

April 24th, 2022

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Second Sunday in Easter

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
Youth & Education DirectorPam Williams
Pastor’s email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Church email:.....faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website:.....www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page:.....facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

Introduction to the day

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus’ victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

PRELUDE

“Be Thou My Vision”

(arr. Sandra Eithun)

Faith Bells

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

A reading from the Psalms:

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters. O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. (*Psalms 29:3, 11*)

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD. (*Psalms 98:7-8*)

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

We give you thanks for the Great Lakes that surround us, and for Lake Lansing, the Grand River and the Red Cedar that are nearby us.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection. Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for this Faith Lutheran community whose members have faithfully walked wet in your baptismal water for sixty-six years.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

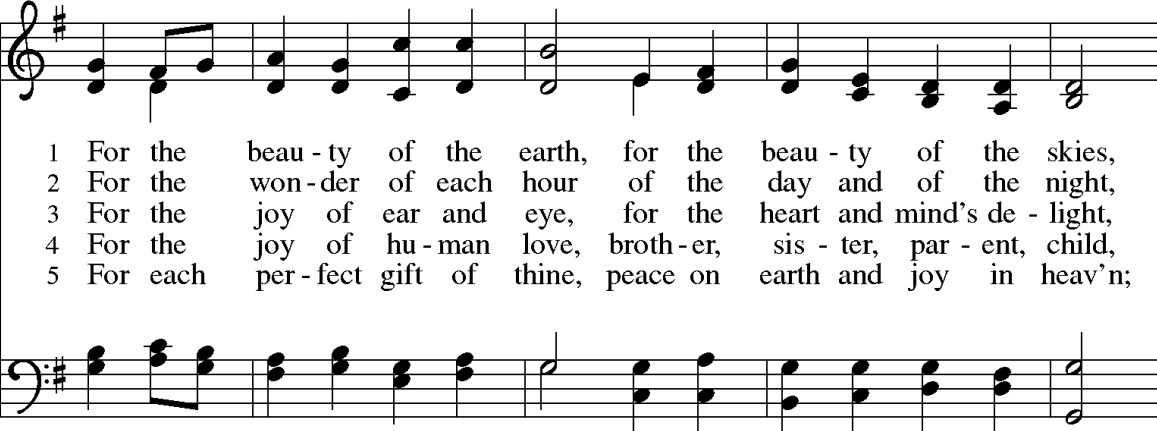
Amen.



