

INSIDE

- p. 1 "From Pastor Rita"
- p. 2 Letter from the Bishop Finegan
- p. 3 Council Meeting Notes
- p. 4 "About Faith Lutheran", Home-bound members, Office Notes
- p. 5 November Anniversaries and Birthdays!
- p. 6 December Anniversaries and Birthdays!
- p. 7 Upcoming Events & News
- p. 8 November Calendar
- p. 9 December Calendar

November



December

Issue

Letter from Pastor Rita

November/December 2024

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. (1 Chronicles 16: 34, NRSV)

Greetings!!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Thanksgiving season on behalf of Faith Lutheran Church and its staff. We could spend a lot of time discussing the many problems in our lives and the world, but I want to remind you that there are many things for which we can be thankful as children of God.

During this season of gratitude, we look forward to participating in many church events as a community as we step into the season of thanksgiving. November 3rd is All Saints Sunday, a day to remember and honor those who have gone before us. As their names are read during our worship service, we will light a candle and ring a bell to give thanks for their lives.

November 24 we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday by singing beautiful hymns.

This Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus Christ is king over the universe and our lives.

The election week is just around the corner, and I want you to remember that God has promised that He will always be with us. Every one of you should prayerfully consider your vote and participate in this vital civic duty. Remember that God is in control at all times.

The advent begins on December 1st. 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 celebration all make me happy during this time of year.

I invite you to join us for Advent devotions beginning on November 27th at 5 p.m. until December 18th. During the service, we will sing Christmas carols and hear about Advent joy, hope, and love. If you think anyone else might benefit from listening and participating in it, please bring them with you. A new Christmas season is just around the corner, and it's exciting.

May God bless each of us with meaningful lives, and may we be grateful to one another and to God!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rita

Office hours for

Faith Lutheran Church:

Mon. through Thurs.
9AM—2PM

**In case 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>

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith."

~Galatians 6:9-10

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I remember being reluctant to play "Monopoly" with my brothers. I had learned that the game quickly became a source of conflict, especially when my competitive siblings did not lose, or win, with grace. The game would often be fraught with tension and anxiety, and end with tears, yelling, and maybe even a punch or two thrown in for good measure. Maybe it only happened once, but I learned not to play that game.

Despite the occasional violence and fighting over a board game, even as children we all knew, without having the language to say so, that our relationship as a family was always the priority. We were not allowed to be angry for long. Often, whatever lingering ill will there was dissipated after a snack, a nap, or shifting to another game that was far more fun.



This priority of relationship over the power of disagreement has continued into our adult life. We do not agree on everything. We have differing views and perspectives...on money, parenting, what shows are worth watching, what sports teams to support, and most markedly of late - politics. While this grieves me, it does not threaten the love I have for my siblings. I know that whoever wins the presidential election, the occupant of the oval office will not stop me from loving my siblings and holding that relationship as a priority.

The same goes for my neighbors and friends. The relationship is the priority, not any disagreement concerning our political opinions or affiliations.

Granted, the relationship can be strained by such disagreements. We can feel sad that people we know and love can have different convictions. When we feel strongly, there is a real challenge as to how to interact, converse, and continue the focus on the relationship and the common ground we do share.

But when the relationship is the priority, the rest feels less important, even as it continues to be important.

I am hopeful that the same can be true of our families of faith. It is worth noting that our congregations continue to be one of the few places in society that continues to hold and defend space to disagree, even as we are unified in our desire and our efforts to serve the work of Christ. Without taking a poll, I would guess that each and every one of our congregations reflects the general division of our nation into the separate groups of Republicans, Democrats, Independents, non-voters, etc. And yet, we continue to gather and be in proximity to each



other. As the body of Christ, we worship together, share coffee fellowship, partner in ministry, and get the work of Christ done. In our families of faith, we are reminded again and again how our relationship with a loving God shapes **who** we are and **how** we are with our siblings in Christ and community neighbors, even and especially with those with whom we disagree. This is no small thing.

