

September 18, 2022

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## Fifteenth 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 Director .....Pam Williams  
Audio/Video Techs: .....Justin Brown & Zach Hereza  
Pastor’s email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website:.....[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

### Introduction to the day

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

## PRELUDE

“Jubilation”

(Mary Kay Parrish)

Faith Bells

## 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

### O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate



- 1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
- 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
- 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
- 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.  
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.  
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme  
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,  
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield  
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.  
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.  
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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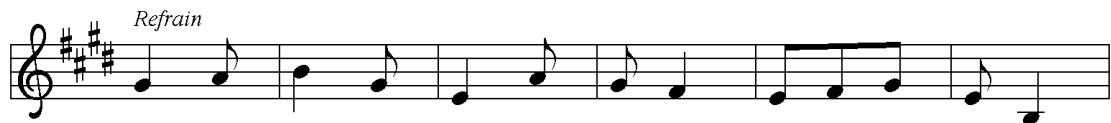
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## GREETING

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

## Now the Feast and Celebration



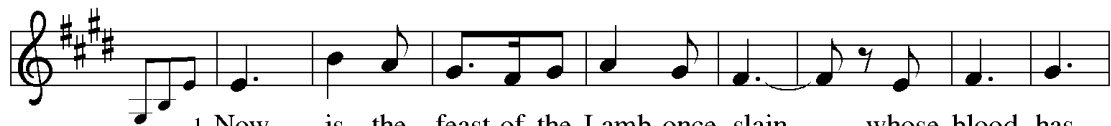
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7**

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

A reading from Amos.

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

<sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;

and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,  
and practice deceit with false balances,

<sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver

and the needy for a pair of sandals,

and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

## PSALM: Psalm 113

*Psalm is read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;  
praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the name of the LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its going down  
let the name of the LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD is high above all nations;  
God's glory above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God,  
who sits enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup>**but stoops to behold  
the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup>**enthroning them with the rulers,  
with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD makes the woman of a childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

A reading from 1 Timothy.

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the

truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,

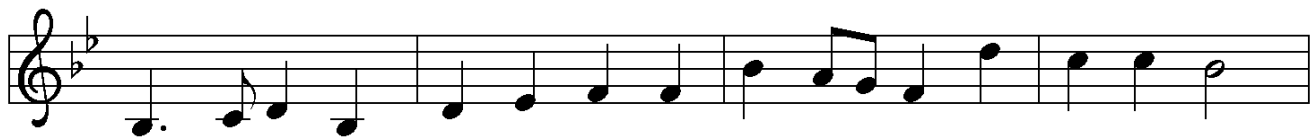
<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald  
and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the  
Gentiles in faith and truth.

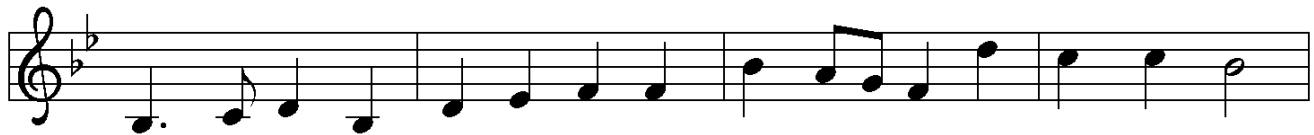
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## 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 16:1-13**

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

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

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other,



or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

**SERMON**

Rich Weingartner

# HYMN OF THE DAY

Score

## By Gracious Powers

Music: Siegfried Fietz  
Text by Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
Traslation by Fred Pratt Green

Soprano 

By gra - cious pow'rs so faith - ful - ly pro - tec - ted,                      So  
Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - men - ted,                      Still  
And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming                      With  
Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us                      The

S <sup>5</sup> 

qui - et - ly, so won - der - ful - ly near,                      We live each day in  
e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;                      Oh, give our frigh - tened  
bit - ter suff' - ring, hard to un - der - stand,                      We take it thank - ful -  
joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,                      We shall re - mem - ber

S <sup>10</sup> 

hope, with you be - side us,                      And go with you through ev' - ry com - ing  
souls the sure sal - va - tion,                      For which, O Lord, you taught us to pre -  
ly and with - out tremb - ling                      Out of so good and so be - loved a  
all the days we lived through                      And our whole life shall then be yours a -

S <sup>15</sup> 

year.                      By gra - cious pow'rs so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,                      And con - fi -  
pare.  
hand.  
lone.

S <sup>21</sup> 

dent - ly wait - ing come what may,                      We know that God is with us night and

S <sup>27</sup> 

morn - ing,                      And ne - ver fails to greet us each new day.

## CREED

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.

## 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

“Come, Taste the Goodness of the Lord”

(Joseph Martin)

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 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**

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

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

arr. Richard Warner

*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

## Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934  
Text © 1989 William Whitla.



## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

“Pasticcio”

Jean Langlais

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Altar Care: Jamie Royalty

Lay Assistant: Doug Hirt

Nursery: Jennifer Coe

Coffee Hour: Thompsons

Reader: Linda Hirt

Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt

Greeter: Ken & Ellen Milne

### Year to Date

### January 1- July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

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

### 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>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,033.00</b>

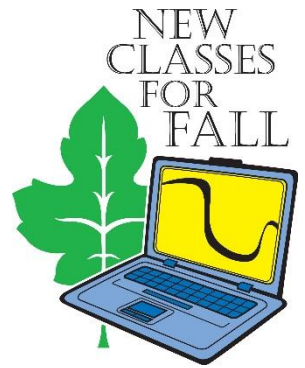
### 9/11/22

Loose Cash	\$ 35.00
General Fund	\$ 6,755.00
Building Rental	\$ 200.00
Rosie's Heart Walk	\$ 130.00
LWR School Kits	\$ 50.00
LWR Personal Care Kits	\$ 50.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 45.00
Roof Fund	\$ 5,105.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 328.00
Parish House	\$ 75.00
World Hunger	\$ 200.00
Kids Worship Bags	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$13,023.00
Vanco	
General Operating	<u>\$ 1,107.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,130.00</b>

Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

## 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.

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### **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.***