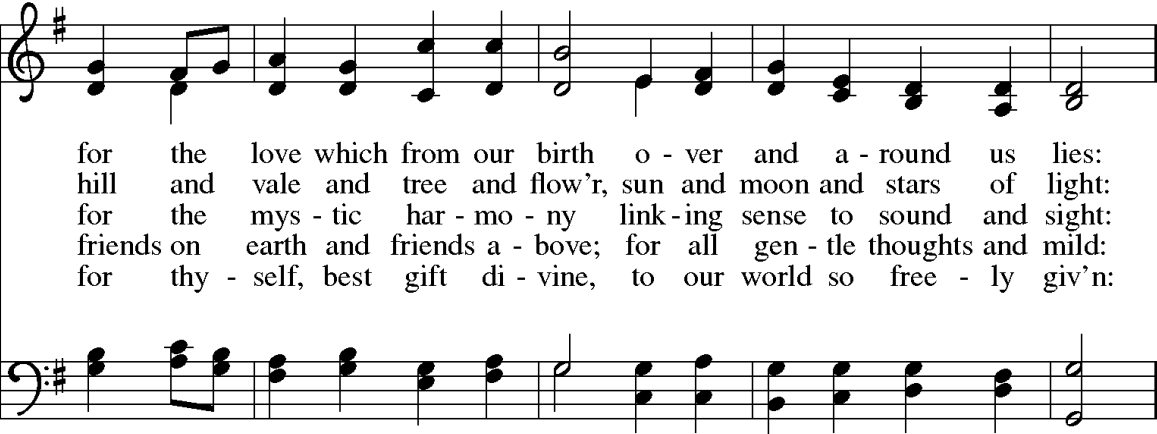
Caring for God's Creation

GATHERING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

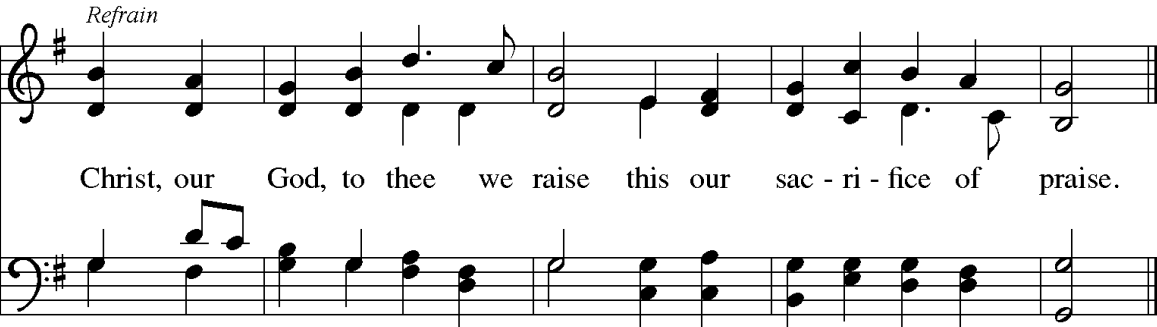


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Corinthians 3:1-3

While the Apostle Paul was the founder of the church in the pagan city of Corinth, they persistently questioned his authority. You can almost hear the whisper campaign. "I wonder if he's made it all up? All that stuff about meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus. Maybe he came up with that since he never actually met Jesus when Jesus was alive. What gives him the right to tell us what to do? Let's demand that he prove his authority to us. Let's make him bring to us a letter; a letter from Peter or from James, the brother of Jesus. How else can we believe him?" But Paul doesn't take the bait. Instead, he turns it around. He says to them, "You are my letter of recommendation. You are the best evidence there is that my ministry has not been in vain." Listen now to the word of God found in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, beginning with chapter 3, verse 1.

¹Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? ²You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; ³and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

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

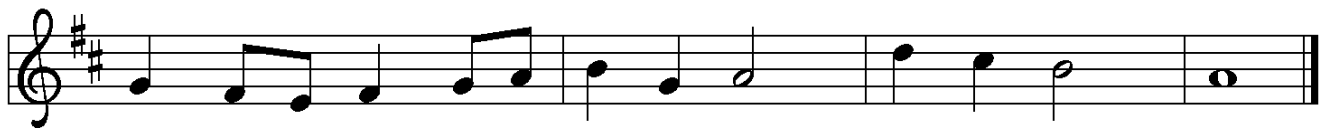
GATHERING OF THE NOISY OFFERING

The Pantry Ministry & the Parish House Ministry are an important and vital part of our community. Because we did not take a Noisy offering on Palm Sunday, today's offering will be split between the Parish House and the Pantry Ministry.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

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

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have

seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Jim Antal

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Risen Christ



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,
breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952

Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949

Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.

Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

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 your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

“Rain Down”

(Cortez, arr. Carter)

Chancel Choir

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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.

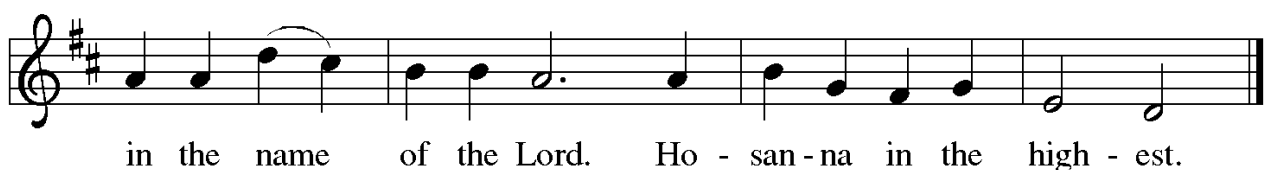
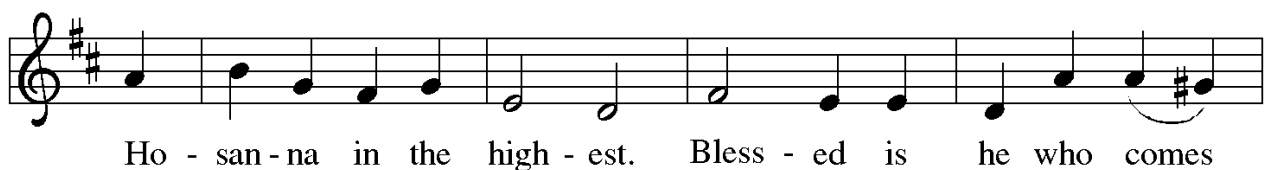
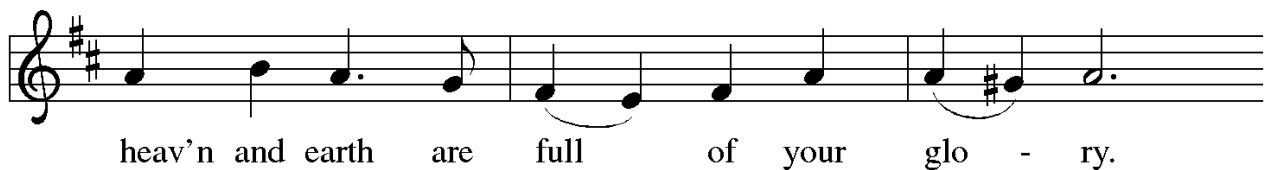
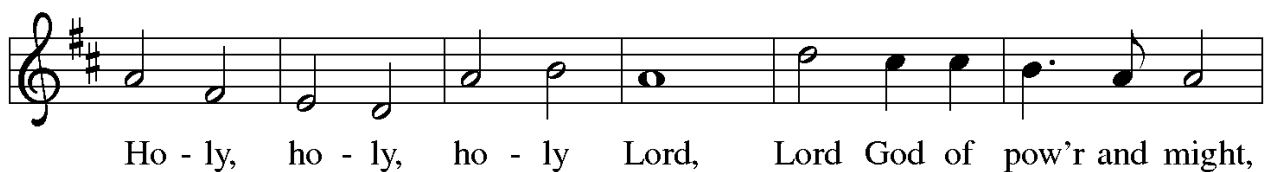
PREFACE

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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



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

Here is food and drink for the journey.

