

COMMON GROUND

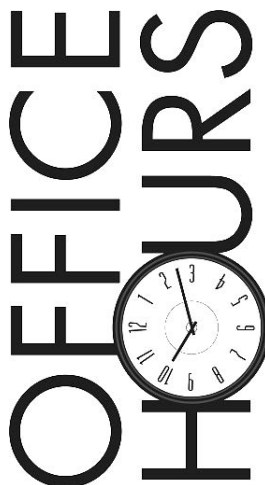
APRIL, 2024

Contact Information

Faith's Office: 906-486-9083
Website: faithishpeming.weebly.com
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Trinity's Office: 906-486-6791
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Email: trinityishpeming@gmail.com

Administrative Interim: Bishop Emeritus
Pastor Tom Skrenes
Email: tlskrenes@aol.com
Phone: 906.362.5212



Church Office Hours

Faith: Mon & Thu
[1pm — 5pm]

Trinity: Tue & Thu
[8:30am - 10:30am]

For Pastoral care
906.362.5212

Administrative Interim
Pr Tom Skrenes

Faith Council Members

Kathy Richards, President	360-2120
JoAnn Manty, Vice President	486-6216
Dede Caplett, Secretary	569-9068
Sharon Eklund	204-0949
Lois Ombrello	485-1903
Kurt Penrose	250-0025
Karen Perrault	869-4594

Summer Vacationer? Snowbird? Traveling? Moving?

Please make the church office aware of a new address, if you will **not** be holding your mail while at another address. **The newsletter will not get forwarded, but we are still charged for postage.**

Trinity Council Members

Cory Beth Grigg, President	361-4271
Brad Heinzman, Vice President	362-8715
Lori Syrjala, Secretary	235-1704
Kathy Koski	486-8637
Tim Kubas	235-2662
Rosemary Larson	204-0059
Adele Price	869-1984

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From Your Administrative Interim Pastor



Four Congregations What is our Future?

In early March the president of the Bethel Lutheran Congregation in Ishpeming invited the presidents and vice-presidents of the four Ishpeming ELCA congregations along with their pastors to a meeting to think together about our future. It was a good discussion about our ministry and our work together in this area. All our four congregations have faced struggles over the last decade. All four churches have experienced membership and worship attendance number decline. The aging of our community has taken its toll over the last twenty years. Finances are a struggle and volunteers are always in short supply.

The four congregations began in the 19th century in three different ethnic communities and synods. Bethany Lutheran came from the Swedish Augustana Synod, Trinity Lutheran was organized by Norwegian immigrants, Bethel and Faith began as Suomi Synod Finnish congregations. Times have changed. The immigrant languages in worship ended about 80 years ago as English became the preferred language of worship. Thriving ministries with each congregation employing a full-time pastor or even two (in Bethel's case) have given way to much smaller worshipping communities.

Now we are faced with pastoral vacancies within three of our congregations. Still the work of God's people in the Ishpeming area continues. Faithful lay and clergy are asking what the future holds. Working with the synod, we are all asking what is next? What can God do to renew God's Church in this area, and what can we do to make the ministry vibrant.

We are asking Godly questions: How many congregations are best for the work of the kingdom here? How can our buildings be used to support this ministry? What are our pastoral needs? How can we attract more of God's people (especially young people) to serve with us? What positive actions have we done together already and how has that work enhanced our service to the community?

There are many more questions that need to be explored. As we think together over the next year(s) we know how important our congregations are to our people. We are all committed to listening to all the voices in our congregation and in the community. We are committed to work with the Synod and to learn from their experience. We are committed to think together and to be open to the Holy Spirit. We are committed to be responsive and responsible in our ideas and suggestions.

Our group of Ishpeming congregational leaders will continue to meet. There is much to think about and to pray about. God has blessed the Lutheran community in Ishpeming since 1870, when the first of our congregations (Bethany) began its ministry. We can depend on God to continue to encourage us and lift us up to do His will.

Please contact your congregational president or me for more information. Not only will we keep you informed, we will keep you in the conversation. What is God up to?

