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### Dates at a Glance

- + **September 4th**  
Labor Day
- + **September 10th**  
Grandparents Day
- + **September 11th**  
Patriot Day
- + **September 21**  
International Day of  
Peace

**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**

## Letter From Pastor Rita

September, 2023

<sup>2</sup> When you have crossed the Jordan into the land the LORD your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with plaster. <sup>3</sup> Write on them all the words of this law when you have crossed over to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you. (Deuteronomy 27: 2-3)

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

A father gives his son Laertes this advice as he departs for college in Germany in William Shakespeare's Hamlet, the advice is over 400 old now!

*“My blessing be with thee, and these few precepts in thy memory be. See thou to thy character. Give thy thoughts no tongue. Be thou familiar, by no means vulgar. The tried friends thou hast, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel. Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy; neither a borrower nor a lender be for loan oft loses both itself and friends. This above all: To thine own self be true, and it must follow as the day the night thou canst not then be false to any man farewell.”*

The time comes when we send our children to college, and we move from one transition to another as move from one phase of life to another. And I believe that we all offer some piece of advice in conjunction with that.

In Deuteronomy 27: 2 describes the transition of the children of Israel coming from slavery in Egypt through the wilderness for 40 years. It is now time for them to cross the Jordan River and settle the promised land. But first, like a parent, the Lord sits with them and gives them some advice. In our transitions, God is always with us, reminding us that our lives are not our own, but the Lord's, and He will direct us.

The biggest transition I have experienced recently was when my son Derrick moved to Buffalo, New York, for college. As a piece of advice, I told him to be kind and gentle to everyone he meets along the way. Transitions come and go, some painful and some happy, but no matter what they are, they change us.

Even after I have gone through a number of transitions, I am thankful for the provision God has provided. I believe it is important for us to remember that God is just as concerned with helping us achieve His purposes for our lives as we are. Scripture tells us that God cares about our lives and that He prepares us to do good to one another. (Ephesians 2: 10)

During this time of transition, I am grateful for all the support you provided me and Derrick. I appreciate the cards, gifts, and love you sent to Derrick. Thank you to everyone who came and said: “I’ve got your back as you start a new chapter in your life.” It is my honor and a privilege to be a part of such a wonderful loving church family.

God’s everlasting, unchanging love be with us all!

**Grace and Peace.**

**Pastor Rita.**

**Worship  
SCHEDULE**

**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>

**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

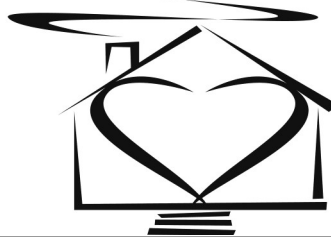
Or e-mail to [faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com)

Pastor: Rev. Rita Chirala

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

Congregational Council: Cathy Tibbett, Wayne Olsen,  
Ken Randall, Ben Deatrick, Marysue Mastey, Al Picotte,  
and Sandy Lawson.

# Homebound MINISTRY



**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](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 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

Louise Rogers– Hearthside- 1501 W 6 Ave  
SSM, MI 49783

Cynthia Suppa — 1205 Tweed St.  
SSM, MI 49783 (906) 635-2925

Bill Markstrom— 3205 Sunglo Dr.  
SSM, MI 49783 (906)635-1343

# September BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd Lynnea Ackerman
- 3rd Kathy Flickinger
- 3rd Jackson Gervasio
- 8th Marilyn White
- 10th Eric Marken
- 11th Chris Camp
- 12th Marek McCallum
- 12th Bruce Anderson
- 13th Lindsay Bricco
- 13th Emma Kempfert
- 13th Jenna Sanderson
- 13th Jess Sanner
- 15th Mark Nelson
- 17th Lily Randall
- 20th Benjamin Peterman
- 21st Krysta Fike
- 23rd Vicki Luoma
- 23rd Steven Rogers
- 25th Lee Sanner
- 26th Matthew Kagarise
- 26th Lynne Nortch
- 27th Phala Gendreau
- 28th Nancy Skidmore
- 29th Diane Markstrom



## Calling all Youth!

### Blessing of the Backpacks will be on September 3rd!

We are encouraging all youth returning to school for the 2023-2024 school year to

attend! We are asking that you bring your backpack on Sunday, September 3rd for a blessing of the backpacks. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces!



**Scam Alert** – please be aware there have been reports of a scam going around. Pastor Rita will never text or call you asking for gift cards.

