

A LIFE OF FAITH

Monthly News Letter from Faith Lutheran Church

FEATURED STORIES THIS MONTH:

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Pastor Rita's Letter

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³ a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)

Dear Faith Family,

Everything on Earth is under God's command. The leaves know when to fall, the Earth to tilt, and the birds to migrate, all in the preparation for a new season. In the Hebrew Bible, the word seasons, or zə-mān, relates to "appointed time." Everything on Earth—all His creation—has an appointed time to glorify God. With the transition from summer to fall, a new season blooms—an appointed time, to fulfill His Holy will. Let us marvel at the beauty of God's plan and offer our glory to Him.

The beginning of fall offers the remainder of the fall and winter will bring forth more events such as church potlucks, Thanksgiving dinner, choir practices, Sunday school, Advent devotions and various fun and unique activities for everyone to participate in.

We had an amazing outdoor ecumenical worship service in July, with a great turnout, perfect weather, and delicious food. We are grateful for the participation of the churches and the outreach team, which made this event possible. I am pleased to announce that the Cross restoration has been completed, and it looks fantastic. I am grateful for your collective generosity. This good cause would not have been possible without the support of everyone who contributed.

What a glorious season of celebration we have right now. I am glad to say that Faith Lutheran Church is witnessing new life, new growth, and great progression that is beginning to open up!

May God's love and peace be with us forever.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rita.

DATES AT A GLANCE

- Sept. 2 Labor Day
- Sept. 11 Patriot Day
- Sept. 22 First Day of Autumn


Office hours for Faith Lutheran Church:

Mon. through Thurs.
10AM—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>



Page 1

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I have heard it said, "If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies." What I hear in this quote is the promise of better, the hope of beauty, and the surprise of blessing that can come from change.

Our world, our society, our climate, our culture, our Church – all are in the midst of change, transition, and maybe even transformation.

But we are not so keen on change. People like to sit in the same pew, go to the same place for coffee, sit in the same place at the dinner table, observe traditions and rituals that give order, structure, and meaning to our days. Sure, we might rearrange the furniture or put up new curtains, but these changes are of our own making. We choose the change and we can change it back if we want to. It's when changes are imposed upon us that we may balk, resist, or resent what another has decided or how the flow has shifted.



No one decided that the Church or culture should change, but it has. And because I believe the Holy Spirit knows how much we resist change, we, as the Church, are being pushed in a direction that we would not go in willingly but is God's will nevertheless. So here we are, and already I see the promise of better, the hope of beauty and unexpected blessing.

In July, 27 lay people who provide preaching in their own and neighboring congregations met for a Preaching Seminar. The goal was to further equip them for the ministry they are already doing - using their gifts in ways that perhaps would not happen if there were enough pastors to go around. These gifted, spirited, and conscientious leaders invested their time and effort to learn more in order to do better. Efforts will continue to support and equip lay leaders and preachers for the work of ministry alongside pastors and administrative interims.

I see congregations becoming more collaborative, partnering together with neighboring congregations for ministry and education, supporting each other, becoming more aware of each other, learning from each other.

I see us becoming more mindful of the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Our classes on spirituality, prayer, and discernment offered through Lifelong Faith Formation continue to be well attended. I see a heightened tolerance for discomfort as people

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have the courage to engage in conversations around race, politics, gender issues, and more. More and more, people in our congregations are lowering their defenses to learn something new. Book studies, the Kaleidoscope Challenge, and study of ELCA social statements provide ongoing opportunities for deeper engagement and conversation concerning issues that do not have a sound bite answer.

I am proud of us for the innovation I see, the resilience, the adaptability, and the commitment to ministry and congregational life, even in the face of uncertainty and civil division.

Be aware that in our world, and in our congregations, anxiety can present as anger, negativity, and a desire to blame or demonize when really there is no one to blame. Change is simply happening. And our calling as disciples of Jesus is to respond in a way that is life giving, compassionate, and in alignment with Jesus' command to love God and neighbor.

Change is afoot...even in the Synod office. Courtney Wehmeier, our Synod Office Administrator for the last year, was accepted into a graduate program in Leeds, England to pursue a degree in Marketing Analytics. Her last day was in July. Pastor Jim Duehring, our Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission for the last seven years, has joined the ranks of the retired as of August 31. As of this writing, the search for new staff continues.

In the meantime, Betsy Koski, our Synod bookkeeper and fill-in-the-gap-gal, and myself will do our best to meet the demands of Synod ministry. And of course, in this staff transition, there is opportunity. Perhaps circumstances will necessitate inventing a new way of doing things. Perhaps we will be blessed with new staff that provide unique perspectives and a skill set that we didn't know we needed.