+Pastor Thomas A. Skrenes



Northern Great Lakes Synod

Marquette, Michigan

Equipping the Saints for Ministry

“We’ve Been Here Before”

Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and
Director for Evangelical Mission

While it’s certainly true that we are dealing with new realities in society and church—realities that didn’t exist a generation ago—there is value in recognizing that previous generations have dealt with similar challenges of changing times. Reading the book of Acts and the challenges and amazing fluidity of the early church, we can find strength and hope in truly understanding that God’s people have been here before—both through the good and the bad. The players may have changed, but the basic patterns of life and humanity are amazingly similar.

I believe that there is value in reflecting on the past to gain perspective for our present reality. There is a dangerous pride in thinking our lives are totally unique and new and have no connection to the past. It is dangerous to believe that those who have gone before us have nothing to teach us.

While I’m certainly not a scholarly historian, I do enjoy reading about the past. I find that the past can challenge me, inform me, and ultimately give me perspective and hope. It’s in this spirit of reflecting on the past, that I want to share some perspectives from past synod bishops of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. For this article, I’m sharing some perspectives from the first bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Harry Andersen (bishop 1987-1991). The ELCA and the Northern Great Lakes Synod officially began January 1, 1988.

In the December 30, 1988, edition of “Northern Lights Notes and Quotes”, Bishop Andersen wrote the following: ***Let us learn from our mistakes. Yes, and let us avoid as many mistakes as possible. But if fear of mistakes immobilizes us, if uncharted courses dismay us, then I say, let’s forge ahead. Run the risk of trying new approaches. Think new thoughts...Dare new faith journeys. Take what God gives us and call it opportunity. Count it treasure for the journey. As His faith pilgrims, travel light. Leave baggage behind. Say “yes and thousand times yes” to His call to His mission.***

I suspect that those of you who knew this man, can see and hear him in your minds speaking these words. Bishop Andersen’s words from 1988 are just as powerful and relevant today. I never had the privilege of meeting Bishop Andersen. Even only one year into the existence of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Bishop Andersen quipped:

“We have the beginning of new traditions. Already I’ve heard someone say, ‘That isn’t the way we did it last year.’” Even more important than recognizing that “we’ve been here before,” is proclaiming in faith, “God has been here before!” The ancient Hebrews would often build altars of stone to remember God’s special action at a particular time in history. “To remember” God’s faithfulness in the past is to be encouraged to trust God’s faithfulness for the present moment and for the future. Those who have gone before me, like Bishop Andersen, remind me that it is on Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.



Sunday Worship Services

**9:00 am Worship &
Sunday School [Sept–May] @ Faith**
Facebook Live


10:45 am Worship @ Trinity
Facebook Live

Radio Broadcast GTO 97.5 FM

Jan–Apr—Faith will host the 9:00 am service and Trinity will have coffee Fellowship at 9:30 am and host the 10:45 am worship service.

May–Aug—Trinity will host the 9:00 am service and Faith will host the 10:45 am worship service.

Bulletins are available Sunday mornings at the church. If you would like one by mail, call the church office. Bulletins can also found on the church's website.

ATTENTION TRINITY:  **ATTENTION**

Beginning in April, ushers/greeters/readers will be assigned. If you are unable to read or usher, please find a replacement. Thank you!



Meets @Faith during the Worship Service
K-6th grades
Sept – May

If you would like to teach Sunday School Questions? Kathy Richards 906.360.2120

Confirmation classes [7th–9th grades] are combined with and meet at Bethel. Please contact Pr Tom if interested in registering for confirmation.

SERVING IN WORSHIP FAITH

DATE	READER	USHER[S]
07	Kathy Richards	Sharon Eklund
14	Laura Korte	Kurt Penrose
21	Noah Penrose	Ross & Barb Carlson
28	Sharon Eklund	Sue Hamel

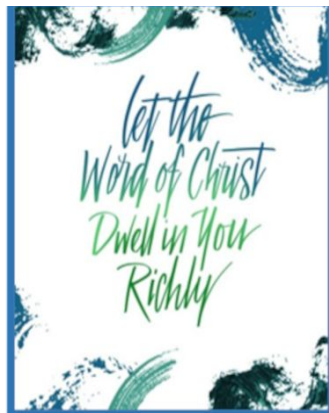
TRINITY

DATE	READER	USHER[S]
07	Peter Johnson	Adele Price
14	Rose Larson	Cory Beth Grigg
21	Duane Koski	Kathy Koski
28	Gary Price	Lori Syrjala



NATURE PRAYER SERVICE

Last Sunday of each
month | 4pm
Presque Isle Gazebo



You are invited to join the Northern Great Lakes Synod in **Dwelling in the Word** via Zoom the first **Thursday evening of every month at 7:30pm.**
Let us Dwell in the Word together!



