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Dates at a Glance

♦ **April 13, 2025**

Palm Sunday

♦ **April 17, 2025**

Maundy Thursday

♦ **April 18, 2025**

Good Friday

♦ **April 20, 2025**

Easter Sunday

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

April 2025

Letter from Pastor Rita

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

(John 11: 25-26)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Holy Week, or Passion Week, is a time when we commemorate Christ's journey to the Cross. During this time, we commemorate Jesus' death and resurrection. Holy Week's last three days (Triduum) conclude with Easter.

When I was growing up, I used to attend Good Friday services at my home church in Delhi (India) with my parents. My house was an hour's drive from the church. On our one hour-long drive, my father would describe Jesus' journey through the dusty streets of Jerusalem, trying to understand His trials as He walked to the Cross. I used to feel sorrow as I imagined Jesus' death and suffering for our sins. The journey of Jesus left me wondering and observing how He traversed those roads while carrying a heavy Cross.

During the 40 Days of Lent, we contemplate Jesus' sufferings, death, and resurrection to deepen our faith in God's love and His saving power towards humanity. I have started a Lenten series on the Passion of Christ to help us contemplate Christ's suffering and His journey to the Cross. You are welcome to join us every Wednesday at 5pm if you would like to reflect on those dusty streets in Jerusalem where Jesus walked towards the Cross. A soup supper begins at 5pm, followed by devotions at 5:45pm to 6:30pm. All are welcome!!

May God bless you as we walk together in Christ.

**Grace and Peace
Pastor Rita.**



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>



Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I write this article, we are still in a flurry of executive orders and declarations that give rise to a host of emotions. While some are cheering campaign promises kept, others fear for those most impacted and question the constitutional integrity of actions and orders. My own heart feels heavy as funds have been paused for humanitarian aid. I know the work of Lutheran Social Services makes a compassionate difference in the world and frankly, US AID funds make America look good. (It was through USAID grants that the NGLS was able to help build Kisarawe Junior Theological Seminary in Tanzania.) As we consider our theme of Seeds Sowers and planting seeds of faith, the seeds that are now being sown by these actions are unclear. Within that space of planting and growth is the tension between border security and a compassionate immigration system that works, between excessive spending and effective stewardship of federal resources, between legal processes and getting things done. What then shall we say to this?

There is much that I disagree with, and much that provokes concern. But my understanding of the example and call of Jesus to be his disciple brings me back to what I can do, what I should do, and what lies beyond my reach (although not beyond my grief and disquiet.)

I can call my congressional representatives to work to restore funds, and in the meantime, I can encourage congregations to gather in their Synod Assembly offering for World Hunger. I can support local and global efforts to address issues of poverty. I can participate with the efforts of our synod to make a difference with the people who are in our reach and continue to educate around international issues even as we pray for peaceful resolutions and just action.

And I can remember, and remind you and myself, that the God we proclaim is one who promises new life from death. The Savior we serve is one who bids us to “go and do likewise,” not seeking to condemn but inviting us into a deeper understanding of how it is that the least are the greatest. God is for us and working through us to be the presence of Christ. What that means for us in these days, we figure out together. I find that the words of ELW Hymn #705 speak to me with new resonance:

*God of grace, and God of glory
On your people pour your power.
Crown your ancient church's story.
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! The hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.*

*Cure your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your Kingdom's goal.*

*Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore.*

Grant us wisdom.
Grant us courage.

**In Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan**

Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Cathy Tibbett at 10:30AM

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

Member Absent: None

Guest Attending: None

Devotions: Dennis Brindley March: Sandy Lawson

Future Council Meeting: March 18, 2025 at 10:30AM

Minutes: Dennis Brindley made a motion to accept the January 21, 2025 Council minutes and the February 9, 2025 Congregational Annual 1st Half meeting. The February 9, 2025 Special Council Meeting was accepted with corrections. Cynthia Wright seconded.

Motion passed.

Old Business:

A: Child protection tabled until the next Council meeting on March 18, 2025 at 10:30AM.