As the election results become apparent, as there may be discord and even violence, as some may not win, or lose, with grace, I put my trust in the power of Christ to bind us together in love. Relationship is the priority. Let us work for the good of all... together, no matter how we have voted or who occupies the oval office. Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, following Jesus our Lord and Savior every step of the way.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Faith Lutheran Church Council

Date September 17, 2024

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

Members Present: Pastor Rita Chirala, Cathy Tibbett, Dennis Brindley, Sandy Lawson, Kathy Flickinger, Ben Deatrck, Ken Randall, Cynthia Wright

Member Absent: In Memory of Al Picotte

Devotions: September Cathy Tibbett October Sandy Lawson

Future Council Meeting: October 17, 2024

Minutes: Ben Deatrck made a motion to accept the July 17, 2024 council minutes including 2 remote email request votes in August 2024 that had passed. Kathy Flickinger seconded.

Motion passed.

Old Business:

A. On September 10, 2024 Pastor Rita sent a email request from Girl Scout Troop To use the Fellowship Hall for 2 Sundays a month with the first meeting to be September 15, 2024. Kathy Flickinger made a motion to accept the request. Sandy Lawson seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

A: Pastor Rita will be away from the office from September 22 to September 25 for Fall Clergy Conference. Pastor Paul will be available for Clergy needs at 906-322-3487.

B: Wayne Olsen, Treasure of Faith Lutheran sent an email to Pastor Rita and council on 9-7-2024 recommending the purchase of new software, update the CPU and add a backup hard drive for approximate cost of \$1000.00. The current keyboard needs to be replaced and the current monitor can be used. The current CPU is 10 years old. The cost can be covered with unspent funds from donations and insurance proceeds for the cross and soffitt. Sandy Lawson made a motion to accept the request, Cathy Tibbett seconded. Motion passed.

C: Budget date tabled until October, 2024.

D: Pastor Rita recommended Marty Laaksonen to be reaffirmed to Faith on Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2024. Cathy Tibbett made motion to accept the request, Ken Randall seconded. Motion passed.

E. 3 "All Creation Sing" Purple Hymnals and 1 accompaniment has been ordered for review by Worship and Music Committee.

F. Girl Scout Chippewa Service Area requested to use the Fellowship Hall for Area Events and other Scouting events as needed. Kathy Flickinger made a motion to accept the request. Ben Deatrck seconded. Motion passed.

G. Pastor Rita suggested the purchase of 50 pens engraved with Faiths name and address to be presented to all volunteers on Thanksgiving Sunday in appreciation of their service. Ben Deatrck made a motion to accept, Cynthia Wright seconded. Motion passed.

Pastors Report: Pastor Rita gave her Pastors report.

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: The council voted to return the Campus Ministry money that had been to given to Faith from the Synod in 2017 for the use of Campus Ministry at LSSU. Since the money has not been utilized it was decided to send back the remaining \$1716.81 to Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan. Sandy Lawson made the motion, Cathy Tibett seconded. Motion passed.

Christian Education: Sunday school started in September with 2 students attending.

Come to the Table: No Report.

Endowment: No Report.

Fellowship: Ice Cream Bars were served during coffee hour on September 1, 2024. Sloppy Joes lunch to be on September 29, 2024 and on Cider and Donuts October 2024. Recognition to all Church volunteers and Thanksgiving theme meal will be November 17, 2024.

Finance: No Report.

Memorial: New pamphlet with information about the Memorial Garden has been completed. The pamphlets are available on the magazine rack by the front door.

Membership: Committee will be meeting soon to reevaluate the membership list.

Outreach: No Report.

Property: Fire extinguisher was checked on August 13, 2024. Orkin is continuing to spray for ants and control of mice.

Staff Support: Council accepted Rebecca Booth, Church Secretary letter of resignation and to hire Lakeisha Richards as Church Secretary. Ben made a motion to accept. Kathy Flickinger seconded. Motion passed.

Stewardship: October is Stewardship month. Stewardship banners will be posted and each Sunday will have a Temple Talk. October 27th is Pledge Card Sunday.

WELC: A luncheon was served by WELCA after the Memorial Service for Al Picotte on September 13, 2024 at Faith Lutheran Church. Plans and preparation are being made for the Fall Bazaar on October 12, 2024 at Faith Lutheran Church.

