



March 19, 2023

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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
Sound Technicians.....Justin Brown, Zachary Hereza & Raymond Herek
Pastor's email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
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Website:.....www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page:.....facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

Introduction to the day

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

PRELUDE

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Hassler, Arr. Arnold Sherman

Faith Bells

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✝ forgives you in Christ’s name,

and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/6. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a
prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,
count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

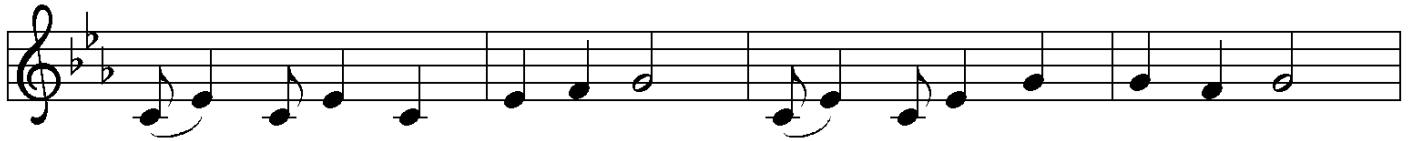
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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.**

Kyrie



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

A reading from 1 Samuel.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until

he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

PSALM: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear
no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

A reading from Ephesians.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

67

I love you, Lord

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff lines.

Chords: F², Gm/F, F, Bb, F/A, Gm⁷, F/A, C⁷_{sus}, C, Bb/D, C/E, F², Gm/F, F, F⁷, Bb, F/A, F_{sus}/G, C⁷, Bb²/F, F².

Lyrics:
I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to
wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take
joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a
sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-41

Due to the length of today's reading, today's gospel is presented as reader's theater.

The gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

NARRATOR: As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

DISCIPLES: Teacher, why was this man born blind? Was it a result of his own sins or those of his parents?

JESUS: It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins. He was born blind so the power of God could be seen in him. All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, because there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end. But while I am still here in the world, I am the light of the world.

NARRATOR: Then Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smoothed the mud over the blind man's eyes.

JESUS: Go and wash in the pool of Siloam

NARRATOR: So the man went and washed, and came back seeing! His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other,

NEIGHBOR 1: Is this the same man -- that beggar?

MAN WHO NOW SEES: I am the man!

NEIGHBOR 2: No, but he surely looks like him!

MAN WHO NOW SEES: I am the man!

NEIGHBOR 1: Who healed you? What happened?

MAN WHO NOW SEES: The man they call Jesus made mud and smoothed it over my eyes and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash off the mud.' I went and washed, and now I can see!

NEIGHBOR 2: Where is he now?

MAN WHO NOW SEES: I don't know.

NARRATOR: Then they took the man to the Pharisees. Now as it happened, Jesus had healed the man on a Sabbath. The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them

MAN WHO NOW SEES: He smoothed the mud over my eyes, and when it was washed away, I could see!

PHARISEE 1: This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.

PHARISEE 2: But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?

PHARISEE 1: He is not from God!

PHARISEE 2: But such miracles!

PHARISEE 1: This man who opened your eyes -- who do you say he is?

MAN WHO NOW SEES: I think he must be a prophet.

NARRATOR: The Jewish leaders wouldn't believe he had been blind, so they called in his parents.

PHARISEE 1: Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he see?

MOTHER: We know this is our son and that he was born blind, but we don't know how he can see or who healed him. He is old enough to speak for himself. Ask him.

NARRATOR: They said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. So, for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him

PHARISEE 1: Give glory to God by telling the truth, because we know Jesus is a sinner.

MAN WHO NOW SEES: I don't know whether he is a sinner. But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!

PHARISEE 2: But what did he do? How did he heal you?

MAN WHO NOW SEES: Look! I told you once. Didn't you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?

PHARISEE 1: You... you... you are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know anything about him.

MAN WHO NOW SEES: Why, that's very strange! He healed my eyes, and yet you don't know anything about him! Well, God doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. Never since the world began has anyone been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he couldn't do it.

PHARISEE 1: You were born in sin! Are you trying to teach us?

NARRATOR: And they threw him out of the synagogue. When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man.

JESUS: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

MAN WHO NOW SEES: Who is he, sir, because I would like to.

JESUS: You have seen him. He is speaking to you!

MAN WHO NOW SEES: Yes, Lord, I believe!

JESUS: I have come to judge the world. I have come to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.

