

September 4, 2022

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Thirteenth 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
Audio/Video Techs:Justin Brown & Zach Hereza
Pastor's email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Church email:.....faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website:.....www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page:.....facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

Introduction to the day

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

PRELUDE

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

(arr. Ron Schmoltze)

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,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.

Amen.

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.
We have harmed your good creation.
We have failed to do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with you.
Turn us in a new direction.
Show us the path that leads to life.
Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven ✝ and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God’s abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me *The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and

possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

PSALM: Psalm 1

Psalm is read responsively

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

A reading from Philemon.

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.

⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced.

¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to


you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

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

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song *Jésus, je voudrais te chanter*

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
Text and music ©1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The assembly is seated

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all good life-giving things. We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred space and a planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered, and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation. We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation, and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good 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:

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

“He Knows My Name”

(Tommy Walker)

Tammy Heilman, soloist

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

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; 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, 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 Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body 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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, 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

“Aria, Goldberg Variations”

J.S. Bach

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. God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Guide My Feet



1 Guide my feet
2 Hold my hand
3 Stand by me while I run this race.
4 I'm your child
5 Search my heart



Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race,
I'm your child
Search my heart



Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race,
I'm your child
Search my heart



Text: African American spiritual
Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Cornet Voluntary”

William Wallond

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison

Reader: Lois Neves

Lay Assistant: Randy Royalty

Ushers: Jon & Elaine Harrison

Coffee Hour: Tammy, Deb & Marla

Year to Date January 1- July 31st, 2022

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

8/21/22

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	<u>\$25,070.00</u>

8/28/22

Loose Cash	\$ 95.00
Loose Checks	\$ 120.00
General Fund	\$ 9,275.00
Handbell Repair	\$ 2,000.00
Music Fund	\$ 200.00
Rosie's Heart Walk	\$ 50.00
Roof Fund	\$ 4,950.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 1,897.03
Parish House	\$ 1,500.20
World Hunger	<u>\$ 5.00</u>
Subtotal	\$20,092.23
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 657.00
Roof Fund	\$ 2,585.50
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total	<u>\$23,384.73</u>

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.**

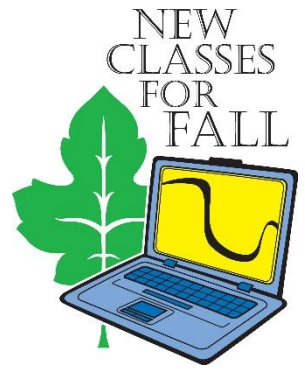
Emma said that over the past two years they have removed thousands of pounds in total of trash from that area, so this kind of community help is really needed. She said it is fun for the group to see the total amount of accumulated trash at the end, and they always do a **fun competition for whoever 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. T-shirts can still be ordered, however will not arrive before the walk.

