

## INSIDE

- p. 1 "From Pastor Rita",  
Dates at a glance
- p. 2 Letter from the Bishop  
Finegan
- p. 3 Council Meeting Notes
- p. 4 "About Faith Lutheran",  
Homebound members  
Office Notes
- p. 5 January Anniversaries  
and Birthdays!
- p. 6 January Calendar

## Dates at a Glance

- † **Jan. 1, 2024**  
New Year's Day
- † **Jan. 6, 2024**  
Epiphany of  
Our Lord
- † **Jan. 7, 2024**  
Baptism of  
Our Lord
- † **Jan. 15, 2024**  
Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day

**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>



## Letter From Pastor Rita

January 2024

### **New Year's Greetings!**

As we begin the New Year, it is important for us to reflect and appreciate all the good things that we have experienced this past year. I encourage you to take a moment and consider how good God has been to you in your health, family, and work.

In the midst of wars and political division - reminding us of the fragility of our kind - we must realize the many blessings God has given to us in order to protect and preserve us. The challenges are only lessons and we must trust in God to teach us and surpass our many hurdles.

I thank all the church volunteers for their service at Faith; I understand the time energy and love you all put into the ministries here and it is such a blessing to know that how much love we share with one another as one community.

I am honored and grateful to have members like you. Thank you for making me part of your wonderful community and making feel like I am not alone. Thank you for being a part of various ministries that we are on. Hope you have a wonderful, prosperous, and blessed New Year. As God leads you to do good works, I pray He will keep you healthy and passionate.

**I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2024.**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Rita.**



Apollos WATERED

But God gave the GROWTH.

~I Corinthians 3:6



Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

### Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Year of our Lord 2024!  
In this new year, I announce our Synod themes for the next three years,

**Seed Sowers:**

**2024:** I Planted

**2025:** Apollos Watered

**2026:** God gave the Growth



Last year at Synod Assembly, Seed Sowers was the theme for our inaugural Seed Sowers Luncheon that thanked people who had made a planned gift (meaning that they remembered NGLS/ELCA in their will) or were considering doing so. In essence, they were a “Seed Sower,” planting seeds for future ministry, seeds that they knew they would not see grow and bear fruit.

However, being a Seed Sower is not limited to those who have planned a legacy gift. After all, are we not all Seed Sowers? Do we not, all of us, plant seeds for future ministry, even as we enjoy the growth from seeds that were planted generations ago?

We plant seeds as we try and pass the faith on to the next generation. We want our children and grandchildren to be blessed by the community of faith in the same way we have been. We stretch our financial capacity to ensure sustainability for years to come. We build a reputation in our communities that we care, and we’re ready to serve those in need. We raise up leaders for future generations by nurturing their gifts for ministry. We are every day, Seed Sowers.

At this time of great transformation and change in the Church, it is good to be reminded that the Church is about more than what we experience in the here and now. And there are many ways that a congregation can plant seeds for future ministry.

I think of the faithfulness of St. James in Marinette, WI. Founded in 1918, this community of faith has been hard at work for the sake of Christ for 106 years. This past autumn, the people of St. James discerned that their last worship service will be Sunday April 14, 2024.

While this decision is difficult for all who love St. James, it also witnesses to their faithfulness. As people who believe in a God who brings new life from death and light from darkness, the work of St. James has not been in vain. This community of faith has accomplished that for which it was created and has completed that for which it was purposed. God will bring new life and growth from the seeds that St. James will plant. In the weeks to come, the people of St. James will consider how best to use their assets to support the work of Christ through ministry partners. Their legacy will provide resources to further the purposes of God long after the doors of St. James are closed.

As we focus on Planting this year, we celebrate the history of each and every one of our Northern Great Lakes congregations and the foresight of founding mothers and fathers who by the grace of God, planted our churches. We give thanks for adults who noticed gifts for ministry and planted the idea of future pastoral leadership in young hearts and minds. And we look to see what seeds we can plant today that will bear fruit in a future church, that for now, we can only imagine.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

*The church of Christ,  
in every age beset by change, but Spirit led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.*

~ELW #729, vs. 1



Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date October 17, 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 Deatruck, Marysue Mastey, Al Picotte

Future Meeting: Council Budget Meeting October 30, 2023 5:30PM.

Council November 21, 2023.

Devotions: Ben Deatruck November: Pastor Rita Pastor Rita said a prayer.

Minutes: Wayne made a motion to accept the September 19, 2023 Council minutes. Ben Seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: Discussed Stewardship campaign, banners, electric appliances and the back door in the kitchen.

New Business:

A: Ken to look into how to give information about Faith to people working on the Soo Locks.

B: 4H Group requesting to use the Fellowship Hall on October 19, 2023 from 4:45PM to 6:00PM. Al made a motion to accept the request .Wayne seconded. Motion passed.

C: Karla Webb requests to be a member of Faith. Wayne made a motion to accept Karla. Ken seconded. Motion passed. Karla will be received as a member on Reformation Sunday October 29, 2023.

D: Congregational Annual Budget Meeting will be December 3, 2023 after Worship Service.