Faith
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Council Meeting
April 10
@6:00pm

Living by FAITH, known by LOVE, a voice of HOPE to the world and a BLESSING to all.

Council Meeting Highlights

- Laura Korte provided financial reports with typical monthly expenditures. The ad in the Church Section of *The Mining Journal* was discussed. A motion to delete the ad was duly made, seconded and approved.
- Pastor Tom will schedule a new member reception, the installation of congregational leaders and a baptism. Form A will be submitted this week after the number of members are corrected to a more accurate number. He also provided an updated list of guest pastors through June.
- Altar Guild has added JoAnn Manty, Sharon Eklund and Robert Lake to its service. A suggestion was made for Dede to hold a “training” session for people who may be interested in serving to find out what Altar Guild entails.
- Vic Cox patched the bolt holes in the ceiling and walls of the fellowship hall. Dede will prime those areas and will purchase ceiling paint. A painting palooza will be held in the coming months.
- The Superior Health Foundation has sent a message regarding the \$2500 AED grant completed by JoAnn Manty.
- Sharon Eklund volunteered to call people for hosting coffee fellowship after worship since she already calls people to read and serve as ushers.
- Financial secretary job description was amended to include “as approved by the congregation council”. A motion was duly made, seconded and approved. The job description will be saved in Google drive and included in the church’s handbook.
- Discussed letters from a member – council would like to know the sources for information, and agreed to invite member to the next council meeting to discuss concerns in person.
- Meeting of the four Ishpeming Lutheran churches – Kathy and Pastor Tom attended the meeting on behalf of Faith. Discussion centered on challenges our churches and community are experiencing as well as the future of our churches with decreased membership and giving. Attendees will meet again on Mar 17 @1:00pm. Jim Duehring from the NGLS will also attend.
- Next joint council meeting – Monday, April 8 @ 6:30pm at Trinity.



An official warm welcome to our newest members **Joe & Deanna Johnson, Grace Johnson** and **Jolene Silva**, as they were formally recognized on Easter Sunday. May the love of God fill your works of Faith. Blessings!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

In 2023 Faith received \$107 in **Thrivent Choice Dollars®** grant funding. **Thank you to those who chose to do this.**

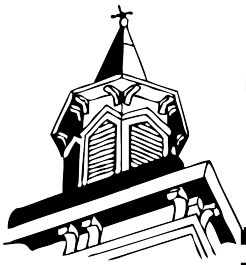
Thrivent is proud to help support the important work Faith does and hope, together, we can do even more in 2024!

Please consider directing your Choice Dollars® to Faith.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law.



Thank you Vic Cox for filling in the holes in the ceiling and walls of the fellowship hall. **Thank you Sharon Eklund, Duane & Kathy Koski, Helen Frederickson, Lois Ombrello, Norma Denney and Barb Carlson** for serving coffee in March. **Thank you to all who helped with the Chili Supper. Thank you Barb Carlson, Lois Ombrello, Norma Denney, and Debbie Kroon** for your continued help with mailing the church newsletter.



Trinity Lutheran Church

Next Joint Council Meeting:
April 8 @ 6:30 @ Trinity

Next Council Meeting:

