

**January 5, 2020**

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

## **Second Sunday of Christmas**

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

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf  
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams  
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love  
High School Leaders: .....Kim O’Brien, Ryan & Addie Thompson  
Pastor’s email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website:.....[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

Aids for hearing, children’s activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.



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.

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.

Faith Lutheran live streams it's services. No names of participants are broadcast.

*Ushers: Bill & Pam Williams*  
*Greeters: Gail & Lowell Barricklow*  
*Altar Care: Cecelia Kramer*  
*Acolyte: open*  
*Reader: Brenda Kopf*  
*Lay Assistant: Harold Sollenberger*  
*Nursery: Heidi Bowers*  
*Coffee Hour Hosts: open*

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

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the Narthex.  
Prayer requests and praises are listed in the announcement packets.

## **Introduction to the day**

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

# Welcome and Announcements

## Prayer Requests

### Prelude

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Cherwein

## GATHERING

*The Assembly Stands*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
Love from the beginning,  
Word made flesh,  
Breath of heaven.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,  
trusting in God’s endless mercy and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we are not perfect.**  
**We have said and done things we regret.**  
**We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,**  
**while denying it to others.**  
**We have resisted your call**  
**to be your voice in the world.**  
**Forgive us, loving God.**  
**Give us your righteousness,**  
**the strength to put aside our failures,**  
**and the courage to try again. Amen.**

Dear people of God, hear the good news:  
Christ the Savior is born!  
You are loved and forgiven  
in the name of ✝ Jesus, who has come among us.  
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,  
because God's love is given to you  
as the most precious gift of all.  
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

**ELW #295**

## 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

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

**Reader: Brenda Kopf**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen

his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

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

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Love Has Come***

***ELW #292***

### **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**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in 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:*

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

# MEAL

## OFFERING

“When the Angels’ Song is Silent”

(Beall)

Chancel Choir

## OFFERING RESPONSE

### 592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH LM

Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise \*Him, all crea-tures  
here be-low; Praise \*Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;  
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Generous God,  
you have given us life, this community,  
and these gifts of the earth  
that become the meal of your grace.  
Move in our hearts,  
that we might use your gifts  
to bring hope and blessing wherever we go,  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

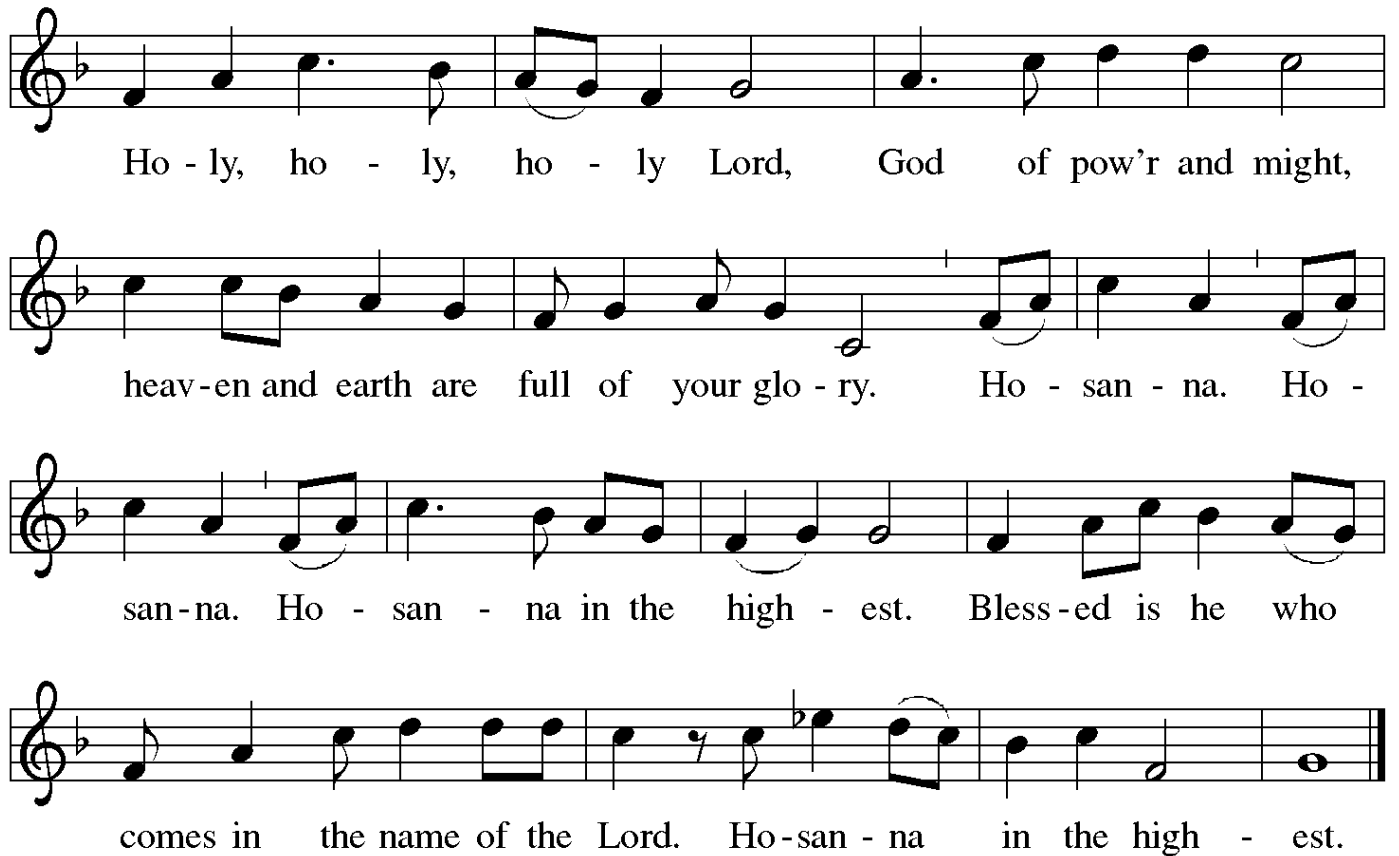
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

### **THE LORDS 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**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **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.

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

**ELW #294**

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*That Boy-Child of Mary*

**ELW #293**

*The assembly stands.*

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

**Amen.**



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

Grace from God's own heart,  
peace from the ✝ Child in the manger,  
and strength from the Spirit of life  
be blessings for you today and forever.

**Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

*The Bell of Christmas*

***ELW #298***

### DISMISSAL

Christ is born!  
Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Uehlein

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Attendance: 61

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***Serving Faith January 12***

*Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt*

*Greeter: Rich Weingartner*

*Altar Care: Nina Schrote*

*Acolyte: open*

*Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer*

*Lay Assistant: Kim O'Brien*

*Nursery: Lori Webb*

*Coffee Hour Hosts: Nina Schrote*

***Altar Flower Dedications***

*Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>*

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill & Pam Williams in celebration of Peyton's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.*

Thank you to Great Harvest Bread Co. for donating 20 loaves of bread to our Fill the Stocking food drive in December. Thanks also to all the people who donated food, helped bag the food, and delivered the food to the families. This could not have been successful without all of your help. Thanks, The Caring Committee



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



## 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](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)

### Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

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