Take and be filled.

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.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Please stand if you are able.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Christ is Risen”

Christopher Tambling

We encourage those who are able, to remain seated in the chairs for the postlude.

Reader: Linda Hirt

Lay Assistant: Harold Sollenberger

Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt

Year to Date	January 1-March 31 st 2022
Income	\$ 69,855.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 84,390.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(14,535.00)

Weekly Offering Reports

4/10

Loose Cash	\$ 125.00
General Fund	\$ 4,975.00
Flowers	\$ 40.00
LWR Ukraine	\$ 25.00
Caring Committee	\$ 100.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 5,315.00
Vanco	
General Operating	<u>\$ 835.00</u>
Total	\$ 6,150.00

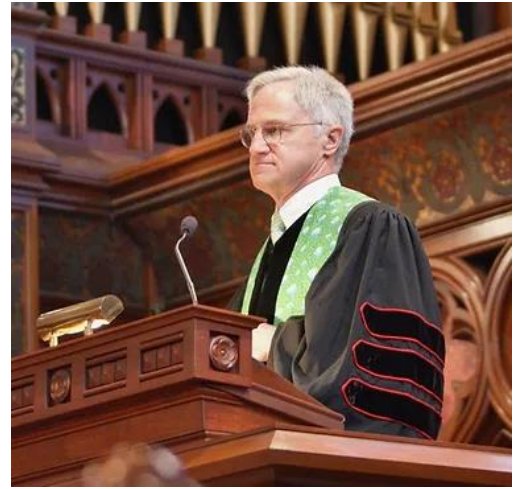
4/17

Loose Cash	\$ 213.00
Loose Checks	\$ 70.00
General Fund	\$ 6,882.06
LWR Ukraine	\$ 2,735.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 1,000.00
Youth	<u>\$ 1,004.00</u>
Subtotal	\$11,904.06
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 1,892.00
Building	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total	\$13,846.06

For a quick overview of giving options,
please visit the Faith Lutheran Church
website and look for the giving button in
the top right corner.
www.faithlutheranokemos.org

Bio taken from Jim Antal.com

Jim Antal is a denominational leader, climate activist, author and public theologian. He serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Antal's book, **CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD**, was featured **in the Chicago Tribune** on Earth Day 2018, and in **Christian Century Magazine** on Earth Day 2019. Antal received the 2019 Steward of Creation award from the National Religious Coalition for Creation Care, joining the Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley and Prof. Katharine Hayhoe, and previous awardees HAH Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Bill McKibben, the Sioux Nation, James Hansen and Wendell Berry.



From 2006-2018, Antal led the 350 UCC churches in Massachusetts as their Conference Minister and President. Antal is a graduate of Princeton University, Andover Newton Theological School, and Yale Divinity School, where he was Henri Nouwen's teaching assistant. In 2017, Yale Divinity School honored him with the **William Sloane Coffin Award for Peace and Justice**.

An environmental activist from the first Earth Day in 1970, in July 2017 Antal authored **a resolution declaring a new moral era** in opposition to President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. The national UCC Synod passed that resolution with a 97% supermajority. In July 2013 Antal wrote and championed the **UCC's resolution to divest** from fossil fuel companies, the first of its kind in the country.

In 2009 the Massachusetts Conference UCC became the first religious body in America to **pass a resolution** calling upon our elected leaders to commit to policies that will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to below 350ppm. In August 2011, Antal joined 1,252 climate activists in an act of civil disobedience at the White House hoping to convince President Obama not to approve the Keystone XL tar sands pipe line. On Ash Wednesday in 2013, Antal joined Julian Bond, Bill McKibben and others as they cuffed their hands to the White House fence. In 2016 he and other faith leaders were arrested in Boston as they sought to block the construction of a new natural gas pipeline. In 2010 Antal founded NEREM (New England Regional Environmental Ministries), which organizes various ecumenical environmental activities including the Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast and the 2013 "Climate Revival." In 2015-2016 NEREM inspired scores of pastors to participate in "A New Awakening: A Season of Prophetic Climate Witness through Preaching, Prayer, and Practice." In April 2016 Antal initiated the **UCC's Keep It In the Ground project** which prompted hundreds of UCC pastors to preach on climate change.

Before leading the UCC in Massachusetts, for 20 years Antal was a local UCC pastor in Shaker Heights, Ohio and Newton, Massachusetts. In the mid-80's he served as Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (USA), an interfaith pacifist organization. Antal began his ministry as a chaplain and teacher at several schools, including Northfield Mount Hermon and Phillips Academy Andover.