April 8, 2024
@ 7:30 pm



Council Highlights

- Brad Heinzman stated the basement kitchen mold cleanup was completed by SCI in February. Additional mold was found behind the cabinets which were removed and the area cleaned. A plan was discussed to add material to the driveway behind the church to stop any future water leakage in the basement during Spring thaw but this work will wait until the area is dry.
- Pastor Skrenes talked about the Holden Lenten Services being held at Bethany for Lenten season. All roles for the program have been filled. Kathy Koski advised Trinity and Faith are providing soup on Wednesday, March 6th and that we have enough volunteers to cover our obligation.
- Adele Price asked if we had enough people on our Call Committee. It was determined Beth Heinzman, Mary Johnson, Kathy Koski, Tim Kubas and Gary Price are currently members on this committee. If you are interested to serve, or your name was omitted by mistake, please contact the office or one of the members listed.
- Lori Syrjala advised Staff Support scheduled an interview for the Administrative Assistant/Finance Secretary position on March 5th. Council provided consent to allow the candidate to start immediate training if the job was offered and accepted. We are happy to introduce *Sara Galvin* as our new Administrative Assistant/Finance Secretary. She started training on March 7th. Welcome Sara!
- The Parochial Report A to the SYNOD will be completed and submitted no later than March 15th.
- Cory Beth Grigg discussed a combined Ishpeming ELCA Church meeting held on Sunday, March 4 for Council Presidents and Vice Presidents to discuss ways the four churches can combine efforts for community outreach. The next meeting is March 17 at Bethel.
- Time & Talent sheets received were used to comprise a list of congregation members willing to serve during worship and special events throughout the year. Rose Larson stated the Worship & Music Committee will assign servants for worship each week from the list provided.

...highlights continued

- The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) contacted Trinity for permission to have evening Foster Care visitation with the families and a DHHS Supervisor. There was liability concern and coverage was confirmed. DHHS was notified that Trinity is available for supervised Foster Care visitation.
- Peter Johnson informed Council that our Memorial & Bequest Committee currently has five members but our Constitution requires seven. Cory Beth Grigg and Lori Syrjala were accepted as new members meeting the Constitution requirement. Rose Larson provided recommendations that M&B monies be provided to Good Gifts (purchase of livestock, necessities, etc. in depressed areas of the world); Ishpeming, Negaunee and Westwood High School Backpack Programs, and future Seminarians.
- Pastor Skrenes provided Pulpit Supply through June 9. Faith is hosting Maundy Thursday services on March 28 at 6:30 p.m. and a Good Friday Cantata will be at the Ishpeming Peterson Auditorium on March 29 at 6:30 p.m. Worship service times will switch effective May 5 with Trinity worship at 9 a.m. and Faith worship at 10:45 a.m.
- A Joint Trinity and Faith Council meeting is scheduled at Trinity on April 8th at 6:30 p.m. Trinity's Council meeting will immediately follow. The next Joint Council meeting will be held at Faith.
- Council installation will be held during worship on Sunday, March 24th (Palm Sunday). All Council members are asked to be in attendance.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**MARILYN ANDREW, BLAKE CHRISTIAN,
KATHY KOSKI, ELIZABETH
BURKE-CODUTI, TAYLOR NICHOLLS,
AND LEIGH ROBERT ANDERSON**

In honor of March birthdays, cake and coffee will be served before worship @10 am on April 28th. Please help us celebrate by joining our Fellowship that day, if you are able.



COMMON GROUND *Sharing in Ministry*



THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

Gale Aho
Jim Manty

WE MOURN
WITH YOU



We hold in prayer...those ill, convalescing, grieving or in need:

Faith: Ron, Jim, Pauline, Emma, Kevin & family, Howard, Andy & Nikki, Jacob, Ralph & Marie, Brandon, Paula, Bill, Justin, Dan, Sonya, Paulette, Mose, Aaron, Bud, Janice, and the families of Gale Aho, Alma Anderson McDowell and Jim Manty, and the continued healing for Mira.

Trinity: Bob & Betsy Swanson and Brad Heinzman

...our service men and women and their families: Christian Henderson, Joshua & Cheyenne Perreault, Mike Hollenbeck, Craig Perry, Jacob Smith, and Daniel Sorensen.

...those who are homebound or in nursing homes: Home: Mary Denney, Sherry Watters.

MCMCF: Bill Neuroth, Brian Easterwood, & Ruth Doney. **Eastwood:** Betty Mitchell

Online Giving through Vanco for FAITH

If you are interested in online giving, it is easy to sign up. How it works:

1. Visit the Vanco site either through the QR Scan or the link on the church website.
2. Sign Up with Vanco for an account.
3. Designate the amount and funds. Add your information for either a bank account or credit card.
4. Choose this to be reoccurring or a one time donation.
5. Submit the request.

