

**August 23, 2020**  
**IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

## **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

### **12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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: ..... Ryan & Addie Thompson  
Pastor's email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
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Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

As Lutheran Christians, our worship experience is ordinarily permeated with the music of the church. However, during this time of COVID-19, we are refraining from singing as we gather for in-person worship. Singing causes us to expel and project inordinate amounts of aerosols from our mouths and it is aerosols that spread this virus. Therefore, we have been instructed not to sing for the safety and health of everyone present. We do this as another way of loving and caring for our neighbor.

## Introduction to the day

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your  
Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.**

**Amen.**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 51:1-6**

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.

<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 12:1-8**

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think

of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20**

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

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

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

### *Presentation*

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism, and for these young people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

*A representation of the congregation presents those making affirmation.*

I present:

Lily O'Brien

Samantha Ransom

Maude Lewis and

Rachael Ngasala who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these young people whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

## *Profession of Faith*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

## *Affirmation of Baptism*

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.*

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ

through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and

to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do and I ask God to help me.**

People of God, do you promise to support these young people of our congregation and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*The minister and all those gathered may lay both hands on the head of each confirmed and say:*

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake,

stir up in *Lily, Samantha, Maude and Rachael*

the gift of your Holy Spirit;

confirm *her* faith, guide *her* life,

empower *her* in *her* serving,



give *her* patience in suffering,  
and bring *her* to everlasting life.

**Amen**

*Those making public affirmation face the assembly.*

*A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.*

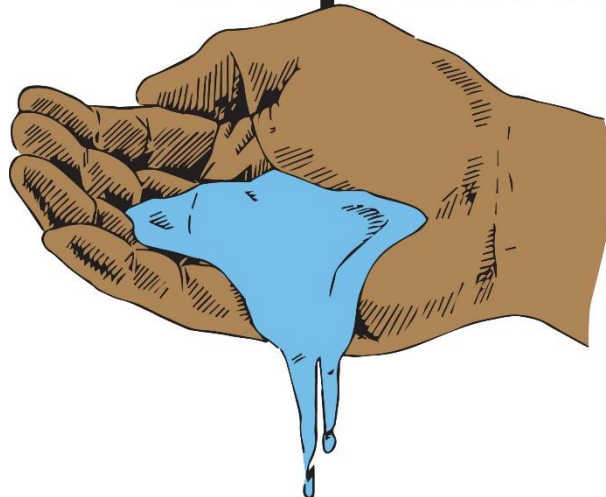
Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*All return to their places in the congregation and the worship service then continues with prayers.*

## Reaffirmation of **Baptism**



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we 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:*

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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. **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**

*Communion – Communion is shared among us.*

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

**Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner

Ushers: John & Gayle McCracken

### 8/9

Loose Cash	\$ 67.00
Loose Checks	\$ 350.00
General Fund	\$2720.00
Parish House Project	\$ 150.00
Pastor's Dis. Fund	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$3337.00
Simply Giving	
General	\$4320.00
Building	<u>\$ 75.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7732.00</b>

### 8/16

Loose Cash	\$ 20.00
Youth	\$ 10.00
General Fund	\$3035.00
Capital Fund	\$ 10.00
Parish House Project	\$ 150.00
Pastor's Dis. Fund	\$ 50.00
Caring Committee	\$ 40.00
Tent Stakes	\$ 60.00
Communion Supplies	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3575.00
Simply Giving	
General	<u>\$ 512.00</u>
	<b>\$ 4087.00</b>

If you have the ability to support the church's work during this time please do so as you normally would. You can mail your check to Faith Lutheran, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos MI 48864 or consider signing up for "Simply Giving", our online offering tool. Contact [jon.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:jon.harrison@comcast.net) for more information on how to sign up.

Our commitments to the greater Okemos community and beyond and more important than ever and we will need your help to meet this challenge.