Whatever the future brings - in our country, in our world, in our congregations, in our synod, God is at work...in you and your community of faith. Together, we will strive to respond to change in a way that proclaims that we are disciples of Jesus and children of God, united in mission and planting seeds for future hope, beauty, and blessing.



Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan



Three Lakes Conference

The Three Lakes Conference meeting will take place at:

St. James Lutheran Church,
Rudyard
on **September 15th** at **3pm**

It will be a potluck.
If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Rita know.

We invite you to our
Annual Bazaar
&
Salad Buffet
to be held on

Saturday, October 14th
from 11:30am - 1:30pm.

As is our custom, we will have baked goods, attic treasures, and various custom handmade items for sale. We will feature a salad buffet with an array of desserts, coffee & tea for a donation of \$7.00.



Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date June 18, 2024



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

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

Member Absent: Dennis Brindley and Al Picotte, both excused.

Guest Attending: Treasurer Wayne Olsen

Devotions: June: Sandy Lawson July: Ben Deatrck

Future Council Meeting: July 16, 2024

Minutes: Ken Randall made a motion to accept the May 21, 2024 council minutes. Ben Deatrck seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

A: The Jubilation Choir was a fantastic. The Fellowship hosted dinner and breakfast for the choir.

New Business:

A: Fundraiser survey slips to gather ideas for events will be done by Pastor Rita. The survey Slips will be distributed with the bulletins.

B: The council agreed to donate \$ 250.00 to Fortune Lake Camp in lieu of the student who couldn't attend.

Pastors Report: Pastor Rita gave her Pastors report.

Committee Reports:

Campus Ministry: Pastor Rita received a letter from Sue Ann Bartlesmyer about Campus Ministry and what they did for 2023/2024. The council reviewed the letter. Faith is planning

to partake in Laker Palazoo on August 23, 2024. Pre packed bags will be handed out. Money from NGLS for Campus Ministry will cover the cost for the bags.

Christian Education: VBS June 24-27, Nancy Gillette, Jeannie Wellington, Cathy Tibbett and Ken Randall will be the volunteers for Faith Lutheran this year (2024).

Come to the Table: No Report.

Endowment: No Report.

Fellowship: Fathers Day was celebrated on June 16, 2024. Delicious food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Finance: Wayne Olsen presented the income and expenditures.

Memorial: No Report.

Membership: No Report.

Outreach: The Ecumenical Church Service and Picnic is July 21, 2024 at Sherman Park. A sign up paper will be in the Narthex for church members to sign up. Next meeting is July 11, 2024 to confirm plans for the Service and Picnic.

Property: Thank You to the people who donated the \$5,100.00 towards the \$6,180.00 to repair the Cross and the soffit. On June 6, 2024 a special email vote was submitted to the Church Council by Wayne Olsen, Faith Lutheran Church Treasurer. The vote submitted was to accept the written contract from Behling Contracting for the cost of \$6,829.37 to repair the cross on the front of the Church and the fascia on the window on the south side of the Church.

The request was approved with email responds and 1 phone response from Council Members. Behling General Contractor was rewarded the contract. Orkin continuing to spray for the Carpenter Ants.

Staff Support: No Report.

Stewardship: No Report. The next meeting is August. No date decided.

WELC: Plans are being made for the Fall Bazaar. The Bazaar will be held on October 12, 2024, 11.30AM to 1:30PM. WELCA and Kathy Flickinger are making crafts for the Bazaar.

Birthday cards were sent to the shut-ins and a visit was with Connie Mattson. No meeting until August 7, 2024.

Worship and Music: Next meeting is July 18, 2024. Hymns are up to date.

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. Cynthia Wright seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36PM 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.

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

Our official email address is:

faithlutheranchurchssm@gmail.com

We are no longer using the AT&T email.

Due to internet security reasons **please**
[do not open or send emails to the AT&T address!!!!](#)

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

Pastor: Rev. Rita Chirala

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

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 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.



September BIRTHDAYS

October BIRTHDAYS

September ANNIVERSARIES

- 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
- 23rd Vicki Luoma
- 23rd Steven Rogers
- 25th Lee Sanner
- 26th Matthew Kagarise
- 26th Lynne Nortch
- 27th Phala Gendreau
- 28th Nancy Skidmore
- 29th Diane Markstrom

- 1st Terri East
- 4th Thomas Brewster
- 6th Sandra Lawson
- 9th Jack Armstrong
- 9th Robin Jackson
- 10th Alleyah Sanderson
- 11th Louise Armstrong
- 11th Gail Knight
- 21st Cynthia Suppa
- 24th Amber Uplinger
- 27th Lori Strickland
- 28th Scott Kagarise
- 31th Carly Suriano

Connie & Bob Mattson
63 years 9/1/61

Dennis & Gwenn Aho
58 years 9/24/66

Sandee & Paul Raappana
50 years 9/7/74

Jennifer & Adam Mohagen
17 years 9/8/07

Mike & Jill Lawson
9/17

October ANNIVERSARIES

Al & Dixie Picotte
47 years 10/15/77

Ken & Lily Randall
44 years 10/18/80

Darryl & Terri East
24 years 10/14/00

Notice!