E: Soo High School requested a donation for Senior High Graduation activities. Sandy Lawson made a motion to donate \$100.00. Ken Randall seconded. Motion passed. 1 opposed. . 2024 envelopes have arrived and will be passed out in December.

Pastors Report: Pastor Rita gave her Pastors report.

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: Ken Randall to contact Sue Ann Bartelsmyer at LSSU.

Come to the Table: No Report

Christian Education: No Report. Sunday School to start October 22, 2023.

Endowment: No Report.

Fellowship: Coffee hour enjoyed by all, a reminder to sign up for the treats. Cider and Donuts will be furnished on October 29, 2023. Cookies will be served Christmas Eve.

Finance: Wayne gave the financial report.

Memorial: No report.

Membership: No Report.

Outreach: No Report.

Property: Carpenter Ants were found in the choir balcony. A Contract for 1 year was made with Orkin. The cost for this service is \$1400.00. Some shrubbery on the south side of the church will need to be trimmed. A contract for snow removal for 2023 and 2024 was signed with Kaysner Construction.

Staff Support: No Report

Stewardship: Temple Talks will continue until October 22, 2023. Pledge Card Sunday is October 29, 2023.

WELC: The Fall Bazaar was a great success and raised approximately \$2600.00. Thank you for helping made the Bazaar a success. This year WELCA paid for VBS, helped with the cost of the Church insurance, Road to Recovery, Children in Transition, Synod Women Organization and Altar flowers.

Worship and Music: No report. Next meeting is October 19, 2023 at 6.00PM. Choir practice is October 18 6:00PM.

Ben made a motion to accept the committee reports including the Pastors Report and the Financial reports. Ken seconded. Motion Carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM with the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Lawson, Council Secretary





# 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](mailto:faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com)

Pastor: Rev. Rita Chirala

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

Congregational Council: Cathy Tibbett, Wayne Olsen,

Ken Randall, Ben Deatrick,

Al Picotte, and Sandy Lawson.

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





# January Birthdays



No anniversaries this month

- 4th Kathy Kagarise
- 5th William Robinson
- 8th Erin Lake
- 12th Peggy Suriano
- 15th Garrett Peterman
- 24th Darryl East
- 29th Nancy Bolio

Join us for a **Healing Service**,  
Sunday **January 7th**,  
following our regular worship service.

**A Nomination Committee:** We need a nomination committee for the upcoming council elections in February. The committee should have four voting members of the congregation, two of whom must be outgoing council members. If you are interested in being on that committee, please let the church office know.

## Annual Congregational Report

The chair person of committees are requested to please submit their annual committee reports by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 to [critawilliam@gmail.com](mailto:critawilliam@gmail.com) & [faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com)

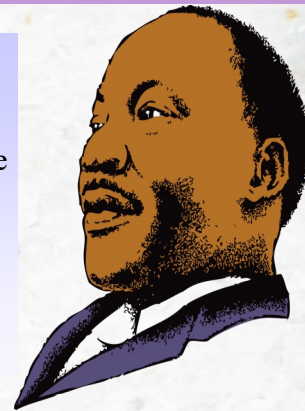
For questions or concerns contact Pastor Rita at email listed.



## WELCA

Meets on the 1st Wednesday every month at 10:30am for their bible study, meeting, and meal.

We are planning to take down the Christmas trees and other decorations on **Sat, January 13th at 10am**. We ask for all the help we can get with climbing ladders, heavy lifting and extra hands in general. Please come and help us.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Jan. 15th

### Facebook Livestream training:

We will be holding a Facebook live stream training session on **January 14**, followed by our worship service. Stay back after the service if you would like to learn and volunteer.



# New Year

## JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Years Day Name of Jesus	2 Psalm 148	3 Proverbs 1:20-33  WELCA 10:30AM	4 Proverbs 3:1-12	5 Proverbs 22:1-9	6 Epiphany of Our Lord
7 Baptism of Our Lord Worship 10:30AM	8 Genesis 17:1-13 Quilting 1PM	9 Exodus 30:22-38 Yoga 9:30AM	10 Isaiah 41:4-20	11 Judges 2:6-15 Yoga 9:30AM	12 Judges 2:16-23	13 1 Samuel 2:21-25
14 Second Sunday of Epiphany Worship 10:30AM	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1 Samuel 9:37-10:8 Quilting 1PM	16 1 Samuel 15:10-31 Yoga 9:30AM Council Meeting 7PM	17 Genesis 16:1-14	18 Jeremiah 19:1-15 Yoga 9:30AM	19 Jeremiah 20:7-13	20 Jeremiah 20:14-18
21 Third Sunday of Epiphany Worship 10:30AM	22 Genesis 12:1-9 Quilting 1PM	23 Genesis 45:25-46:7 Yoga 9:30AM	24 Proverbs 8:1-21	25 Deuteronomy 3:23-29 Yoga 9:30AM	26 Deuteronomy 12:28-32	27 Deuteronomy 13:1-5
28 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany Worship 10:30AM	29 Number 22:1-21 Quilting 1PM	30 Numbers 22:22-28 Yoga 9:30AM	31 Jeremiah 29:1-14 Choir Practice 6pm			





PATHFINDER



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH\*

**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.

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

HAPPY  
*Epiphany*



Faith Lutheran Church  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI