

August 28, 2022

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Introduction to the day

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

PRELUDE

“The Gift of Love”

(Hopson, arr. John Carter)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

Amen.

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

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

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing *The Feast Is Ready*



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Refrain
Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
Music: Graham Kendrick
Text and music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

THE FEAST IS READY
LM and refrain

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.



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



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



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



2 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*



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

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

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

A reading from Proverbs.

- ⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;
- ⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

PSALM: Psalm 112

Psalm is read responsively

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast
forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and
pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

A reading from Hebrews.

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

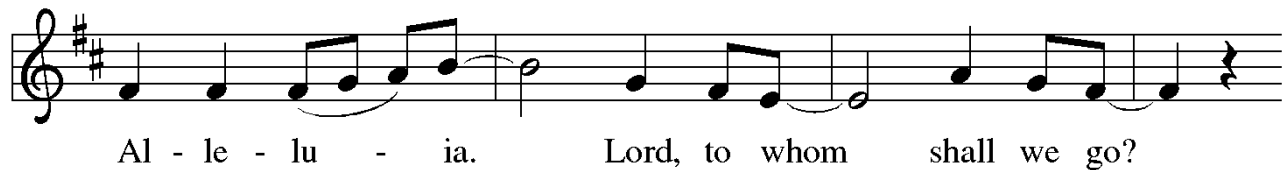
⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON & NOISY OFFERING

The Pantry Ministry & the Parish House Ministry are an important and vital part of our community. Today we will be taking an offering for the Pantry Ministry.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

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

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you

would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: COPELAND, Michael Corzine, b. 1947

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Music © 2000 Michael Corzine, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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The assembly is seated

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Rich & Linda Triemer united with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome into the life and ministry of Faith Lutheran Church.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called 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.

The presiding minister addresses the new members.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for this new member in Christian living?

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

WELCOME

Those being welcomed face the assembly. The pastor addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome our new members to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to the entire world.

The congregation gives acclamation and thanks.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

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:

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

"Zion's Walls"

(arr. Aaron Copland)

John Graham, solo

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

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. 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:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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**

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.

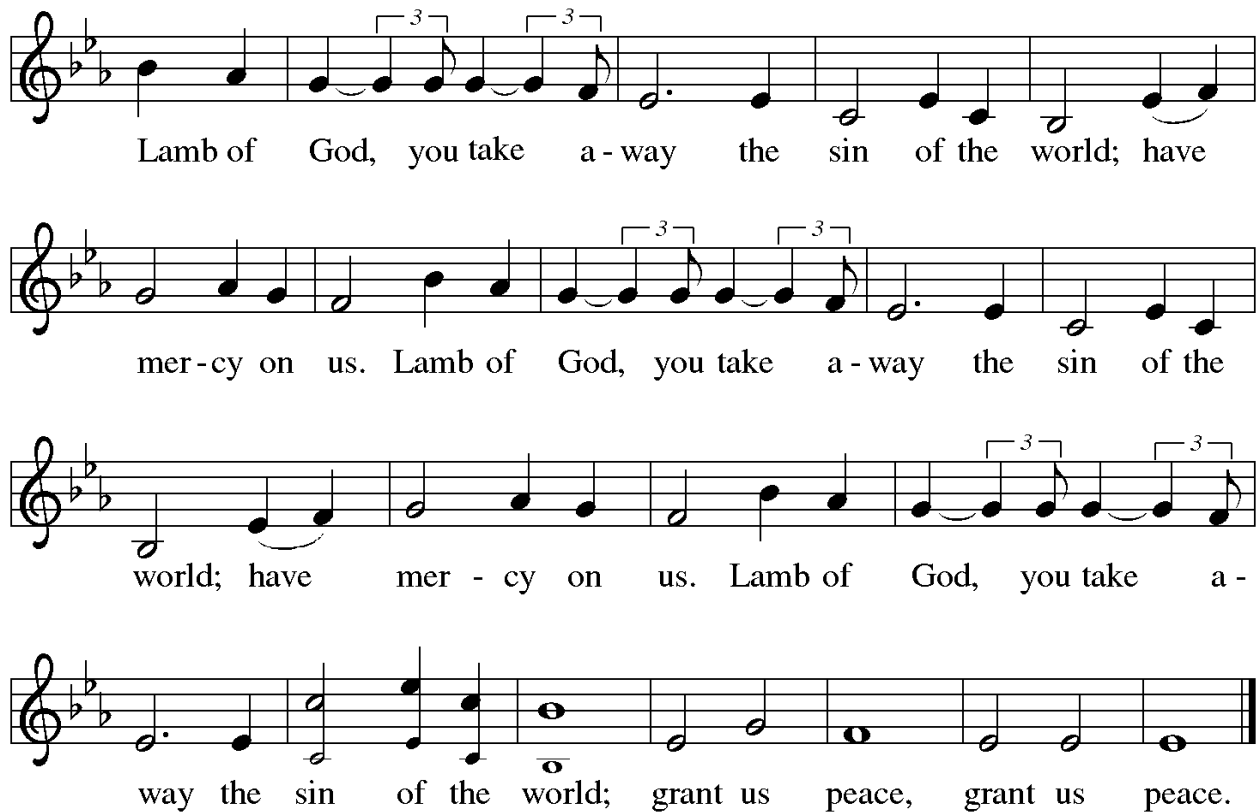
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

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

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

(arr. Mark Hayes)

