation Bible School will be June 26 – June 30 2023 at the Central Methodist Church. The materials have been ordered.

Come to the Table – No Report

Endowment – Per Faith's Endowment Resolution Guideline, \$3,885 will be distributed for church related projects in 2023. Each area should have a minimum allocation of \$971.25 for 2023. Endowment Fund distributions should be to the following areas:

1. 25% or more to grants for ELCA Seminaries, youth attending national or local youth events or bible camps.
2. 25% or more to ELCA missions around the world.
3. 25% or more toward capital improvements or Faith debt reduction.
4. 25% toward any of the above areas or another area not mentioned.

Fellowship – Bingo is being planned for February 19.

Worship and Music – Ash Wednesday service will be at 6:00 p.m. with Holy Communion and the distribution of ashes. Wednesdays in Lent will have soup supper at 5 followed by devotions in fellowship hall at 6:00. Holy week – Palm Sunday Holy Communion service at 10:30, Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. with foot washing – individual brings his own towel. Holy Communion and altar stripping. Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. stations of the cross and no communion.

Easter – Holy Communion followed by brunch. Confirmation during Easter service. Next meeting March 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Membership – 117 voting members plus 6 new members

Outreach – No Report

Stewardship – Letters were sent. More people pledged this year.

Finance – Steve gave the financial report.

Property – No Report

Memorial – No Report

WELCA – No Report

Staff Support: A motion was made by Ken Randall to accept the committee reports including the pastor's report. Seconded by Sandy Lawson. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn: Steve Sanderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Ken Randall. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Luoma, Council Secretary



FEBRUARY 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany <i>Worship 10:30AM</i> | 6 2 Kings 22:3-20 <i>Monday Quilters 1PM</i> | 7 2 Kings 23:1-8 <i>Yoga 9:30am Confirmation Class 3:30pm</i> | 1 Psalm 37:1-17 WELCA 10:00AM <i>Yoga 7pm</i> | 2 Psalm 12:1-9 <i>Yoga 9:30am</i> | 3 Deuteronomy 4:1-14 | 4 Isaiah 29:13-16 |
| 12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany <i>Worship 10:30AM Annual Meeting</i> | 13 Exodus 20:1-21 <i>Monday Quilters 1PM</i> | 14 Deuteronomy 23:21- 24:4 <i>Yoga 9:30am Confirmation Class 3:30m</i> | 8 Proverbs 6:6-23 <i>Yoga 7pm</i> | 9 Genesis 26:1-5 <i>Yoga 9:30am</i> | 10 Leviticus 26:34- 46 | 11 Deuteronomy 30:1-9a |
| 19 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany <i>Worship 10:30AM Valentines Bingo</i> | 20 Proverbs 25:11-22 <i>Monday Quilters 1PM</i> | 21 Genesis 31:1-3, 17-50 <i>Yoga 9:30am Council meeting 7pm</i> | 15 Proverbs 2:1-15 <i>Yoga 7pm</i> | 16 Exodus 22:21-27 <i>Yoga 9:30am</i> | 17 Leviticus 6:1-7 | 18 Leviticus 24:10-23 |
| 26 Eighth Sunday after Epiphany <i>Worship 10:30AM</i> | 27 Deuteronomy 2:-14 <i>Monday Quilters 1pm</i> | 28 1 King 17:1-16 <i>Yoga 9:30am ConfirmationClass 3:30pm</i> | 22 Proverbs 3:27-35 <i>Yoga 7pm</i> Ash Wednesday | 23 Proverbs 12:2-28 <i>Yoga 9:30am</i> | 24 Isaiah 26:1-6 | 25 Isaiah 31:1-9 |

February

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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |

PATHFINDER



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH*

YEAR A

Epiphany

Phone: 906-632-7246

Email: faithlc1966@att.net

Website: <http://www.faithlutheransaultstemarie.org>

* A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

HELLO

February