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*November  
&  
December  
Issue*

**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  
critawilliam@gmail.com**

## Letter From Pastor Rita

Nov. Dec. 2023

*And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: <sup>2</sup> And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11: 1-2)*

### **Dear friends in Christ,**

Grace to you and peace from God and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I assume that by the time you read this letter, the feast of All Saints will be behind us, and we will be close to the end of the Church year and the beginning of Advent and Christmas preparations. Christmas and Advent are my favorite times of year. I enjoy their warmth, beauty, and hope.

Advent is a season of waiting—And I must admit that I love this time of year except for the snow. The Christmas decorations, the music, and the diverse cultural aspects of the celebrations all make me happy during this time of year. In my Indian culture, there is a tradition that every Christian house hangs a star outside their houses for Christmas. This is part of Christmas decoration, which identifies us as Christians in the country that is multi-religious. Symbolically, the star represents “Jesus as the light of the world.”

Many Christian communities throughout India enjoy telling Christmas stories and singing Christmas carols in their dialects. My favorite Christmas memories include attending Midnight Service with family and friends on Christmas Eve and eating the plum cake my mother bakes for us and also for our Hindu neighbors.

This season reminds me of the words of Matthew that we acknowledge at the time of baptism “let your light shine.” When we share the light of peace, joy, hope, and love, with people around us, it brings joy to ourselves and glorifies God because it is Jesus' light shining through us. It reminds us that God the Immanuel is with us.

I invite you to join us for Advent devotions beginning on Wednesday, November 29th at 5pm until December 20th. During the service, we will sing some carols and hear about Advent joy, hope, and love. Feel free to bring someone you think might benefit from hearing it as well.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!!

**Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Rita.**



**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>

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

By the time you read this, I will have completed leading a book study through our Lifelong Faith Formation classes on “Embracing Gods Future Without Forgetting the Past: A Conversation about Loss, Greif, and Nostalgia in Congregational Life.” It is a sobering read full of truth about what many of our congregations are facing and how grief is being experienced.

The author, former Bishop Michael Girlinghouse, advises that this grief must be processed before our congregation can move forward, and he offers some ideas, workshops, and methods of how to address this grief, not just as individuals but as communities of faith that are collectively experiencing loss and change.

I agree with him that naming the point of pain regarding loss is important. And I believe that we are only just beginning to understand what those points of pain are, as our congregations are at different places in the arc of their life cycles and facing these challenges at different times.

I did suspect when I accepted this call to a second term that the church was going to change more in the next six years than it has in the last twenty. Changes in the last 20-30 years have sort of snuck up on us. But the challenges we thought of then as “someday maybe” have now arrived.

With shifts in culture, with the acceleration of institution decline pushed by COVID, with anxiety increasing, there is gathering momentum to do more to equip lay leaders for the work of ministry.

Of course, the work of ministry has always rested on lay leaders who more often than not are working in partnership with a pastoral leader or keeping ministry in motion during pastoral transition. However, increasingly fewer people are entering seminary. And while it is true that fewer congregations can afford a full-time pastor, even the ones that have the financial capacity must compete with each other for our shrinking pool of pastoral leaders.

Yet, our synod is a great place to serve in ministry! I have observed a respect for the pastoral office and a deep appreciation for that partnership. I see people who love their church and the ministry accomplished combine through their combined efforts, and all of it in community that have a sense of what it means to be neighbor. There is a pride in self-sufficiency: the garden, the homemade, the do-it-yourself kind of attitude. Add to that the beauty of God’s creation and we want to ask who wouldn’t want to live here?

Unfortunately, as I seek to recruit pastoral leaders, we are an unknown entity. Much as I try to educate, it is the exceptional pastoral candidate that is willing to move to the northern top of the U.S. possibly away from family.

So.... what is the answer to this current challenge?

I appeal to your own sense of pride in the homemade. Look around your congregations. Who has gift for ministry? Who is already leading? We have several lay schools (with NGLS scholarship funds available) ready to equip people for the work they are already doing. Between the Lay school offered at Luther Seminary to the Lay school in our neighboring synods of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, the tools needed to equip lay leaders for ministry are in reach. I suggested we raise up our own leaders who can then discern if they have a call to ordained ministry (we have scholarship funds for seminary too) or wish to be equipped, educated, and supported for a larger role as a lay leader.

