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Letter From Pastor Rita

June 2024

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6, NRSV)

Dear Sisters & Bothers in Christ,

It is remarkable that we are already in June, marking the midpoint of 2024. The sight of new growth in trees and abundant sunlight is astounding. As we observe the beauty of this season, we are reminded to express our gratitude for transformation and celebrate renewal and growth.

Summer is a season of renewal and family bonding! Therefore, it is with great joy that I announce my upcoming vacation. I will be taking a week off to visit my Sister's family in Wisconsin. This break is not only a time for me to recharge but also for Derrick, who is eagerly waiting to reconnect with his cousins after long hours from college studies, stress, and exams.

As we enjoy this summer, may we remember to rejoice, individually and collectively, and thank God for His creation, which consistently instills hope and joy through growth and renewal in every season.

The Hybrid Synod Assembly this year, despite the significant amount of labor, planning, and organizing, was a tremendous success. I am grateful to all the church delegates and to all those who contributed to the success of this event. A special mention goes to our tech support, Rebecca, for her technical support for the event.

The Pentecost celebrations were truly remarkable, and they were made even more special with the addition of a new member to our community. This growth is a testament to our open minds and efforts in the streams of God's grace. Let us continue to work and flourish together.

It is our divine mission to carry out the tasks assigned to us by God—to love one another by working together as the body of Christ and looking out for each other's well-being. Furthermore, during moments of loneliness, we must reaffirm God's presence in our lives, as He works through us and attends to all our needs.

Count your daily blessings while looking forward to what lies ahead, trusting that God's Spirit guides and equips us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rita.

Dates at a Glance

- + **June 14, 2023**
Flag Day
- + **June 16, 2023**
Father's Day
- + **June 19, 2023**
Juneteenth
- + **June 20, 2023**
First Day of Summer

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**



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>*



Page 1

We are wishing Reverend Jim Duehring a happy retirement!



Dear Synod Council and People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod:

In August I will be turning that magical age of 65. In the past months I've been contemplating what I would do when faced with that milestone marker. Would I merely make a mental note of that birthday and fly on past it, or would I seriously consider some changes in my life including my ministry among you?

After much discernment, I've come to clarity that it is time for me to retire. My last day as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission will be August 31, 2024. I began this call from the Synod Council in October 2017. I want to thank Bishop Finegan for her friendship, support, and confidence in me. I want to thank Betsy Koski, Courtney Wehmeier, Heather Oysti, Lori Ward, and Stefanie Ehle for their faithful service. These all have been great colleagues to work with.

God has lifted up many great pastors and lay people in our synod. I want to thank you for your encouragement and willingness to help share the love of Christ. I've learned a lot and met so many great people in our synod and in the Churchwide organization of the ELCA. I've put a lot of miles on my faithful Prius car attending to ministry needs. We truly live in a beautiful place. I've been stretched to think new thoughts and challenged to rely more heavily on the Lord. So many things have changed in our world and in the church, but we count our blessings and trust that God will continue to guide and keep us in God's Amazing Grace!

In my retirement I plan to continue to contribute to ministry efforts in our synod. You may see me doing interim pastoral ministry and pulpit supply just to name a few, but I will no longer be a member of synod staff. Please pray for Bishop Finegan and the Synod Council as they pivot and look to call a new Assistant to the Bishop and DEM. Pray for God to provide new leadership for this position in our synod.

Certainly, in retirement I look forward to more flexibility in my personal life. Gisele and I have a new granddaughter in Louisiana and another grandchild on the way in Texas. We look forward to this new chapter in our family's life. God is good and always provides!

Thanks for your prayers and support over these past seven years.

God's Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jim Duehring

"But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

2 Corinthians 4:7 NRSV



Financial report:

	Apr-24	Apr-24 Year-to-Date Actual	Apr-24 Year-to-Date Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget
General Fund Revenue	\$ 10,867.31	\$ 61,651.03	# \$ 50,547.00	\$ 11,104.03
Expenses	\$ 10,022.34	\$ 48,426.68	\$ 53,335.00	\$ (4,908.32)
Operating Revenue				
Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 844.97	\$ 13,224.35	\$ (2,788.00)	\$ 16,012.35
Total Other Non Operating Revenue	\$ (3,521.87)	\$ (9,474.67)	\$ -	\$ (9,474.67)
Other Non Operating Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Balance with Non operating	\$ (2,676.90)	\$ 3,749.68	\$ (2,788.00)	\$ 6,537.68



