



**February 5, 2023**

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

## **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

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**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

## **PRELUDE**

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

(Hymn 673) arr. Richard Proulx

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Holy One, source of our renewal,  
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have not practiced your righteousness.  
Our hearts have turned away from you.  
For the sake of the world you so love,  
forgive us,  
that we may be reconciled to one another  
for the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass  
and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
word and thought may work a work for you.  
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

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## GREETING

May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love, mercy, and justice of God, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

# KYRIE

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,




let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.


*Refrain*

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE


*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. 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. This is the feast of




vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and




join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,




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

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[

<sup>9b</sup>If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,

and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

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

## **SECOND READING: I Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,



nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [<sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

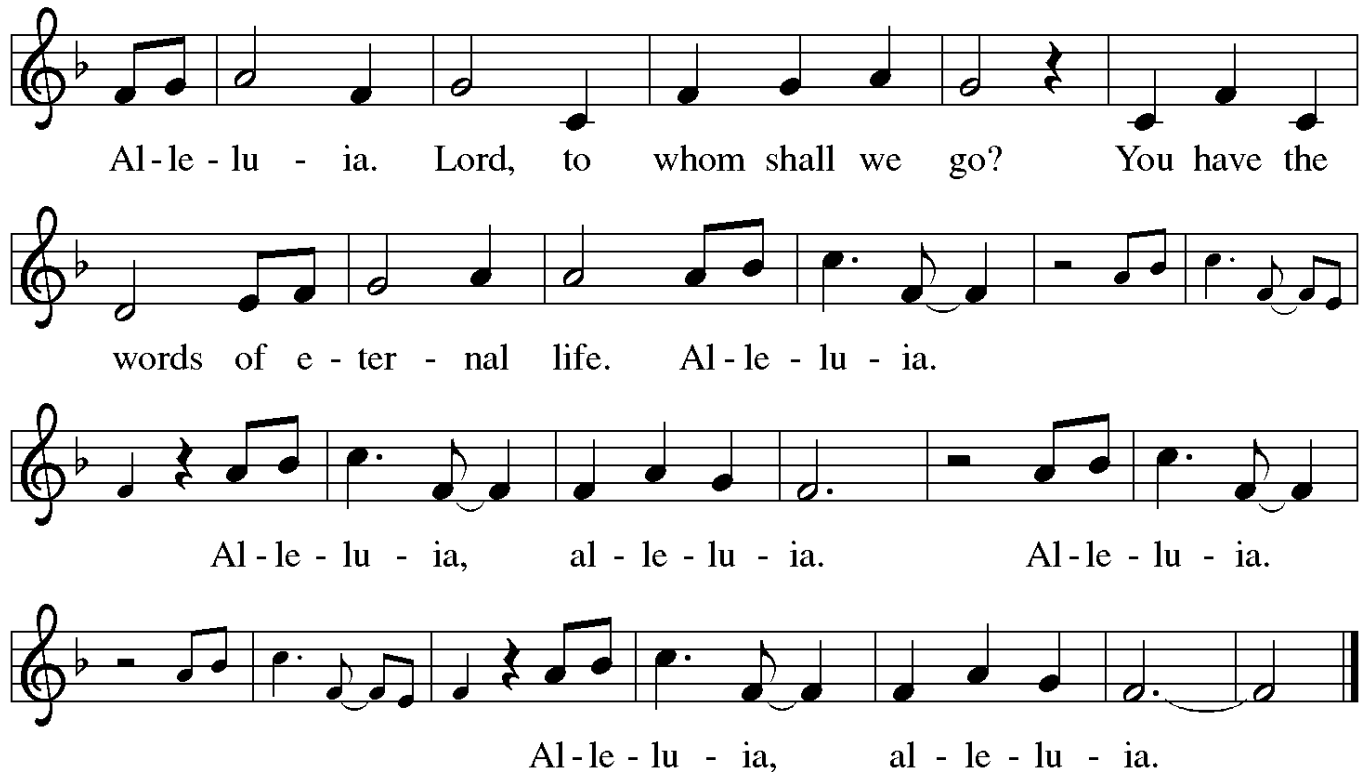
<sup>16</sup>“For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

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

## GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

<sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass

from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

## SERMON



# HYMN OF THE DAY

## Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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## 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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed. After each petition, the assembly responds as indicated.*

*Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:*

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

"This Little Light of Mine"

(arr. Mark Patterson)

Chancel Choir

*Please stand if you are able.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **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'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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.**