I am grateful to our currently serving Licensed Lay Ministers, and to our lay leaders and congregation members who are such an asset and blessing to the work of Christ. As I continue to recruit pastoral leaders TO our synod, I ask you to do the same IN our synod. Whatever the future brings, I know that the work of Christ will continue.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan





## **Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

**Date September 19, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Cathy Tibbett at 7:05PM

**Members Present: Pastor Rita Chirala, Cathy Tibbett, Wayne Olsen, Sandy Lawson, Ben Deatricks, Marysue Mastey, Al Picotte**

**Members Absent: Ken Randall unexcused.**

**Council Meeting: October 17, 2023, 7PM. Budget Meeting October 30, 2023 7PM.**

**Devotions: Al Picotte      October: Ben Deatricks**

**Minutes: Al Picotte made a motion to accept the June 2023 and July 2023 council minutes. Ben seconded. Motion passed.**

**Old Business: Pastor Rita has been approved for I-360. I-485 is final application.**

**QTC is waiting for approval from the VA.**

**New Business:**

**A: Pastor Rita is holding Worship Service at Medilodge twice a month on Friday afternoon.**

**B: Fire extinguishers have been inspected and are good for another year.**

**C: Girl Scouts requested the Fellowship Hall twice a month on Sunday from October 2023 to June 2024 at 3:30PM - 7:30PM. Council approved the request.**

**D: Money collected for any occasion needs to be deposited in the church's bank account.**

**E: Council members' phone numbers are available in the church office and on the office window.**

**F. Three Lakes Conference was held at First Lutheran Church in Grand Marais,**

**Mi on September 10, 2023 at 3PM. Pastor Rita and 3 members attended. Saint James Lutheran Church Rudyard will be the host next year. The 2024 Annual Synod Assembly will be a Hybrid Meeting. Faith will be hosting the Hybrid Synod Assembly for the Three Lakes Conference. More information will be coming soon.**

**Pastors Report: Pastor Rita gave her Pastors report.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Campus Ministry: No Report**

**Come to the Table: No Report**

**Christian Education: No Report.**

**Endowment: No Report.**

**Fellowship: Lunch and Crazy Bingo enjoyed by all. There were request to do it again.**

**Finance: Wayne gave the financial report. Cash shortfall and financial obligations were discussed.**

**Memorial: No report.**

**Outreach: Report was given. The ecumenical Worship Service and Picnic was held on July 16, 2023 at Sherman Park. The Salvation Army and Saint James Episcopal Church participated with Faith. Approximately 70-75 people attended.**

**Reservations for the 2024 Worship and Picnic will be made after January 1, 2024**

**as decided by the Outreach Committee.**

**Property: A \$500.00 credit was received after proof of repair of the 2 toilets and outdoor water faucet was submitted.**

**Staff Support: No Report.**

**Stewardship: Beginning October 1, 2023 Temple talks will be given for 4 Sundays. There will be banners hung in the Narthex to highlight the Stewardship Campaign. October 29<sup>th</sup> is Pledge Card Sunday. Please bring your Pledge Card in a sealed envelope to the Alter to have the Pastor bless the offerings during Worship Service.**

**WELCA: Fall Bazaar October 14, 2023. WELCA paid \$329.24 for VBS and \$1000.00 to help with the heating bill. This contribution is greatly appreciated.**

**Worship and Music: Report was presented. Hymns selected September 3- October 29, 2023. Choir practice will resume October 4, 2023**

**A motion was made by Ben to accept the committee reports including the Pastor Report.**

**Marysue seconded. Motion carried.**

**Motion to adjourn: Wayne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ben seconded. Motion passed.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:48PM with the Lords 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 a 15th of each month.

Please send articles, comment, news items  
c/o Pathfinder Editor, 1600 Park St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
49783

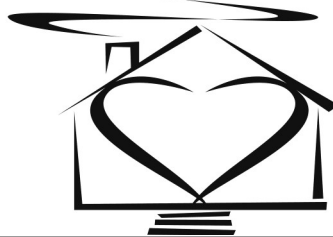
Or e-mail to [faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com)

Pastor: Rev. Rita Chirala

Church Office: Rebecca Booth (4hrs/week only)

Congregational Council: Cathy Tibbett, Wayne Olsen,  
Ken Randall, Ben Deatricks, Marysue Mastey,  
Al Picotte, and Sandy Lawson.

# Homebound MINISTRY



**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](http://nglsynod.org)  
Denomination website: [elca.org](http://elca.org)

## **Online giving is here!**

You can now make an electronic contribution  
on our website. Just go to our website:

[www.faithlutheransaultstemarie.org](http://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 giv-  
ing, 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

**Bill Markstrom— 3205 S Sunglow Dr.**  
SSM, MI 49783 (906)635-1343

**Aili Allen – 2017 S Whitehead Rd**  
SSM, MI 49783





- 2nd Sandee Raappana
- 3rd Jenna Bailey
- 3rd Stephanie Sanderson
- 6th Bob Mattson
- 7th Keith Nortch
- 7th Rodney Kinnear
- 9th William Karr
- 11th Joe Bailey
- 12th Gregory Robinson
- 13th Diane Rogers
- 16th Kurt McDonald
- 19th Nancy Robinson
- 22nd Patricia Deatruck
- 22nd Crystal Latham

Our ladies group, **WELCA**, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10:30AM for bible study and a meeting. Bring something to eat for lunch.