PHARISEE 1: Are you saying we are blind?

JESUS: If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty. But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*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 lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

“Lonesome Valley”

(Gilbert Martin)

Chancel Choir

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,". The second staff continues with "heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -". The third staff continues with "san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who". The fourth staff concludes with "comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases like "Ho - san - na" and "high - est" being held over from the previous line.

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. **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.

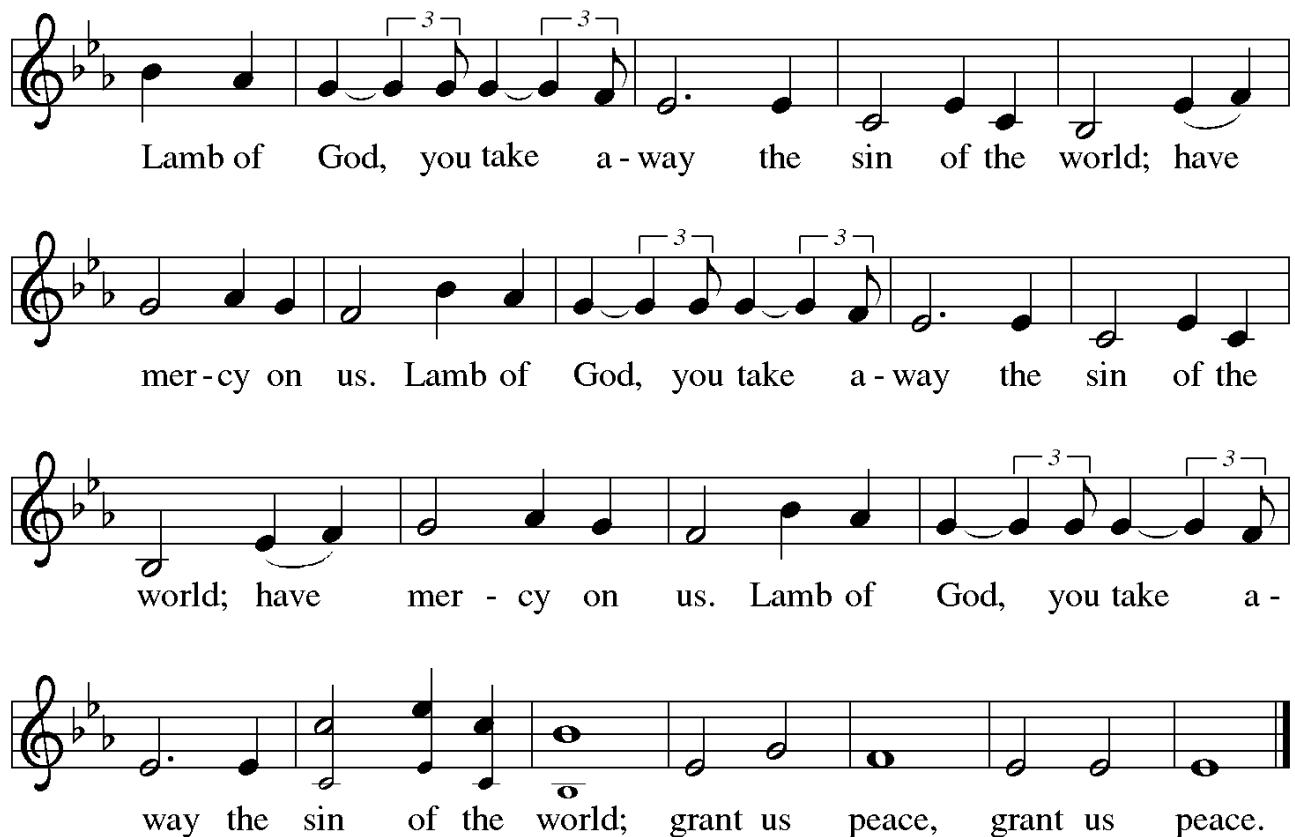
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

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

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

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. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary No. 4, Allegro”

John Bennett

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Offerings

3/5

3/12

N/A

N/A

January 1-31, 2023

Income \$26,633

Expenses \$25,392

Net Income \$ 1,241

Altar Care: Brenda Kopf

Reader: Megan Nyquist

Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach

Ushers: Harrison

Nursery:

Greeter: Rich Weingartner

Coffee Hour: Shawn & Gretchen Paige

Acolyte: Calvin Kadrofske



The Green team is excited to announce that **NEW Green Team T-shirts** are now available for purchase.