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

Ben Deatrck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Flickinger seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36PM 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 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

Pastor: Rev. Rita Chirala

Church Office: Lakeisha Richards

Congregational Council: Cathy Tibbett, Dennis Brindley,
Kathy Flickinger, Sandy Lawson, Ken Randall, Ben Deatrack,
and Cynthia Wright.

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

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

Aili Allen - 2017 S Whitehead Rd
SSM, MI 49783

Jack Armstrong - 528 Clubhouse Boulevard
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168



- 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 Deatrick
- 22nd Crystal Latham

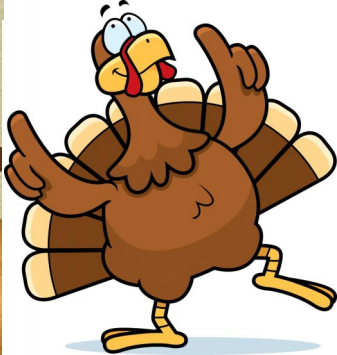
Our ladies group, **WELCA**, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10:30AM for bible study and a meeting. Bring something to eat for lunch.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

No anniversaries in November



There will be a **Thanksgiving lunch & church volunteer recognition** following worship service on **November 17th.**



We are once again collecting money that will go towards **turkeys for the United Way's food distribution.** Other items we are collecting for Thanksgiving baskets include: stuffing, canned vegetables, gravy, instant potatoes, fresh potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, and frozen pies.

- Dates at a Glance**
- ◆ **November 1, 2024**
All Saints Day
 - ◆ **November 3, 2024**
All Saints Sunday
 - ◆ **November 11, 2024**
Veteran's Day
 - ◆ **November 28, 2024**
Thanksgiving Day

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 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
54 years 12/27/70


Jeff & Jenny Peterman
29 years 12/28/96

Micah & Lindsay Brindley
24 years 12/29/01

Join us for a
Healing Service
Sunday, December 1st
following our
regular
worship service.

Youth Wreath Fundraiser



It's that time of year again!

Starting November 1st, 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.

Dates at a Glance

- ◆ **December 24, 2024**
Christmas Eve
- ◆ **December 25, 2024**
Christmas Day
- ◆ **December 31, 2024**
New Year's Eve

Ways to worship with us through Advent and Christmas Eve

First Sunday in Advent – December 1st at 10:30am
Second Sunday in Advent – December 8th at 10:30am
Third Sunday in Advent – December 15th at 10:30am
Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 22nd at 10:30am
Candlelight Christmas Eve – December 24th at 7:00pm
Christmas Day Service – December 25th at 10:30am



thank you!

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who helped out at the 2024 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, November 10th 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 2025 budget.

Advent Devotions

Join us for the Advent devotions beginning on Wednesday, November 27th at 5pm until December 18th. During the service, we will sing some carols and hear about Advent joy, hope, and love. Please feel free to bring someone you think might benefit from hearing it as well.

Financial Statement





Faith Lutheran Church Income & Finances through September 30, 2024

	Sep-24	Sep-24 Year-to-Date Actual	Sep-24 Year-to-Date Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget
General Fund Revenue	\$ 10,831.00	\$ 123,359.84	\$ 95,840.00	\$ 27,519.84
Expenses	\$ 10,865.36	\$ 112,879.78	\$ 109,608.00	\$ 3,271.78
Operating Revenue				
Over (Under) Expenses	\$ (34.36)	\$ 10,480.06	\$ (13,768.00)	\$ 24,248.06
Total Other Non Operating Revenue	\$ 1,953.14	\$ 3,714.88	\$ -	\$ 3,714.88
Other Non Operating Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Balance with Non operating	\$ 1,918.78	\$ 14,194.94	\$ (13,768.00)	\$ 27,962.94