Once you sign up, **Faith** will receive notification of your donation and your account is credited for the donation. Weekly and monthly statements are sent to Faith and the donation is deposited on the day you chose while signing up. It is that simple. Thank you to all who have signed up. Faith appreciates your contributions to God's Work. Questions: Contact Robyn.



Mobile app for contributions

A new app is now available for use as follows:

1. Download the Vanco Mobile app from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).
2. Search for Faith Lutheran or Trinity Lutheran Church (look for our logo).
3. Login using your GivePulse Mobile username and password. Or set up your user account in minutes.
4. Set up one-time or recurring contributions using your checking account or a credit card.

Online Giving for TRINITY

If you are interested in online giving it is easy to sign up. How it works:

1. Visit the Vanco site either through the QR Scan or the link on the church website.
2. Sign Up for either a bank account or credit card.
3. Choose this to be reoccurring or a one time donation.
4. Submit the request.

Once you sign up, **Trinity** will receive notification of your donation and your envelope number will be credited for the donation. Weekly and monthly statements are sent to Trinity and the donation is deposited on the day you chose while signing up. It is that simple. Thank you to all who have signed up. Trinity appreciates your contributions to God's Work. Questions: See Alex Lanala.





Scriptures	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
April 7 2nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1 - 2:2	John 20:19-31
April 14 3rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
April 21 4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
April 28 5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-24	John 15:1-8



THIRD THURSDAY

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The Church Council approved a Community Chili Supper on the third Thursday of each winter month free of charge. We are asking the congregation to contribute soups, chilis, breads, and desserts and to help with set up and clean up.

There are two remaining opportunities to help contribute to the Chili Suppers:
April 18.

**CALL SHARON AT 906 204-0949 TO HELP OUT, OR SIGN UP ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT CHURCH!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!**



CHILI SUPPER

A/V TECH POSITION

Faith is seeking 1 or 2 people interested in working as the **A/V desk technician**. Pay is \$37/service. Training provided. Contact Carol Cox 906.250.9742 for more information.

KINDER REGISTRATION

The Ishpeming Public Schools Kindergarten registration is April 9-11 at Birchview Elementary School. Parents with children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept 1, are requested to call Melissa at 485-6341 between 7:15am and 3:45pm to schedule an appointment. Parents who feel their child is ready for Kinder, but whose birthday is Sept 1 to Dec 1, a waiver may be completed.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Faith Office Hours M & Th 1pm—5pm</p> <p>Trinity Office Hours Tu & Th 8:30–10:30am</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>7</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship & Sunday School @Faith 10:45am Worship @Trinity Jim Duehring</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Joint Council @6:30 pm at Trinity Trinity Council @7:30</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>Faith Council @6pm</p>	11	12	13
<p>14</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship & Sunday School @Faith 10:45am Worship @Trinity Walter Scanlon</p>	15	16	17	<p>18</p> <p><i>NewsLetter</i> DEADLINE</p> <p>Third Thursday Chili Supper 6.30pm</p>	19	20
<p>21</p> <p>4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship & Sunday School @Faith 10:45am Worship @Trinity TBD</p>	<p>22</p> 	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>Newsletter Assembly 10 am</p>	26	27
<p>28</p> <p>5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship & Sunday School @Faith 10:45am Worship @Trinity Terry Cathcart</p>	29	30	 <p>FOR MAY [thru August]: 9:00 am Worship @TLC Facebook Live GTO 97.5 FM 10:45 am Worship & Sunday School @FLC Facebook Live</p>			

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
414 E. Ridge Street
Ishpeming, MI 49849

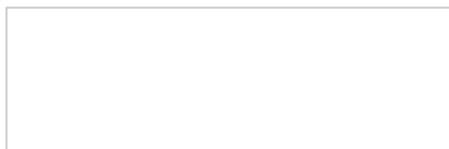
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NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

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ISHPEMING, MI 49849
PERMIT NO. 116

OUR MISTAKES
have been



conquered
AT THE CROSS.



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