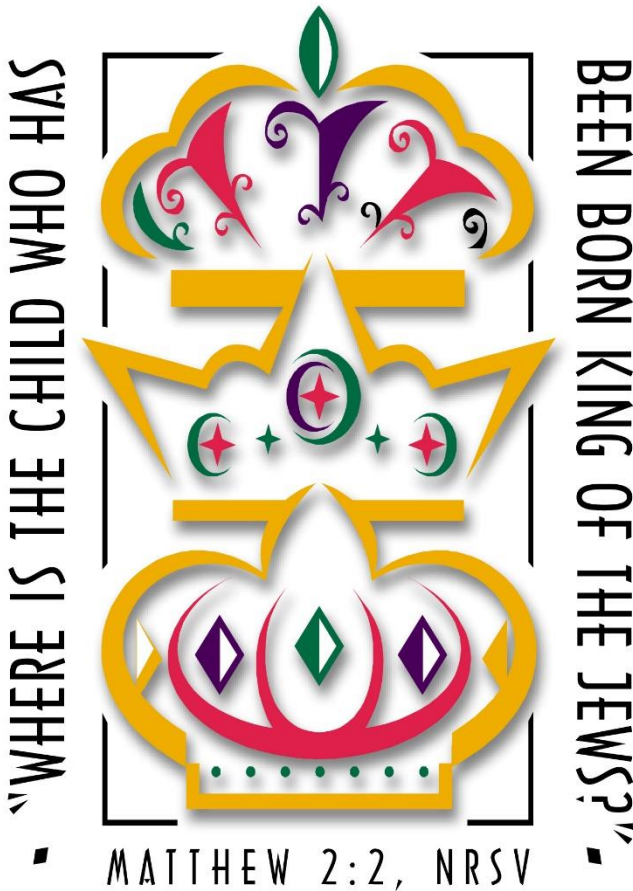


Faith Lutheran Church

January 6, 2019



Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517)349-0620



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
- . . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
 - . . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
 - . . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ
-



Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26) We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.

Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ www.faithlutheranokemos.org
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ www.mittensynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ www.elca.org

Facebook

facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship
Sermons

Boundaries Rearranged

A collision is taking place in the story of the magi coming to offer their gifts to Jesus. It is a collision we know well. It is the collision between outsiders who have something to gain and tight-fisted insiders who feel as though they have something to lose.

Have you ever noticed the contrast between the magi and Herod? The magi travel from afar to open their treasure chests, and presumably their hearts, to this new Christ. Herod's heart lurches and clenches and he has a tight-fisted temper tantrum at the prospect of sharing his power with anyone new, let alone some infant sought by strange astrologers!

Epiphany is about worlds colliding and boundaries being rearranged so that people who otherwise have nothing in common become one body. Many a Lutheran church sign reads, "All are welcome." Conceivably, "all" includes magi from the east, shepherds, Herod, young parents, newborn babies—you name it.

"All are welcome" sounds great, unless you're Herod. Unless you have something to lose by making room; unless the arrival of new folks, new traditions, or newness in general might mean that you have to share your power, your privilege, and your status.

Epiphany reveals two truths. The first is that God really means business when God says that all are welcome. God is all about a manger scene that's full of unlikely characters, full of unsuspecting worlds colliding and becoming the community of God. The second truth is that while God brings outsiders in, Herod stands in like a placeholder for all of us, revealing our propensity to become tight-fisted, selfish, and hostile when our privilege or status is challenged.

Luckily for us, God goes ahead and makes room for the outsider despite our protest.

Sunday, January 6, 2019
Epiphany of Our Lord

Introduction to the day

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.

The ushers also have large print copies of today’s worship folder available.

If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.

There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.
Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

PRELUDE

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

arr. Raymond Haan

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who shines in glory,
clothes us in compassion,
and bears gifts of mercy for all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, wonderful counselor,
**we confess that we have turned from your gifts
and chosen our own way.**

**We have not made room for you
in our hearts or in our world.**

**We have lived in fear;
we have not welcomed the stranger;
we desire gifts that will not endure.**

**Forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
and open us to receive the peace of Jesus
dwelling in and among us.**

Amen.