**Join us December 6th**



No Anniversaries in November

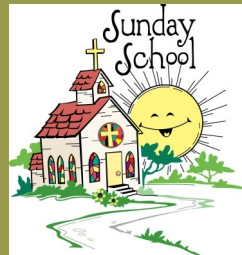
We will be having a **Thanksgiving lunch** followed by worship service on **November 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**Pastor Rita** will be away from **November 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>** for First Call Conference in Wausau.

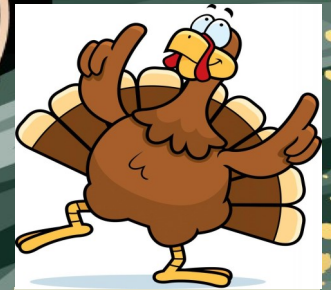
### Sunday School has started!

Come to Sunday school and experience the joy of learning about God and His word. We have games, crafts, stories, and snacks for kids of all ages. You don't want to miss it! Please bring your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, etc.

All Children are welcome!



We are looking to gather a few volunteers who would be willing to teach one or two Sundays a month. Sunday school will be held during worship service rather than before worship services.



We are once again collecting money that will go towards **turkeys** for the **United Way's** food distribution.

### Dates at a Glance

- † **November 1, 2023**  
All Saints Day
- † **November 5, 2023**  
All Saints Sunday
- † **November 11, 2023**  
Veteran's Day
- † **November 23, 2023**  
Thanksgiving Day

### Healing service



November 5th

Healing Service is held the first Sunday of every month followed by worship service.



# December BIRTHDAYS

10th Ben Deatrick  
10th Jill Webber  
11th Hendrik McDonald  
14th Marc Sundstrom  
13th Aiden Mohagen  
20th Alexis Kelly  
23rd Steven Luoma  
23rd Scott McDonald  
24th Nancy Brewster  
24th Anthony Suriano  
28th Christopher Oja  
29th Connie Mattson  
30th Paul Brewster



# December ANNIVERSARIES

**Dennis & Ruth Ann Brindley**  
53 years 12/27/70

**Jeff & Jenny Peterman**  
28 years 12/28/96

**Micah & Lindsay Brindley**  
23 years 12/29/01

Join us for a  
**Healing Service**  
Sunday, December 3rd  
following our regular  
worship service.



## *Youth Wreath Fundraiser*

It's that time of year again!

Starting November 1<sup>st</sup>, you will be able to place an order for Christmas Wreaths. More details will be forthcoming about the purchase & pick-up procedure.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support Faith Lutheran's youth.

### Ways to worship with us through Advent and Christmas Eve

First Sunday of Advent— December 3rd at 10:30am

Second Sunday of Advent— December 10th at 10:30am

Third Sunday of Advent— December 17th at 10:30am

Christmas Eve — December 24th at 10:30am

Candlelight Christmas Eve— December 24th at 7:00pm

Christmas Day Service— December 25th at 10:30am

### **Dates at a Glance**

- † **December 24, 2023**  
Christmas Eve
- † **December 25, 2023**  
Christmas
- † **December 31, 2023**  
New Year's Eve



# DECEMBER



# THANK YOU!

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who helped out at the 2023 Bazaar and Salad Luncheon. Those that donated items, time, money, and put together the event made a huge difference in our community.

Your generosity and dedication are truly appreciated. Thank you for making the bazaar a success!

## Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday, December 3rd will be the congregational budget meeting. It will begin following the 10:30am worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to review and vote on the 2024 budget.

### Advent Devotions

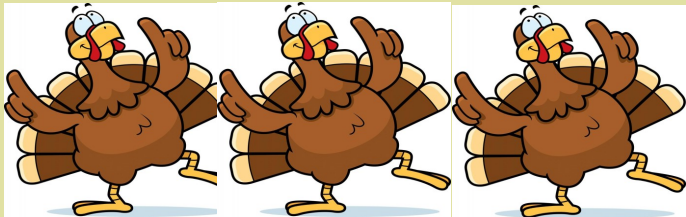
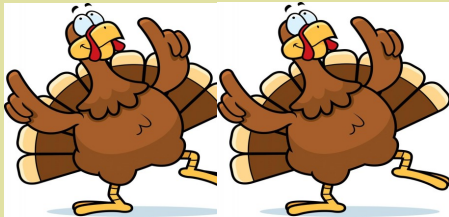
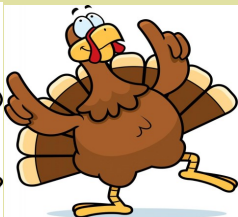
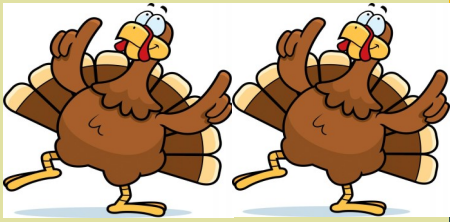
Please join us for Advent devotions beginning on Wednesday, November 29th at 5pm until December 20th. During the service, we will sing some carols and hear about Advent joy, hope, and love. Feel free to bring someone you think might benefit from hearing it as well.