New Business:

A: In January the Health Department inspected the kitchen and issued a new License valid until April 30, 2026.

B: Steve Rogers is doing the financial audit for 2024

C: Faith will be holding 5 weeks of Lenten Service of Stations of the Cross, starting on March 12th - April 9th with soup supper at 5PM followed by devotions at 5:45-6:30PM. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for individuals to bring soup, crackers and a small dessert for each week.

Pastors Report: Pastor Rita gave her Pastors report

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: On Pause.

Christian Education: Sunday School students are attending.

Come to the Table: On Pause

Endowment: The \$1365.00 unused money from the 2024 Endowment Disbursement and the 2025 Endowment Disbursement of \$4065.00 has been transferred to Faiths general checking account. These 2 monies are still available for Endowment distribution.

Fellowship: February Bingo and sub luncheon was enjoyed by 33 attending. \$140.00 was collected to help offset the cost \$190.77 for the subs. Valentine plates, napkins and red table cloth runner have been purchased at sale price for the 2026 Valentine event. Plans for the Easter Brunch will be made at the next meeting. Supplies for the Easter Brunch are being purchased and there is leftover pancake mix and syrup to use.

Finance: Wayne gave the income and expense report. \$1000.00 was received from WELCA. Thank you to WELCA. The church liability insurance is paid until April 30, 2025 and Workman's Comp paid for 2025-2026.

Membership: One meeting was held on February 11, 2025. Next meeting will be decided.

Outreach: No Report.

Property: Snow plowing is almost double the cost this winter from last winter due to the amount of snow fall since November 2024.

Staff Support: No Report

Stewardship: No Report

WELCA: Meeting was held on February 5, 2025. WELCA made the following donations. \$1000.00 to Faith to help defray Faiths Liability insurance and Workman's Comp. \$300.00 to Road to Recovery, \$100.00 to Lily Randall to purchase Altar flowers, \$100.00 to Lutheran World Relief to help defray the cost of shipping the quilts. A Thank You letter received from Mi Michigan Sault for the donation to Road to Recovery. Received from Lutheran World Relief a world map showing where the quilts were distributed in 2024. It was noted that some of the quilts were sent to the victims of the 2024 hurricane in North Carolina.

Worship and Music: Meeting held on February 4, 2025. Next meeting is March 18, 2025. Hymns are up to date.

Ben Deatrick made a motion to accept the committee reports including the Pastors Report and Financial Report. Dennis Brindley seconded. Motion passed.

Dennis Brindley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Flickinger seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35AM 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 Deatricks, Cynthia Wright, and Wayne Olsen.



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

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.

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

APRIL
BIRTHDAYS



- 4th Ken Kinnear
- 5th Loretta Hallesy
- 8th Ruth Ann Brindley
- 9th Andrew Skidmore
- 12th Kyle Flickinger
- 14th Brian Marken
- 14th Bill Markstrom
- 15th Mike Lawson
- 18th Kristina Benoit
- 18th Victor Gordon
- 19th Shelley Peterman
- 20th Lakeisha Richards
- 21st Margaret Laursen
- 25th Steven Markstrom
- 26th Nicholas East
- 26th Aiden Lawson
- 27th Aurora Kelly
- 28th Genevieve Kinnear
- 28th Jackie Sanderson
- 28th Dan White
- 30th David Deatruck
- 30th Darren Keller

Tony & Lorna Bricco
04/20/1985 40 years

Jeff & Kristina Benoit
04/28/2001 24 years

Lori & Corey Strickland
04/24/2004 21 years

Healing Service
will be
April 6th
following
worship

Easter Lilies
The sign-up sheet for Easter Lilies can be found in the Narthex. The cost is \$10 per pot. Payment can be dropped off to the office at your convenience.

WELCA—April 2nd
meets the first
Wednesday of every
month
at 10:30am
for their bible
study, meeting,
and meal.