Pastor Rita Will Be Away

September 22-24th

She can be reached on her cell phone.



Financial report:

Faith Lutheran Church
Income & Expenses
Thru July 31, 2024

	Jul-24	Jul-24 Year-to-Date Actual	Jul-24 Year-to-Date Budget	Net Activity Over (Under) Budget
General Fund Revenue	\$ 12,629.56	\$ 101,616.07	# \$ 75,890.00	\$ 25,726.07
Expenses	\$ 18,673.93	\$ 91,037.43	\$ 88,183.00	\$ 2,854.43
Operating Revenue				
Over (Under) Expenses	\$ (6,044.37)	\$ 10,578.64	\$ (12,293.00)	\$ 22,871.64
Total Other Non Operating Revenue	\$ 2,477.63	\$ (2,767.59)	\$ -	\$ (2,767.59)
Other Non Operating Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Balance with Non operating	\$ (3,566.74)	\$ 7,811.05	\$ (12,293.00)	\$ 20,104.05

WELCA

**will meet on Wednesday,
October 2nd at 10:30am
for bible study, meeting
and meal.**



LUTHERAN
OFFICE
FOR PUBLIC
POLICY
in Wisconsin



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Young Advocates' Retreat "Called to be Advocates"

Date:
October 4-6, 2024

Location:
Pine Lake Camp
@ Crossways Camps
W 5631 Akron Ave.
Waupaca, WI 54981

Who:
High School Youth
& Young Adults



Participating Synods:

East Central Synod of WI
Greater Milwaukee Synod
La Crosse Area Synod
Northern Great Lakes Synod
Northwest Synod of WI
South-Central Synod of WI

Registration:

- \$100 per participant
- Includes housing & meals
- Registration
 - Opens 5/1/24
 - Deadline: 9/15/24

Topics:

- Environmental Justice
- Gun Violence
- Women's Rights
- LGBTQIA+ Advocacy

<https://www.lcppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy/>

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Zechariah 8:18-23</i> Labor Day	2 <i>Luke 10:17-20</i> Quilting 1pm	3 <i>Galatians 3:23-29</i> Yoga 9:30am	4 <i>Mark 7:9-23</i>	5 <i>Romans 2:1-11</i> Yoga 9:30am	6 <i>Romans 2:12-16</i>	7 <i>Isaiah 33:1-9</i>
8 <i>Mark 7:24-37</i> Grandparents' Day	9 <i>Isaiah 38:10-20</i> Quilting 1pm	10 <i>Hebrews 12:3-13</i> Yoga 9:30am	11 <i>Matthew 17:14-21</i> Patriot Day	12 <i>Hebrews 11:17-22</i> Yoga 9:30am	13 <i>James 2:17-26</i>	14 <i>Matthew 21:23-32</i>
15 <i>Mark 8:27-38</i>	16 <i>Psalms 119:169-176</i> Quilting 1pm	17 <i>John 3:13-17</i> Yoga 9:30am	18 <i>John 7:25-36</i>	19 <i>1 Corinthians 2:1-5</i> Yoga 9:30am	20 <i>Romans 11:25-32</i>	21 <i>2 Kings 17:5-18</i>
22 <i>Mark 9:30-37</i> First Day of Fall	23 <i>Psalms 139:1-18</i> Quilting 1pm	24 <i>Matthew 9:9-13</i> Yoga 9:30am	25 <i>Jeremiah 1:4-10</i>	26 <i>Acts 4:13-31</i> Yoga 9:30am	27 <i>Acts 12:20-25</i>	28 <i>Matthew 5:13-20</i>
29 <i>Mark 9:38-50</i>	30 <i>Psalms 5</i> Quilting 1pm					