## Financial Statement

	Month of September 2023	Budget for Sept 2023	Net Activiey Over (Under) Budget	Sept Year-to Date 2023 Actual	Sept Year-to Date 2023 Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget
<b>General Fund Revenue</b>	\$ 10,319.25	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 1,819.25	\$ 93,922.08	\$ 92,702.00	\$ 1,220.08
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 10,260.13	\$ 12,002.00	\$ (1,741.87)	\$ 106,660.83	\$ 124,295.00	\$ (17,634.17)
<b>Revenue over ( under) Expenses</b>	\$ 59.12	\$ (3,502.00)	\$ 3,561.12	\$ (12,738.75)	\$ (31,593.00)	\$ 18,854.25

We are withdrawing \$6,000.00 from the Investmen Account for housing allowance this week.

# November

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
			<b>1 All Saints Day</b> Psalm 43 WELCA 10:30AM	2 Romans 2:17-29  Yoga 9:30AM	3 2 Peter 2:1-3	4 Matthew 23:13-28
5 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> Worship 10:30AM	6 Psalm 63 Quilting 1PM	7 1 Corinthians 14:20-25	8 Matthew 24:29-35 Choir Practice 6pm	9 Psalm 70	10 Revelation 9:13-21	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> Amos 4:6-13
12 <b>24th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship 10:30AM	13 Psalm 9:1-14 Quilting 1PM	14 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18 Yoga 9:30AM	15 Matthew 24:45-51 Choir Practice 6pm	16 Psalm 90 Yoga 9:30AM	17 Ezekiel 7:1-9	18 Matthew 12:43-45
19 <b>25th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship 10:30AM Budget Council	20 Psalm 95 Quilting 1PM	21 1 Chronicles 17:1-15 Yoga 9:30AM Council Meeting 7PM	22 Matthew 12:46-50 Choir Practice 6pm	23 <b>Thanksgiving</b> Psalm 7	24 Revelation 22:1-9	25 John 5:19-40
26 <b>Christ the King</b> Worship 10:30AM	27 Psalm 63 Quilting 1PM	28 Job 16:1-21 Yoga 9:30AM Worship&Music Committee 6pm	29 Ezekiel 33:7-20 Advent Devotions 5pm Choir Practice 6pm	30 Daniel 6:1-28 Yoga 9:30AM		



# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Psalm 80:1-7	2 Matthew 24:15-31
3 <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Worship 10:30AM	4 Psalm 79 Quilting 1PM	5 Micah 4:6-13 Yoga 9:30AM	6 Luke 21:34-38 WELCA 10:30AM Advent Devotions 5pm Choir Practice 6pm	7 Zechariah 13:1-9 Yoga 9:30AM	8 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18	9 Revelation 15:1-8
10 <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Worship 10:30AM	11 Psalm 27 Quilting 1PM	12 Acts 2:37-42 Yoga 9:30AM	13 Isaiah 4:2-6 Advent Devotions 5pm Choir Practice 6pm	14 Acts 11:1-18 Yoga 9:30AM	15 Psalm 103	16 Luke 1:5-17
17 <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Worship 10:30AM	18 Psalm 126 Quilting 1PM	19 1 Kings 18:1-18 Yoga 9:30AM Council Meeting 7PM	20 Psalm 125 Advent Devotions 5pm Choir Practice 6pm	21 Acts 3:17-20 Yoga 9:30AM	22 Mark 9:9-13	23 Psalm 8:91-4
24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> Worship 10:30AM Candlelight 7:00pm	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> Worship 10:30am 2 Samuel 6:1-11 Quilting 1PM	26 Hebrews 1:1-4 Yoga 9:30AM	27 Psalm 89:19-26 Choir Practice 6pm	28 Judges 13:2-24 Yoga 9:30AM	29 John 7:40-52	30 Luke 1:46-55
31 <b>First Sunday of Christmas</b> Worship 10:30AM <b>New Year's Eve</b>						





# PATHFINDER



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH\***

**YEAR A**

**Phone: 906-632-7246**

**Email: [faithlc1966@att.net](mailto:faithlc1966@att.net)**

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

**\* A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**



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