Ways to Worship during Lent
Devotions – March 12th to April 9th on
Wednesday evenings. Soup supper at 5pm
followed by the devotion at 5:45-6:30pm
Palm Sunday – April 13th at 10:30am
Maundy Thursday – April 17th at 7pm
Good Friday – April 18th at 7pm
Easter Sunday – April 20th at 10:30am

Synod News & Faith's News

Registration for Summer Camp 2025 at Fortune Lake is now open!

This year's theme: "God's Word Comes Near" is based on Romans 10:8. With our traditional Youth Camps, Victory camp, Intergenerational Camps, and the return of Evergreen Camp for adults age 55+, there's something for everyone! Some programs are filling very quickly, so don't wait.

Quarters for Hunger

During the Season of Lent, we put out boxes to be taken home, and kept for the 40 days of Lent. We ask that you collect quarters, or any kind of change, that will go towards the ELCA's World Hunger Campaign. **Please return your filled boxes by April 27th.**

For those still interested in attending and becoming a member of Faith, let Pastor Rita know as she will hold a new membership class on **April 4th at 5pm**. New Members will be received during the Easter Sunday service.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year's VBS will be held **Monday, June 23rd to Thursday, June 26th** from 9 AM to Noon.

This year our community VBS will be hosted by **Central United Methodist Church** and we hope you will consider volunteering as we hit the trail to guide our VBS children in discovering they can trust God in this wild world.

Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches, Faith Lutheran and First United Presbyterian Church are joining together to point children to Jesus.

Financial Statement

	Feb-25	Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget	Last Year Month of February 2025	Feb-25 Year-to-Date Actual	Feb-25 Year-to-Date Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget	Last Year February 2025 Year-to-Date
General Fund Revenue	\$ 21,503.31	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,423.31	\$ 9,804.00	\$ 32,388.31	\$ 34,127.00	\$ (1,788.69)	\$ 33,861.72
Expenses	\$ 19,410.06	\$ 14,086.00	\$ (675.94)	\$ 12,782.24	\$ 26,480.14	\$ 27,241.00	\$ (760.86)	\$ 25,803.42
Operating Revenue								
Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 8,093.25	\$ (4,006.00)	\$ 12,099.25	\$ (2,978.24)	\$ 5,858.17	\$ 6,886.00	\$ (1,027.83)	\$ 8,158.30
Total Other Non Operating								
Revenue	\$ 1,283.56	\$ -	\$ 1,283.56	\$ 1,793.62	\$ (5,771.32)	\$ -	\$ (5,771.32)	\$ (8,942.05)
Other Non Operating								
Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					
Balance with Non operating	\$ 9,576.81	\$ (4,006.00)	\$ 13,382.81	\$ (1,184.62)	\$ 86.85	\$ 6,886.00	\$ (6,799.15)	\$ (783.75)

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Exodus 17:1-7	2 Psalm 95 WELCA 10:30am Devotions 5:45pm	3 Romans 5:1-11	4 John 4:5-42	5 Isaiah 55:1-9
6 Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30am	7 Psalm 130 Quilting 1pm	8 Ezekiel 37:1-14	9 Romans 8:6-11 Devotions 5:45 Choir 6:30pm	10 Jeremiah 31:31-34	11 Psalm 126	12 Hebrews 5:5-10
13 Palm Sunday Worship 10:30am Girl Scouts 2pm	14 Hebrews 9:11-15 Quilting 1pm	15 John 12:20-36 Yoga 9:30am	16 Isaiah 50:4-9a Choir 6:30pm	17 Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	18 Good Friday Service at 7pm Hebrews 10:16-25	19 Romans 6:3-11
20 Easter Sunday Worship 10:30am	21 Easter Monday Daniel 12:1-3 Quilting 1pm	22 Psalm 16:8-11 Yoga 9:30am	23 Acts 2:14, 22b-32 No Choir practice	24 Matthew 28:9-15a Yoga 9:30am	25 Acts 10:34-43	26 John 20:1-18
27 Second Sun- day of Easter Worship 10:30am Girl Scouts 2pm	28 Psalm 16 Quilting 1pm	29 Revelation 1:4-8 Yoga 9:30am	30 John 20:19-31			



PATHFINDER




FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH*

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



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