



September 11, 2022

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Fourteenth 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

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

PRELUDE

“Bal Masqué”

(Allegro, Andante, Allegro)

Kees Schoonenbeck

Clarinet, Michael Fox

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

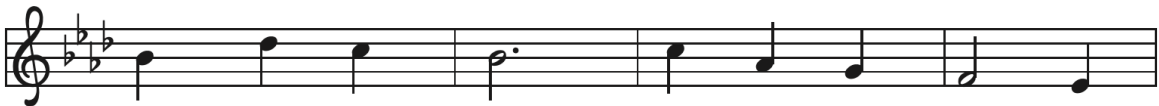
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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.**

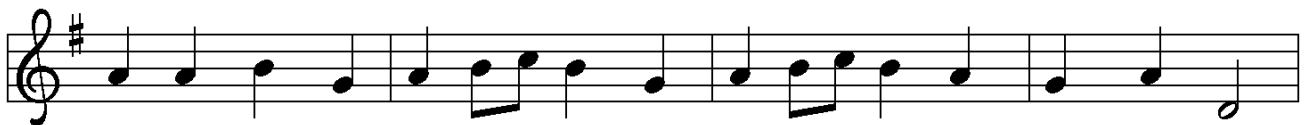
CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

A reading from Exodus.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-10

Psalm is read responsively

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

A reading from 1 Timothy.

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence.

But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

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

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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 - ferts 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

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

“Holly Manna”

(arr. Joel Raney)

Chancel Choir

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, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n 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, 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 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

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Character Pieces for Clarinet No.2”

Theodore Verhey

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

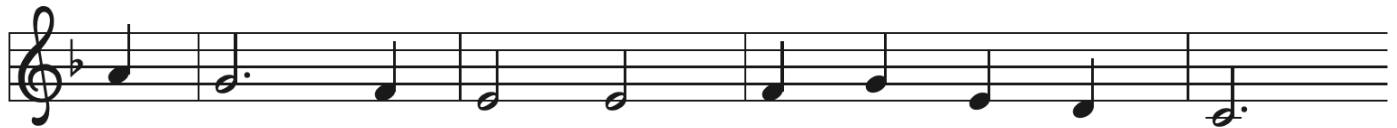
God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Go to the World!



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"Character Pieces for Clarinet No. 4"

Theodore Verhey

Altar Care: Jamie Royalty
 Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner
 Nursery: Jennifer Coe

Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer
 Ushers: Walter & Brenda Kopf
 Greeter: Harold & Jan Sollenberger

All are welcome to join for the All-Church Potluck following worship in the Fellowship Hall



All-Church Potluck

Year to Date	January 1- July 31st, 2022
Income	\$171,553.00
Expenses	<u>\$190,435.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(18,882.00)

8/28/22	
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	\$23,384.73

9/4/22	
Loose Cash	\$ 12.00
Loose Checks	\$ 45.00
General Fund	\$ 565.00
Roof Fund	<u>\$ 750.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,372.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 3,585.50
Building	\$ 25.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 25.25
Parish House	<u>\$ 25.25</u>
Total	\$ 5,033.00

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.**

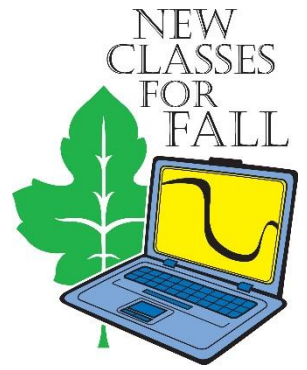
Emma said that over the past two years they have removed thousands of pounds in total of trash from that area, so this kind of community help is really needed. She said it is fun for the group to see the total amount of accumulated trash at the end, and they always do a **fun competition for whoever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