2024 Fall Bazaar & Luncheon



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	2 Matthew 23:1-2
3 All Saints Sunday Worship 10:30a Daylight Savings Time Ends	4 Psalm 119:1-8 Quilting 1pm	5 Deuteronomy 6:1-9 9:30am Yoga Election Day	6 Ruth 1:1-18 WELCA 10:30am	7 Isiah 1:10-18 9:30am Yoga	8 Matthew 25:6-12	9 Amos 5:18-24
10 25th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30a Budget Meeting	11 Psalm 70 Quilting 1pm Veterans Day	12 Hebrews 9:24-28 9:30am Yoga	13 Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	14 Matthew 25:14-30 9:30am Yoga	15 Daniel 12:1-3	16 Mark 13:1-8
17 26th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30a Thanksgiving Lunch	18 Luke 21:5-9 Quilting 1pm	19 Psalm 16 9:30am Yoga	20 Judges 4:1-7 Choir practice 6:30pm	21 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 9:30am Yoga	22 Isaiah 65:17-25	23 Psalm 98
24 Christ the King Worship 10:30a	25 Ephesians 1:15-23 Quilting 1pm	26 Colossians 1:11-20 9:30am Yoga	27 Psalm 95:1-7 Choir practice 6:30pm	28 Jeremiah 23:1-6 Thanksgiving Day	29 Luke 23:33-43	30 John 18:33-37

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday in Advent Worship 10:30am	2 Isaiah 2:1-5 Quilting 1pm	3 Romans 13:11-14 Yoga 9:30am	4 Psalm 122 WELCA 10:30a Choir practice 6:30pm	5 Matthew 24:36-44 Yoga 9:30am	6 Mark 13:24-37	7 Isaiah 64:1-9
8 Second Sunday in Advent Worship 10:30am	9 Isaiah 11:1-10 Quilting 1pm	10 Matthew 3:1-12 Yoga 9:30am	11 Romans 15:4-13 Choir practice	12 2 Peter 3:8-15a Yoga 9:30am	13 Malachi 3:1-4	14 Luke 3:1-6
15 Third Sunday in Advent Worship 10:30am	16 James 5:7-10 Quilting 1pm	17 Psalm 146:5-10 Yoga 9:30am	18 Isaiah 35:1-10 Choir practice 6:30pm	19 Matthew 11:2-11 Yoga 9:30am	20 Philippians 4:4-7	21 Luke 3:7-18 First Day of Winter
22 Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship 10:30am	23 Romans 1:1-7 Quilting 1pm	24 Psalm 96 Candlelight 7pm Christmas Eve	25 Titus 3:4-7 Worship 10:30am Christmas Day	26 Hebrews 1:1-4 Yoga 9:30am	27 John 1:1-14	28 Psalm 98
29 First Sunday in Christmas Worship 10:30am	30 Hebrews 2:10-18 Quilting 1pm	31 Luke 2:41-52 New Year's Eve				





News from Synod


Join the Conversation About Youth Ministry Offered through Lifelong Faith Formation

This October, the Synod is offering two courses which focus on issues of interest to youth leaders:

Growing Younger - Sharing Ideas and Strategies to Engage Young People will meet monthly for an hour on the third Thursday, from October 17, 2024 to May 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. ET/6:00 p.m. CT. The offering is presented by Stefanie Ehle, Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Coordinator, and members of the NGLS Youth Ministry Team. Using the book *Growing Young* by Powell, Mulder, and Griffin, this class will explore such questions as: What does it mean to Grow Younger? How can our congregations be more welcoming to youth and families? Why does it matter?

Beyond the Policy: Equipping the faith community to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse will meet on two Thursday evenings, October 17 and October 24 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. ET/5:00-7:30 pm CT. Instructor Pastor Kari Vadis from Trinity, Rhinelander has been training and coaching in Child Protection since 2020. Through story and practical next steps, she focuses on preparing people involved in youth and educational ministry for situations regarding abuse. This course meets the training expectations of the ELCA and Northern Great Lakes Synod for pastors, youth group leaders, and Sunday School teachers, and others engaged in ministry for young people.

Registration is quick and easy. [Click here](#) for more information and to sign up for either class. Contact Deacon Lori Ward if you have questions or concerns at lori.ward@nglsynod.org or 615-519-1969.



Phone number: 906-632-7246

Email: faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com

*a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith Lutheran Church

1600 Park Street

Sault Ste. Marie, MI

49783