October 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Deuteronomy 24:1-5 Yoga 9:30am	2 Matthew 5:27-36	3 Hebrews 3:7-19 Yoga 9:30am	4 Romans 5:22-33	5 Luke 16:14-18
6 Mark 10:17-31	7 Psalm 26 Quilting 1pm	8 Revelation 8:1-5 Yoga 9:30am	9 Obadiah 17-21	10 Romans 15:7-13 Yoga 9:30am	11 Isaiah 47:1-9	12 Luke 22:24-30
13 Mark 10:35-45	14 Luke 1:1-4; 22:44-53 Quilting 1pm	15 1 Samuel 10:17-25 Yoga 9:30am	16 John 13:1-17	17 Hebrews 7:1-10 Yoga 9:30am	18 Hebrews 7:11-22	19 Mark 8:22-26
20 Mark 10:46-52	21 Psalm 119:17-24 Quilting 1pm	22 Acts 9:32-35 Yoga 9:30am	23 Matthew 20:29-34	24 Jeremiah 26:1-16 Yoga 9:30am	25 Leviticus 19:32-37	26 Romans 3:19-28
27 Mark 12:28-34	28 Mark 10:2-16 Quilting 1pm	29 Psalm 112 Yoga 9:30am	30 Deut.8:1-11	31 Matthew 15:1-9 Yoga 9:30am		

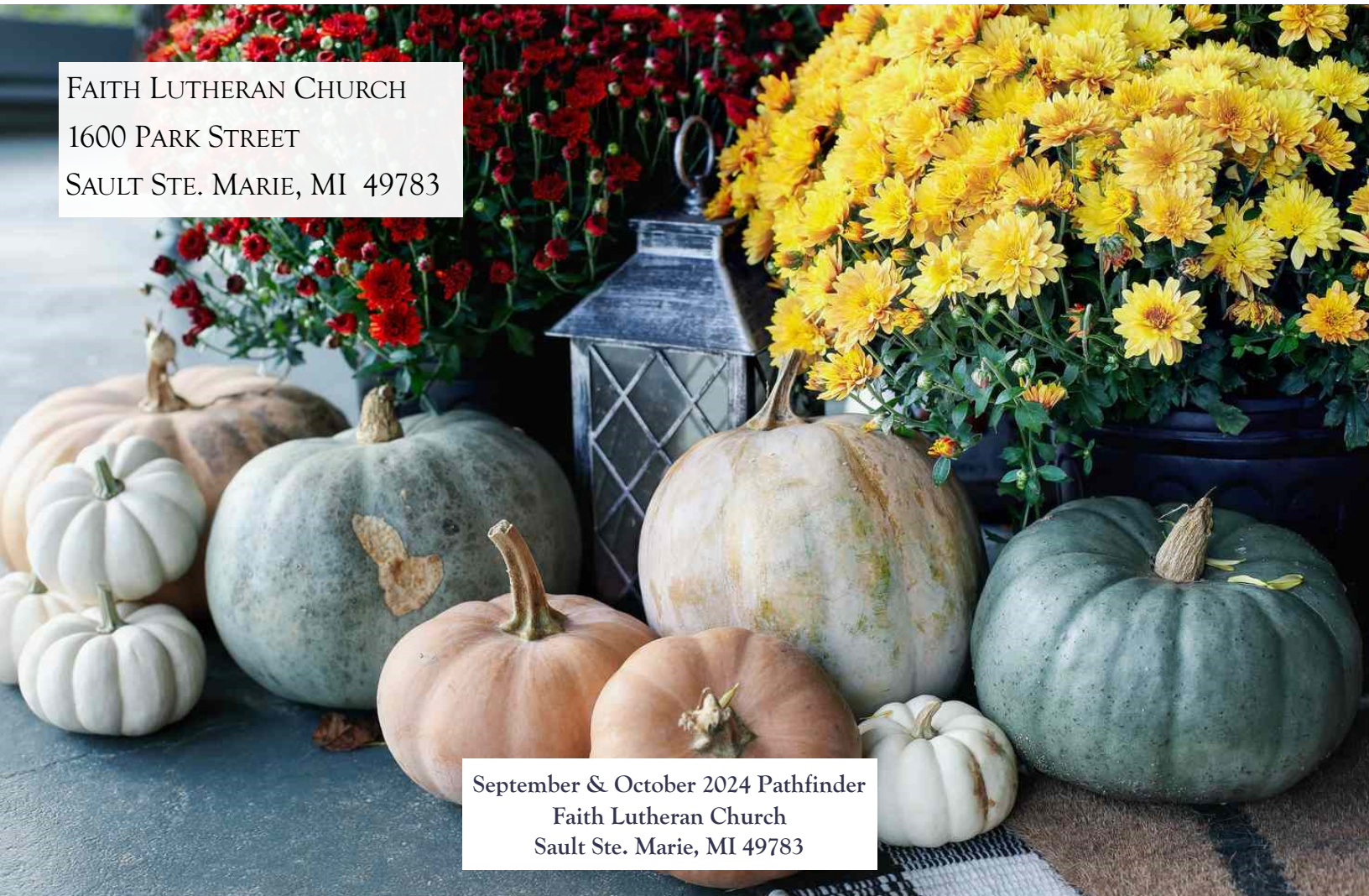


PATHFINDER

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH*

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

September & October 2024 Pathfinder
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