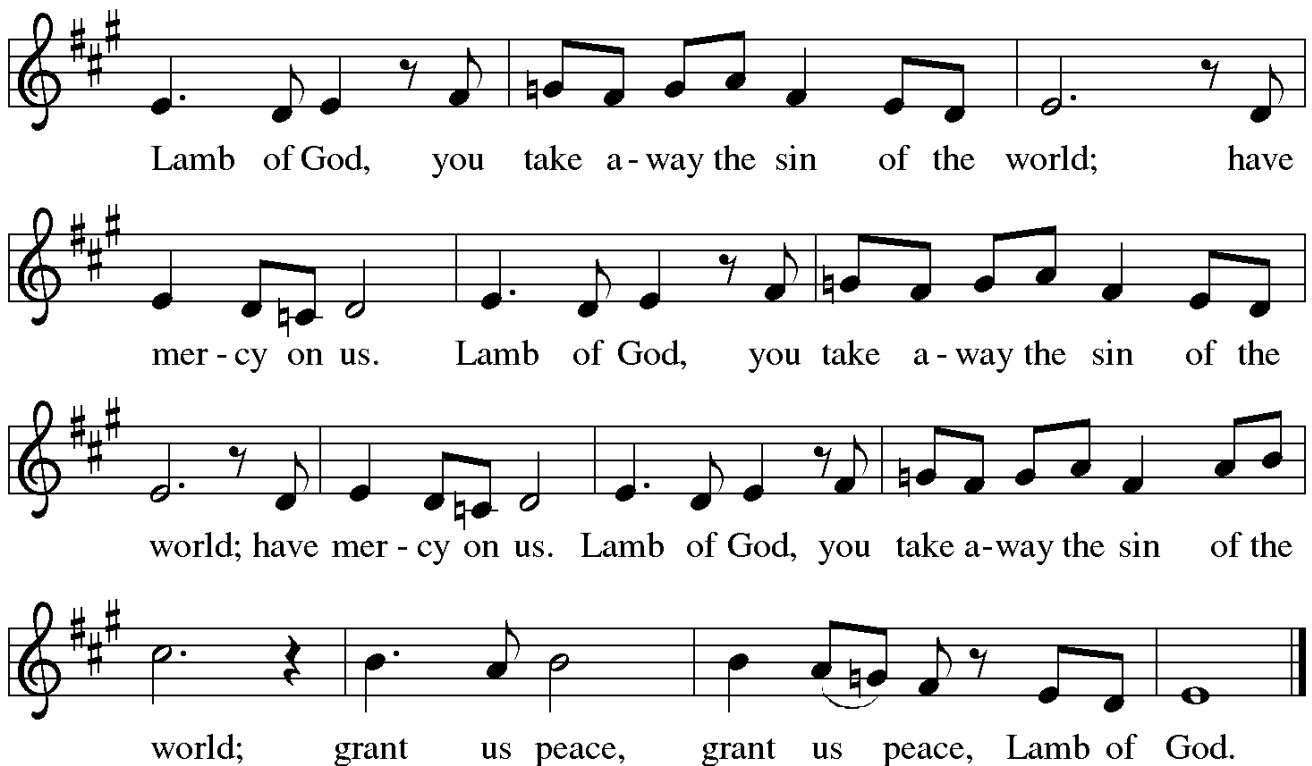
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

## 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, Lamb of God.



## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” (Hymn 712) arr. Janet Linker

*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. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod  
✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

# SENDING SONG

## Bring forth the kingdom

Leader  
D G/D D D/F# All  
G D/F# A D

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!  
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!  
3 You are a seed of the word, O peo-ple: bring forth the king-dom of God!  
4 We are a blest and a pil - grim peo-ple: bound for the king-dom of God!

Leader  
G D/F# G A D All  
G D/F# A D

Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!  
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!  
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!  
Love our jour - ny and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!

Refrain  
G D/F# Em A D G D/F#

Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the

Em A D G D/F# G A D

king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,

G D/F# Em/G A D G D/F# A D

bring forth the cit - y of God!

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### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“Toccata in Seven”

John Rutter

## Offerings

### 1/22

Loose Cash	\$ 40.00
General Fund	\$ 1,375.00
Building Rental	\$ 100.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 205.00
Parish House	\$ 25.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,745.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 2,665.90
Building	\$ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,435.90</b>

### 1/29

Loose Cash	\$ 74.00
General Fund	\$ 5,720.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 25.00
Parish House	\$ 25.00
World Hunger	\$ 13.00
Youth	<u>\$ 1.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 5,585.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 475.90
Pantry	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,383.90</b>

Altar Care: Rich Weingartner  
 Lay Assistant: Randy Royalty  
 Nursery: Kate Magyar  
 Coffee Hour: Chili/Soup Cook Off

Reader: John McCracken  
 Ushers: McCracken/Milne  
 Greeter: Doug & Linda Hirt  
 Acolyte: Jasper Wawrzynski

<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>1/1/22 -12/31/22</b>
Income	\$318,610.00
Expenses	<u>\$316,697.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 1,913.00

**Sunday, February 5th - All Church Potluck & Movie  
hosted by Green Team**

*There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for the  
potluck/movie event*

**Soup/Chili Cookoff & Movie  
sponsored by the Green Team**

Due to the fact that our Fellowship Hall has been transformed into a Free Store for Knob Hill residents, we have **moved our Potluck/Movie event to Sunday,**

**February 5th.** So, we have decided to make this event a **Soup/Chili Cookoff!** We invite you to bring a pot of your favorite soup or chili recipe. We also invite you to bring quarters (or quiet money if you wish) and we will use that as a method of voting for the best soup or chili represented! The winning soup or chili recipe will then be published in the newsletter and all of the money collected will go toward the Food Pantry Project. The Green Team will provide drinks, cornbread, crackers, and cookies.

Following the luncheon, we will show the movie, *Merchants of Doubt*. The U.S. scientific community has long led the world in research on public health, science, and other issues affecting the quality of life among people.

In the book, *Merchants of Doubt*, historians Naomi Oreskes and Erick Conway explain how a small group of high-level scientists, with extensive political connections, ran effective campaigns to mislead the public and deny well-established scientific knowledge over four decades. In seven compelling chapters addressing tobacco, acid rain, the ozone hole, global warming, and DDT, Oreskes and Conway roll back the rug on this dark corner of the American scientific community, showing how the ideology of free market fundamentalism, aided by a too-compliant media, has skewed public understanding of some of the most pressing issues of our era. This book has been made into the documentary we will screen.