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, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

O Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Voluntary”

(Jeremiah Clarke)

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Altar Care: Elaine Harrison

Reader: Megan Nyquist

Lay Assistant: Ken Schoepf

Ushers: McCracken/Milne

Coffee Hour: Brigitta Brunning

Year to Date January 1- July 31st, 2022

Income	\$171,553.00
Expenses	<u>\$190,435.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(18,882.00)

8/14/22

Loose Cash	\$ 105.00
General Fund	\$ 1,610.00
MRH Golf Sponsor	\$ 100.00
Roof Fund	\$ 1,432.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 216.05
Parish House	\$ 75.00
Rosie's Heart Walk	\$ 30.00
Youth	<u>\$ 96.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,664.05
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 907.00
Total	\$ 4,571.05

8/21/22

Loose Cash	\$ 62.00
General Fund	\$ 1,320.00
Roof Fund	\$20,915.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 150.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Subtotal	\$22,547.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 2,448.00
Building	\$ 25.00
Caring Committee	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total	\$25,070.00

Rally Day: Sunday, September 11th

9:00 a.m. - Downstairs Fellowship Hall (Continental Breakfast)

All kids' preschool through 5th grade, their families and all the Sunday School helpers!

Parents will meet the teachers, learn how Sunday School will be run this year and fill out permission slips. Students will then go onto an activity while the parents have time to talk and ask questions and hear what Pastor has planned for the 9:00 hour. They will end in their classrooms where you will get them at 9:45.

Sunday School will be at 9:00 A.M. this school year.



All-Church Potluck

All-Church Potluck Following Worship

The entire congregation is invited to an all-church potluck on Sunday, September 11th following worship. Hot dogs will be provided.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS PROJECT – Sunday, September 11, 2:00 PM

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 11, we will gather at the Historical Village in Meridian Township at 2:00 PM. Once there, we will meet up with Emma Campbell, Environmental Stewardship & Volunteer Coordinator for Meridian Township. Our project this year will be *litter cleanup*. Volunteers will monitor and clean up litter along the Marketplace on the Green, the Historical Village area, Central Park South, and the area near the MSU Credit Union which is always quite littered. *Picking up this litter is a simple task that just takes some walking around and looking out for any trash, but it is very important to the health of the local wetlands, which receive a lot of the trash once it blows out of the area.*



We ask that you bring gloves, dress appropriately for the weather, and wear proper footwear for this effort. When you meet up with Emma at 2:00 PM, you will receive your assignments. **Emma will provide trash pickers, buckets, bags, safety vests for volunteers to use, and some gloves if needed.**

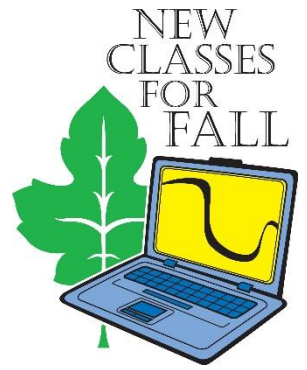
Emma said that over the past two years they have removed thousands of pounds in total of trash from that area, so this kind of community help is really needed. She said it is fun for the group to see the total amount of accumulated trash at the end, and they always do a **fun competition for whoever finds the weirdest/coolest trash!**

Join us as we again live into God's Work using Our Hands in this community!

Sunday, September 18th

Sunday morning 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast & Christian Education for adults

Beginning on Sunday morning, September 18, Pastor Ellen will host a continental breakfast and education time downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for any interested adults. Join her for donuts, coffee & juice and be taken to a deeper place in your faith journey.



For the first 3-6 weeks, we will use a curriculum entitled *Confronting Christian Nationalism*. This three-session curriculum examines the threat of Christian nationalism in our country. Because discussions may take longer than the time provided before worship, Pastor Ellen is providing flexibility as we look at this three-session course, allowing up to six weeks (*if needed*) to complete the discussions.

After completing our time of learning regarding the topic of Christian nationalism, we will then focus on *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible*. Each of these sessions will begin with a video by Dr. Mark Allan Powell, a Lutheran pastor and seminary Bible professor. Each video, designed as a teaching tool for congregational use, will be followed by a time for group discussion. The seven sessions are:

- Session 1: The Word of God
- Session 2: What Lutherans Say About the Bible
- Session 3: Where the Bible Comes From
- Session 4: Interpreting the Bible in Context
- Session 5: Determining Right from Wrong
- Session 6: The Many Meanings of the Bible
- Session 7: Devotional Bible Reading

All adults are welcome to participate in this education experience. If you have children attending Sunday School, drop them off for 9:00 AM Sunday School then come join us in the Fellowship Hall.

Rosie's Heart Walk: Sunday, September 18: Beginning at 2 P.M. This 5k walk is designed to start and end at: Faith Lutheran Church

Join us as we walk the neighborhood to raise money for
Conquering CHD

Rosie is a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos. She was born with a congenital heart defect (CHD) called *hypoplastic right heart syndrome (HRHS)*. We are walking to raise money for research to conquer congenital heart defects in babies and children like Rosie.

If you would like to order a shirt for this event, please order through this link: <https://www.bonfire.com/rosies-heart-walk160/> Proceeds from shirt sales will go directly to Conquering CHD. This T-shirt order will be open for 10 days, after which the first batch will be sent to Faith Lutheran where you can pick up your shirt. If there is high demand, a second order that is placed.