God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior.
We are saved, not by anything we have done,
but by God's mercy poured out on us richly.

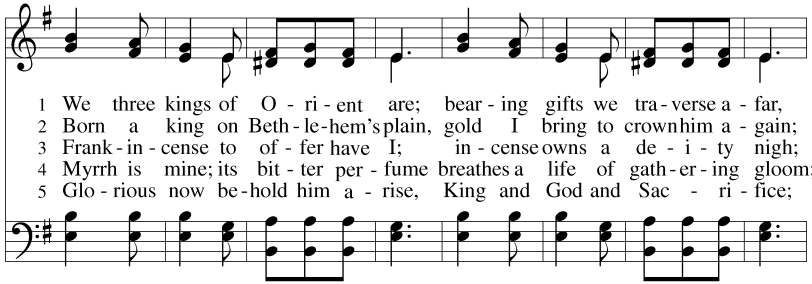
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

Through the Spirit living in you,
God give you faith to trust Jesus,
who is Love born for you, now and always.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

We Three Kings of Orient Are

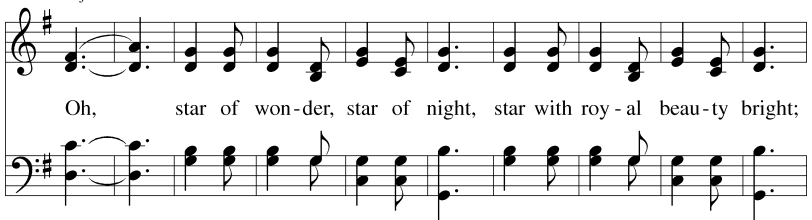


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

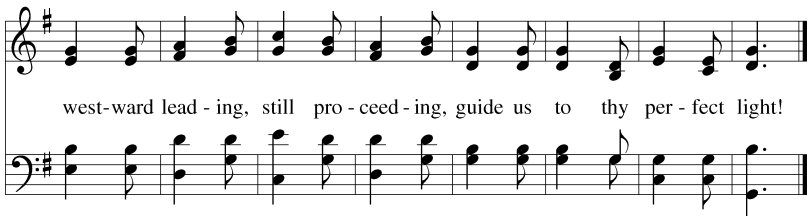


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



☩ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☩ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



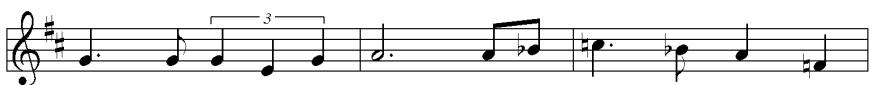
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☩ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

I
II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW #302

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers,
and the assembly responds:*

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope
of Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

“The Magi Who to Bethlehem Did Go”

(Raabe)

Chancel Choir

Tammy Heilman, soloist

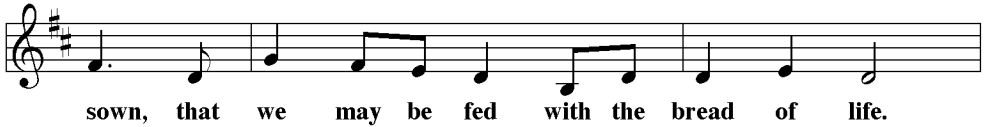
OFFERING RESPONSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u- nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore- taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God,

your beauty shines forth from the manger

and your love flows from the cross.

As you gather us around these signs

of your love come among us,

warm us to extend your care

among the hungry and all in need.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the witness of your saints

you show us the hope of our calling,

and strengthen us to run the race set before us,

that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.

And so, with Max, Patricia, Dona, Mariah, David, Marsha, Homer,

Jedida all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of

heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho- san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the
high - est. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of five staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and dotted notes, with some phrases like 'Ho-san-na' and 'high-est' spanning across multiple staves.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Almighty Lord

we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.

From before the earth's foundation,
you loved us and promised us life forever.

Within the earth's deep sadness,
we laud your great and glorious might.

Despite our tears and sinning,
we sing of the gladness of your mercy.

We praise your Son, our Morning Star.

Christ is

our diamond bright,

our treasure dear.

He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love.