Summer Camp at Fortune Lake is just around the corner, and we still have room in some programs. It's not too late to join in on fun faith-forming time for people of all ages! A few programs to highlight include:

- Evergreen Camp for Adults age 55+: July 14-17 with Pr. Keith Kolstad as the Camp Pastor. Visit <https://fortunelake.org/event/evergreen-camp/> to learn more and to register.
- Victory Camp for Adults with disabilities: June 9-14 with Pr. Judy Kinkaid as the Camp Pastor. An active program in beloved community. Visit <https://fortunelake.org/event/victory-camp/> to learn more and to register.
- Youth Camp for kids currently in grades 1-12: multiple dates and program options. Visit <https://fortunelake.org/summer-camp/> to learn more and to register.

We hope to see you all at camp!

Now is the time to make rental reservations for the fall season at Fortune Lake! Fortune Lake is the perfect spot to have your family gathering, host a retreat, run a board meeting, to get away for a weekend, and much more. Our facilities are rented on a by-use basis, which allows groups of all sizes to find what they need here. Have you considered having your next gathering at camp? Below is a list of dates that are still open on our fall calendar, but they fill quickly!

Contact our Guest Services Coordinator, Charlotte, by emailing hospitality@fortunelake.org or by calling the camp office at (906)214-2267.

THE JUBILATION CHOIR PRESENTS
"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
 Lyrics by Tim Rice Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
 Date: Monday, June 10 Time: 7:00
 Location: Faith Lutheran Church - 1600 Park St.



World Hunger
 – Thank you to everyone who donated to the Synod's World Hunger Campaign. We raised \$841.81 for this wonderful cause. Thank you again to everyone to contributed.

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date April 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Cathy Tibbett remotely by telephone at 7:06 PM

Members Present: Pastor Rita Chirala, Cathy Tibbett present by phone call, Sandy Lawson, Kathy Flickinger, Ben Deatrck, Ken Randall Al Picotte, Cynthia Wright.

Member Absent: Dennis Brindley excused.

Guest Attending: Treasurer Wayne Olsen

Devotions: April Ken Randall May: Kathy Flinckinger

Future Council Meeting: May 21, 2024

Minutes: Ken Randall made a motion to accept the March 19, 2024 council minutes. Ben Deatrck seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

A: Jubilation Choir flyers have been received. The information about the Jubilation Choir will be posted on the church website and Face Book site. Approximately 60 people will be in the group. Fellowship Committee is planning the menu for 2 meals to serve to the group. The concert is on June 10, 2024 at 7:00PM.

B: The Hybrid Synod Assembly is on May 18, 2024. 7 Lakes Synod Conference Churches will be hosted by Faith. As the delegates arrive they will be offered snacks, coffee, tea and water. The Business Meeting starts at 10:00AM Eastern Standard Time. The lunch will be arranged by Faith. \$8.00 will be collected to cover the cost by those attending.

New Business:

A: Synod Wide Hike--- (UPWILD). Hike to Upper Tahquamenon Falls for 7 Lakes Conference Churches is on May 11, 2024. Church members will meet in the parking lot at 12 noon. A time to enjoy Gods creation and fellowship will be had by all attending.

B: A discussion was done on whether to permit inactive church members the use the Fellowship Hall without paying a fee. Cathy Tibbett made a motion to permit inactive members use of the Fellowship Hall free of charge Sandy Lawson Seconded. The motion passed 6-1. Pastor Rita suggested that the council should consider all aspects before council passes the motion.

Pastors Report: Pastor Rita gave her Pastors report.

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: Ken Randall met with Pastor Marty and Mrs. Bartelsmyer from LSSU on how Faith can participate with Campus Ministry. Another meeting will be scheduled.

Christian Education: Plans for VBS are being made. VBS at Presbyterian Church will be June 24 to June 27, 2024. Volunteers are needed.

Come to the Table: No Report.

Endowment: No Report.

Fellowship: Easter Breakfast was a great success with about 40 people attending. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee and Dr. Craig Flickinger and Ashley Flickinger. Plans for Mother Day on May 12, 2024 and meals for the Jubilation Choir are being finalized. Plans for Fathers Day will be on the next agenda.

Finance: Wayne Olsen presented the income and expenditures.

Memorial: No Report.

Membership: No Report.

Outreach: No Report.