We are offering 2 options.

The cost for a short sleeve shirt is \$20.00.

The cost of a long sleeve shirt is \$25.00.

The deadline to order shirts is Sunday, March 19th.

Sizes available: Youth: YS, YM, YL, YXL. Adult Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Please put your check or cash in the offering plate with a note of "green team t-shirts"
A shirt sign up sheet will be available in the Narthex for your name and size selection.

The profit from these shirts will go towards the creation of the new rain garden project on the grounds of Faith Lutheran.

Please contact [Natalie Dingledine](#) or [Randy Royalty](#) with any questions.



Sunday March 19

Wellness Information and Potluck following worship.

Please plan to join the Caring Committee, HarmonyCares Hospice and others for an informational workshop that will provide you with the knowledge to make informed decisions about end of life needs and what to expect. In addition, learn about your rights and the services covered through your insurance to help with medical needs such as home health and therapy, medical care and medical equipment. On-site blood pressure readings and wellness massage information available as well.

Steve Wing will be available Sunday March 19 during the Wellness Potluck to help you if you have issues with low back, shoulder, neck, or hand discomfort. Steve is a retired massage therapist and can use a technique called "positional release" to help decrease your discomfort. He will have his table set up in the Narthex after church. He feels it may take about 8-10 minutes per person to have you feeling better! There will be no charge. If you would like to donate to the Little Food Panty at Faith that would be appreciated.

The potluck theme will be Brunch. Please plan to share your favorite brunch casserole or other brunch item. Beverages and fruit will be provided by the Caring Committee.

Please sign up if you plan to attend either on the sign up sheet on the Caring Committee bulletin board or go to the SignUp Genius link :

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA4A62FA3F49-wellness>



Membership Development will be hosting a **Euchre tournament** on Saturday, March 25th at 7:00. A sign up sheet will be set up in the narthex for the next few Sundays. You can also email Tammy Heilman at heilmant@hotmail.com to sign up.



On Sunday, April 2, Bishop Craig Satterlee will be joining us for Palm Sunday Worship. Following worship, he will speak to the congregation regarding what will happen after Pastor Ellen leaves. He will describe the Call Process. We encourage you to attend.

Let's Celebrate Easter
Saturday, April 8th 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Easter Egg Hunt (at 10:30)
Games, Crafts, Snacks & Fun!
All are welcome!!

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Rd. Okemos
Contact: pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org or call us at 517-349-0620.



8:45 A.M. on Easter Sunday
Easter Continental Breakfast

Membership Development invites everyone to an Easter morning continental breakfast at Faith. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex at church.

A promotional flyer from Culver's. At the top left is the Culver's logo with the tagline "Welcome to delicious." To the right, it says "Visit Culver's of Okemos North from 5-9 pm" and "MONDAY, APRIL 17TH, 2023" in large blue letters. Below that, it says "and we will donate a percentage of sales to: FAITH LUTHERAN MINI PANTRIES" in blue. There is a small image of a donation box. Below that, it says "Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over." and "Visit Culver's of Okemos North 5140 Times Square Dr. Okemos, MI 48864". At the bottom, it says "Online Ordering, Drive-Thru or Dine-In (No flyer or code needed)". The bottom half of the flyer features a large image of a Culver's burger with cheese, lettuce, tomato, and onion, a cup of Concrete Mixer drink with a blue straw, and some fried chicken. The Faith Lutheran Church logo is also present.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
W H A R T O N
C E N T E R

There will also be a signup sheet for **Wharton Tickets to Jesus Christ Superstar** (thank you Rich Weingartner). The date for this show is Sunday, June 18th (Fyi- this is Father's Day) at 1:00 pm. Rich was able to get a group rate for tickets so the price is \$82 per ticket. A \$1 handling fee per order will also be charged. Orders and payments must be made by May 5th. What a great opportunity for Faith friends to see this rock opera that has wowed audiences for over 50 years!



2023 EASTER FLOWER DEDICATION

Order deadline: March 26th

If you're interested in purchasing flowers, please designate \$17 for the flower fund along with your dedication by March 26th.

Please use this dedication form, or one found in the Narthex, if you would like a dedication included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Name person(s) dedicating:

In memory of:

In honor of:

In celebration of:

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church (memo: Easter flowers)

Place this dedication form in Katie Love's mailbox or office.