Celebration of Life in Christ



Mintaria (Ria) Sianipar - Naiborhu

(Opung Zefanya)

August 4, 1938 – October 22, 2026

November 19, 2026

Thank you for your presence today as we gather to celebrate Ria's life and the promise of continuing life in Christ. You are invited to participate fully. The order of service is printed below. Hymns not printed below are in the red **Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)** *book which can be found either in front of you or under your seat. Congregational spoken portions are in boldface type. An asterisk * indicates times when you are invited to rise.*

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death.
We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God,
we too might live a new life.
For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn ***Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*** ***ELW 608***

*Greeting

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray,
O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Ria.
We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love
as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth.
In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.
Illumine our lives, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life,
that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call,
we are reunited with those who have gone before us;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Word

Reflections

Jonah Sitorus, grandson
Pastor Esther Sianipar, daughter
Rev. Patricia Lull, friend

Choir Anthem *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

First Scripture Reading **Isaiah 66:12-13**

Will be read in Bahasa Indonesia

12 For thus says the LORD:
I will extend prosperity to her like a river
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream,
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm
and bounced on her knees.
13 As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Gospel **Mark 1: 29-34**

29 As soon as [Jesus and his followers] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

This is the Good News. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Homily

Hymn *Amazing Grace* *ELW 779*

Prayers of Intercession

*At the conclusion of each petition, the pastor will say "God, in your mercy," and the people will respond: "**Hear our prayer.**"*

*The Prayer of Jesus

With the people of God throughout the ages and with the saints surrounding us,
let us pray with confidence in the language closest to your heart.

**Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

Sending

If We Live



*Blessing

God bless you and keep you,
God's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
God look upon you with favor and give you peace + now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn** ***Go, My Children, With My Blessing ***ELW 543***

All are invited to a reception in the Hospitality Center.

Serving in Worship

Clergy: Rev. Martha Schwehn Bardwell
Musicians: Kent Goodroad and Alyssa Schwitzer
Reader: Rebekka Colestock boru Simorangkir
Choir: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Choir
Special Music: Rev. Adolf Siregar, Student at Luther Seminary
Hospitality: Nancy Nygaard Johnson and Paula Keller

Obituary

Ria Sianipar (boru Naiborhu), returned to our Divine God on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 1:12 PM Central Time (1:12 AM on Thursday, October 22, in Jakarta). Ria was born on August 4, 1938, in Balige, North Sumatra, Indonesia. She was one of ten children. Ria attended the undergraduate program in Agriculture at Bogor Agricultural University. She graduated later because she was raising three toddlers. It was there that she met Binsar Sianipar, her husband. They were both student activists, although my father remained deeply involved in student organizations even after graduating. Ria and Binsar married on October 10, 1966, which means this year would have marked their 60th wedding anniversary. After they married, my mother stayed home to care for their four children. Later, when I began kindergarten, she returned to work as a civil servant in the Department of Transmigration, where she served until her retirement in 1998.

Ria is survived by four adult children, Bismarck and his spouse Megita, Sahala and his spouse Tasha, Konrad and his spouse Aleida and Esther with her grandchildren Zefanya, Agra, Noel, Aleisha, Ethan and Jonah. She is also survived by her older sister, younger brother and younger sister. She was preceded in death by her husband, Binsar Sianipar in 2014.

Ria had a strong faith, and that faith grew even stronger as she grew older. There was hardly a day when she did not remind her four adult children, our spouses, and her grandchildren to pray and read the Bible. That was simply how she lived her life. She was invited by her older sister, who was a lay leader in the church, to follow in her footsteps. At first, she declined because she was busy with her work and knew that becoming a lay leader in HKBP (Huria Kristen Batak Protestan, the Indonesian Lutheran Batak Church) required a two-year training commitment. Eventually, she accepted the invitation. Before retiring, she completed her training and was commissioned as a lay leader in the church.

Both Ria and Binsar shared a dream of bringing their four children to America. Although Bindar traveled internationally quite often, he had never visited the United States. Then, in 1984, he received a full scholarship to pursue his master's degree at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. The Indonesian Council of Churches had offered him several choices: Princeton University in New Jersey, Yale University in Connecticut, or Ohio University. Binsar told the selection committee that he was looking for a small town that would be easy to navigate, with fewer distractions and not too many people, because he envisioned eventually bringing our entire family there. The committee recommended Ohio University, and Binsar said YES!

Ria, her third son and I joined Binsar and her two older children in Athens in 1986. While pursuing her own master's degree at Ohio University, Ria was also actively involved in the life of the church which was Christ Lutheran Church. She visited people in nursing homes and helped prepare meals in the church kitchen, all while being a full-time student.



She continued to live out her faith wherever and whenever she could, showing up in her lay leader's robe to serve and accompany others. Ria Sianipar Naiborhu, was a woman, a wife, a mother and a grandmother (Opung) of deep faith, a woman who brought peace to her family and extended family, and a woman who loved us fiercely. She challenged us to wonder, to ask questions, to keep learning, and, most importantly, to remain humble. Thank you for showing us what it means to live a life of faith and service. Shalom!

OUR SAVIOUR'S
Lutheran Church

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community, centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent – to celebrate, serve and do justice.