He keeps us yours and fails us never—
today, tomorrow, and every day.

On the night before his great salvation,
he took bread and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With joy we tell our story:
Alleluia!

Alleluia!

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal.
Refresh our souls with this heavenly food,
the body and blood of your Son.
Nourish us as branches of your tree,
and enlighten us with your undying flame.
We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son,
we exult in the Spirit.
Transport us in our yearning,
and be for us the end and the beginning,
our purest pleasure, our victorious crown,
our never-ending love.
And so we pray and praise:
Amen, amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen, amen.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

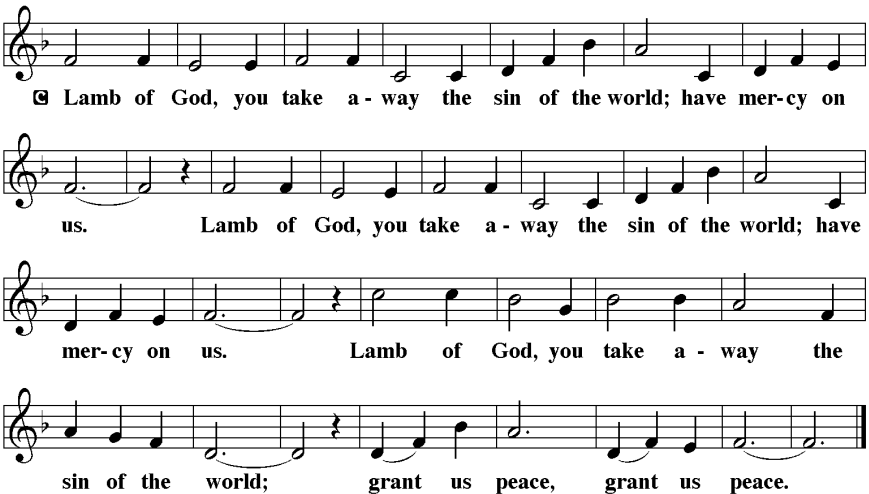
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Hunger no more. Thirst no more.
Come to the banquet of life.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

What Child Is This

ELW #296

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW #294

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of wonder,
in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.
As you have come among us now,
send us out in joy, hastening to share
the good news of your love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God the Creator who delights in you,
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,
and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you,
✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

The First Noel

ELW #300

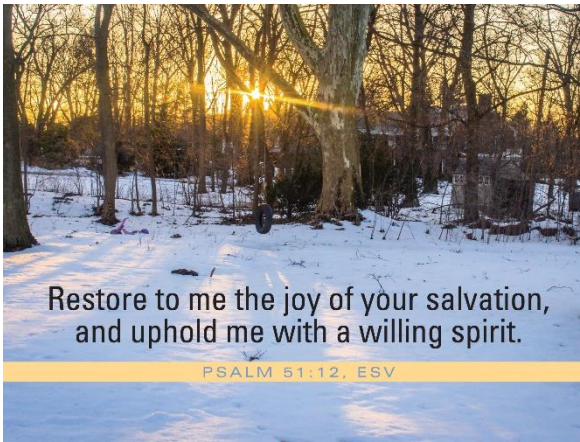
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

Johann Pachelbel



Siblings in Christ, welcome to worship! May your time in the Lord be rich and blessed.

Pastor	Ellen Schoepf	prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Secretary	Katie Love	klove@faithlutheranokemos.org
High School Director		Katie Love
Trinity/Middle School Director		Maddie Wosinski
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

December 30 Attendance: 81

Serving Faith	January 6	January 13
Acolyte	Sean O'Brien	Open
Altar Care	Cecelia Kramer & Nina Schrote	
		Elaine Harrison & Nina Schrote
Communion Assistants	Sean O'Brien	Open
	Brenda Kopf	Gus Lulis
	Ken Schoepf	John McPhail
Greeters	Doug & Linda Hirt	Mark & Molly DeHate
Readers	Brenda Kopf	Gus Lulis
Lay Assistant	Ken Schoepf	John McPhail
Ushers	Harrison's	Nussdorfer's
Nursery	Jennifer Coe	Heidi Bowers

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, January 6: Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Faith Lutheran Church.