# September ANNIVERSARIES

Connie & Bob Mattson  
62 years 9/1/61

Dennis & Gwenn Aho  
57 years 9/24/66

Sandee & Paul Raappana  
49 years 9/7/74

Jennifer & Adam Mohagen  
16 years 9/8/07

Mike & Jill Lawson  
9/17

*Sunday, September 10th*

HAPPY  
Grandparents  
DAY

## WELCA

will meet on Wednesday,  
September 6th at 10:30am  
for bible study, meeting,  
and meal.



## Presiding Bishop Eaton's Article

### on Christian Nationalism and Our Response

My husband and I live in Skokie, Ill., a diverse community. Our neighbors to the west are an octogenarian Taiwanese Evangelical couple who regularly order meals from Kosher to Go. Our neighbors to the east are a Ukrainian and Russian multigenerational family. Our grocery stores have both kosher and halal departments. As I drive past the elementary school on my way to work, I see moms and dads in jeans along with women in saris or hijabs and men in thobes or yarmulkes. More than 90 languages are spoken in the homes of our school district. We pay our taxes, mow our (tiny) lawns, worship, raise our children and pretty much get along in our little village of Skokie.

Late one afternoon a few years ago I was finishing up yard work. I had been weeding and trimming all day. I was tired and grass-stained. Just one more pile of leaves needed to be swept up. I noticed a woman walking toward me so I hurried to get the sidewalk cleared. She stopped and told me that she had seen me working all day and thought I might be too tired to prepare supper. She had made a meal for me and my husband. It was during Ramadan—the month when Muslims fast from food and water during the day and engage in prayer and acts of charity. This was her act of charity and generosity. She smiled and walked away. I was stunned.

There has been an alarming rise in hate speech and violence against religious and ethnic minorities in this country. At the same time, we've seen an increased polarization among us, even in our dear church. There is a movement to define what it means to be a "real American." Some would define this as white, Christian and native born. When Lutheran immigrants first came to this country in the 18th and 19th centuries, they weren't considered real Americans. They didn't speak English or fit in with the Deist, Calvinist religious majority. They were "other" and therefore suspect. German Lutheran immigrants weren't considered white when they settled here. Neither were Irish, Italians or Poles. Catholics and Jews were considered an alien threat.

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An element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic.

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It's ironic that the Puritans fled religious persecution and that the First Amendment states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free expression thereof," yet an element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic. There is no doubt that the Founders were Christian and that a majority of Americans identify as Christian. That is different from declaring Christianity as the established religion of the United States. And, dear church, let's be clear, a Christian Nationalist does not define Lutherans as "Christian."

God knows I love my country. This beautiful, fragile, yet surprisingly resilient experiment in democracy and nationhood that's not predicated on shared ethnicity is unique among nations. My grandfather, father and uncles all served during World War I and World War II. I had the honor of placing a wreath on behalf of the ELCA at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. I won't have my patriotism questioned. Christian Nationalism is a perversion of the gospel and a threat to our democracy. It's precisely because I love my country that I warn against it.

Who is a "real American"? I say that my Muslim neighbor walking freely down the street in a hijab to offer a meal to her Christian neighbor during Ramadan is a real American. Motivated by her Muslim faith she acted as neighbor to me. She is not less American because she is Muslim. Because she is an American, she can be her authentic self and participate in building our community and country. What binds us together is not ethnicity but shared participation in our civic life springing out of our cultural heritages and working for the common good.

COME JOIN OUR  
**BIBLE**  
  
Study

Bible study will continue through September 10th at 9:45-10:15am on Sundays before worship service.

**2023 Bazaar & Salad Luncheon hosted by WELCA**



-will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> 11:30-1:30pm. We are asking for donations of salads & deserts for the luncheon and baked goods for the bake sale.

Join us on **Sunday, September 10** following service for lunch & Crazy Bingo.

The Fellowship Committee will provide a basic meat and cheese sandwich & a Klondike ice cream bar for dessert. There is a sign up sheet to bring other items to complement the meal in the narthex.

Then we will play Crazy Bingo! Regular Bingo gets a bit crazy when you can select a prize from the table OR take something from someone who has already won.

Please bring a wrapped "WHITE ELEPHANT", "ATTIC TREASURE", "TCHOTCHKE" for bingo prizes. Hope to see you there-it should be a lot of fun!

**Three Lake Conference 2023**

-will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> of September at First Lutheran Grand Marais Church at 3pm. If you are interested in joining or carpooling please contact church office.