Property: A Thank you to Wayne Olsen, Ken Lake, Dave Bean and Dennis Brindley for trimming several Cedar trees and the shrubs on the south of the church. 1 written and 1 verbal estimates were received for the repair of the cross and the soffitt.

Stewardship: No Report.

WELCA: No Report.

Worship and Music: No Report. The next meeting is May 7, 2024.

Ben Deatrck made a motion to accept the committee reports including the Pastors Report and Kathy Flickinger seconded. Motion passed:

Ben Deatrck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ken Randall seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM with the Lords Prayer:

Respectfully submitted;



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.

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

Pastor: Rev. Rita Chirala

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

Congregational Council:

**Cathy Tibbett, Dennis Brindley, Kathy Flickinger, Sandy Lawson, Ken
Randall, Ben Deatrick, Al Picotte, and Cynthia wright.**

**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**

**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 official email address is:

faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com

We are no longer using the AT&T email.

Due to internet security reasons **please**
[do not open or send emails to the AT&T address!!!!](#)

If you need to contact us via email please use:

faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com



- 11th Heather Hill
- 12th Barry Levine
- 12th Dixie Picotte
- 13th Adam Mohagen
- 16th Lorraine Cobb
- 17th Kristen Trinkle
- 19th Jennifer Mohagen
- 26th Jill Lawson
- 26th Summer Bachand
- 26th Joy Lake
- 27th Debra Norton
- 27th Alvin Picotte
- 28th Garrett Carr
- 28th Elysha Vincke
- 29th Linnea Kelly

Bill & Joanne Markstrom
06/11/1955 69 years

Bill & Janet Robinson
06/28/1968 56 years

Bill & Nancy Skidmore
06/10/1972 52 years

Debby & Marc Carr
06/11/1983 41 years

*Anniversaries
to
Celebrate*



Kevin & Jill Weber
06/25/2011 12 years

Healing Service

will be on
June 2nd
following worship

Flower Arrangements

If you would like to have special flowers on the altar in honor of a birthday, memory, or anniversary, please contact Lily Randall to make arrangements.

Pastor Rita
will be on vacation
from June 11 to June 17,
so in case of Pastoral
Care Emergencies,
please contact
Pastor Paul on
(906) 322-3487.

WELCA

will meet on Wednesday,
**June 5th at 10:30am for
bible study, meeting,
and meal.**



Happy
Father's Day!
June 16th

Please join us
Sunday, June 16th

following worship as we honor our fathers. The Fellowship Committee will provide beef franks, buns, condiments, and each father will receive a sweet treat.

The congregation is asked to bring a dish to pass or something to share for the potluck lunch.

If you have an idea of what you will be bringing, please write in on the sheet in the narthex so we can hopefully get a variety of items.

We also hope to share a special memory or two !

Vacation Bible School

will be held at
First Presbyterian Church
June 24th – June 27th
9am to Noon.
Pre-School to 5th grade
children are invited.



June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Psalm 81:1-10
2 <i>Second Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 10:30am	3 Psalm 78:1-4, 52-72 Quilting 1PM	4 Exodus 16:27-36 Yoga 9:30AM	5 Samuel 21:1-6	6 Isaiah 28:9-13 Yoga 9:30AM	7 Deuteronomy 1:34-40	8 Genesis 2:4b-14
9 <i>Third Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 10:30am	10 1 Samuel 16:14-23 Quilting 1PM	11 1 Kings 18:17-40 Yoga 9:30AM	12 Isaiah 26:16-27:1	13 Genesis 3:14-24 Yoga 9:30AM	14 1 Kings 10:26 — 11:8	15 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
16 <i>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Father's Day</i> Worship 10:30am	17 Ezekiel 31:-12 Quilting 1PM	18 Psalm 52 Yoga 9:30AM Council Meeting 7pm.	19 Jeremiah 22:1-9 Juneteenth	20 Psalm 107:1-3,23-32 Yoga 9:30AM 1 st Day of	21 Job 29:21—30:15	22 Job 37:1-3
23 <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 10:30am	24 Psalm 65 Quilting 1PM	25 Exodus 9:13-35 Yoga 9:30AM	26 Joshua 10:1-14	27 Lamentations 1:16-22 Yoga 9:30AM	28 Psalm 30	29 Luke 4:31-37
30 <i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 10:30am						



PATHFINDER



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH*

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

* A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
1600 PARK STREET
SAULT STE. MARIE, MI 49783

Summer

June 2024

Faith Lutheran Church
Sault Ste. Marie, MI