**Financial Report**

Faith Lutheran Church Income & Expenses Thru July 31, 2023					
	Jul-23	Jul-23 Year-to-Date Actual	Jul-23 Year-to-Date Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget	
General Fund Revenue	\$ 9,879.25	\$ 73,971.84	# \$ 75,715.00	\$	(1,743.16)
Expenses	\$ 10,605.44	\$ 86,547.81	\$ 100,360.00	\$	(13,812.19)
<b>Operating Revenue</b>					
<b>Over (Under) Expenses</b>	\$ (726.19)	\$ (12,575.97)	\$ (24,645.00)	\$	12,069.03
Total Other Non Operating Revenue	\$ 2,490.17	\$ 4,162.12	\$ -	\$	4,162.12
Other Non Operating Expenditures	\$ -	\$ (2,053.01)	\$ -	\$	(2,053.01)
<b>Balance with Non operating</b>	\$ 1,763.98	\$ (6,360.84)	\$ (24,645.00)	\$	18,284.16

Note: Our Expenses are approximately \$4,100 to \$7,500 more than our Revenue each month. We have taken steps to reduce our expected Expenses but currently it appears our Revenues will be \$20,000 to \$25,000 less than our Expenses at December 31, 2023.

**Healing Service**

**September 3rd**



**Healing service is first Sunday of every month followed by worship service.**

# September

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
					1 Psalm 15	2 John 18:28-32
<b>3 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship 10:30AM Blessing of Backpacks	<b>4 Labor Day</b> Psalm 146 Quilting 1PM	5 Isiah 32:1-8 Yoga 9:30AM	6 Romans 2:12-16 WELCA 10:30AM	7 Matthew 15:21-31 Yoga 9:30AM	8 Joshua 6:1-21	9 Hebrews 12:3-13
<b>10 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship 10:30AM	<b>11 Patriots Day</b> Psalm 116:1-9 Quilting 1PM	12 James 2:17-26 Yoga 9:30AM	13 Matthew 21:23-32	14 Psalm 119:169-176 Yoga 9:30AM	15 John 7:25-36	16 1Kings 30:11-25
<b>17 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship 10:30AM	18 Psalm 54 Quilting 1PM	19 Judges 6:1-10 Yoga 9:30AM Council Meeting 7PM	20 2 Kings 17:5-18	<b>21</b> International Day of Peace Romans 11:25-32 Yoga 9:30AM	22 Psalm 139:1-18	23 James 5:1-6
<b>24 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship 10:30AM	25 Exodus 18:13-27 Quilting 1PM	26 Acts 4:13-31 Yoga 9:30AM	27 Psalm 5	28 1 Peter 1 :3-9 Yoga 9:30AM	29 Matthew 18:6-9	30 1 John 2:18-25



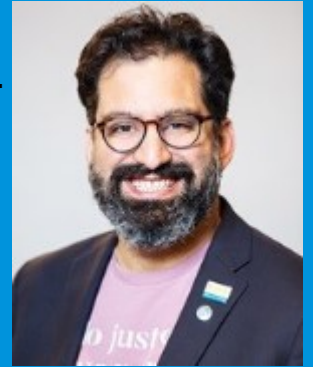
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## BLESSINGS OF FLOWERS

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We have been so blessed this summer with these beautiful flowers around our church. Thank you to all who have helped! Martha, Derrick, and Sandy cared so nicely to the Memorial Garden. Diane McDonald cared lovingly, with the flowers in memory of her Mother. We also want to send a sincere thankyou to all those who helped silently as well!

### ANNOUNCEMENT of a RARE OPPORTUNITY



**When:** Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM Eastern/6PM Central

**What:** A discussion with the Vice President of the ELCA, Imran Siddiqui

**Where:** Via Zoom using the following link:  
Topic: Council Leadership Check-in  
Time: Sep 14, 2023 6:00pm CT/ 7:00 PM ET

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89752983072?pwd=NDZBRHB0YmpETWtRbEYvSTVwdlNYUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 5298 3072.

Passcode: 695443

It's not often we get an opportunity to meet with, listen to, and have discussion with Imran Siddiqui, the ELCA Vice President!

Please take advantage of this opportunity and join us for the

NGLS Leader's Workshop at 7 PM Eastern





# PATHFINDER



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH\***

**YEAR A**

**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.**

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SAULT STE. MARIE, MI 49783