

# August 27, 2023 10:00 AM

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

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	Bruce Thorsen
Music Director	Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist	Matt Schnizlein
Administrative Assistant	Connie Denbrock
Youth & Education Director	Pam Williams
Sound Technicians	Raymond Herek
Church email	faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website	www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page face	ebook.com/faithlutheranokemos
WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password	l: LutheranFaith

#### **PRELUDE**

"People Need the Lord"

arr. by Mona Wiliams Coalter

#### **GATHERING**

Called by the Holy Triad, we come together on this PRIDE Sunday, remembering that PRIDE was a holy protest. When met by destruction, devastation, and derision, we are called to hurl bricks of love and justice.

We stand firm in our identity of radical invitation, extraordinary hospitality, and audacious love for all of our neighbors.

In this space, we welcome people of every race, ethnicity, size, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, and background.

We loudly proclaim that we are enough, we are loved extravagantly, we are your rightful heirs to your realm. We come together, remembering that God calls us into beloved community with one another.

We honor the sacredness of one another's bodies by asking for consent before we embrace one another.

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Enter in all you questioners, believers, and questioning believers. Let your hearts and bodies be filled with the wild and untamable Spirit of a God that won't be boxed in.

Come and worship the God of multitudes and multiplicities. You belong in this place.

## **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the + Child, the Nurturer, And the Spirit that fills the fullness of our bodies.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God, We confess that we have actively ignored your will and the ways you've shown up in the world. We have hurt our community, and erased, decimated, and oppressed other communities. We have squandered your blessings for our own personal gain. We have hoarded your bounty and failed to support those in need around us.

# In the name of the blessed Child, forgive us and show us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

We confess that we have neglected your children, your expansive creation,

We have failed to be honest about our own shortcomings and failures. We have lacked the courage to speak out against racism, white supremacy, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, fatphobia, indifference, and all other dimensions of prejudice and injustice.

We have spoken falsely of those who are different from us and have ignored their pleas for justice, equity, and love.

In the name of the Holy One, forgive us and show us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God quenches us and refreshes us when we thirst. God never fails to extend a hand of grace when we fall. God walks with us as we turn away from the actions that cause immeasurable pain and suffering to ourselves and those we love.

We have always been and continue to be worthy of the gift of God's mercy, it is ours to claim. We are freed and forgiven, forever and always. We are prismatic reflections of your image, oh Holy One, in the name of our beloved friend + Jesus Christ.

Amen.

# **GATHERING HYMN – GOD IS HERE! (ELW 526)**



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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.** 

#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

God, who entices us to live our lives filled with your love and grace, helps us to authentically love our neighbors even when it is hard to do so. We are queerfully and wonderfully made and worth more than a flock of sparrows. Let us stand firm in who we are: beloved sinners, centered misfits, and questioning saints. God who is generous beyond our comprehension, be with us now and always. Mysterious, promiscuous, and eternal triad: Creator, Redeemer, and Advocate. **Amen.** 

# FIRST READING (Genesis 9:8-13)

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

# **PSALM 30**

Odd Verses = Low Voices

**Even Verses = High Voices** 

R [All Voices] - "You have turned my mourning into dancing."

<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

<sup>3</sup>O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

<sup>4</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

R [All Voices] - You have turned my mourning into dancing.

<sup>5</sup>For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

<sup>6</sup>As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

<sup>7</sup>By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

<sup>8</sup>To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication:

<sup>9</sup>"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

<sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

R [All Voices] - You have turned my mourning into dancing.

<sup>11</sup>You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

<sup>12</sup>so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

**R** [All Voices] - You have turned my mourning into dancing.

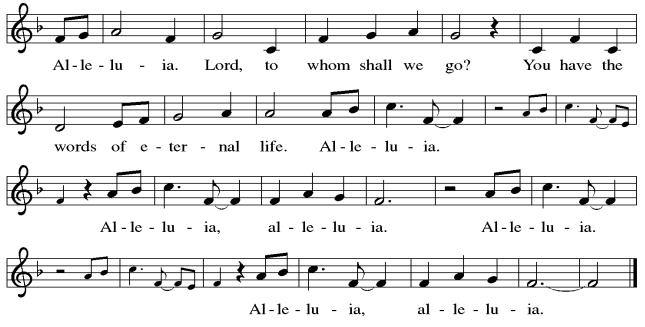
# **SECOND READING (Romans 8:31-39)**

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>God who did not withhold God's own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will God not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through God who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



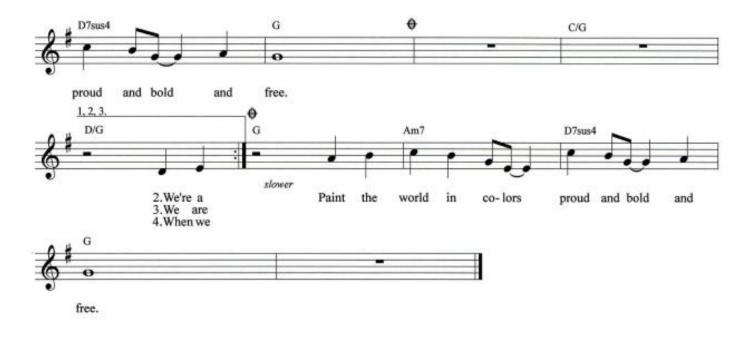
# GOSPEL (Matthew 5:14-16)

<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 Creator in heaven.

#### **SERMON**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY – WE ARE A RAINBOW**





Website: www.sites.google.com/site/davidwkaismusic Email: davidwkai@gmail.com

Taken from "Songs for the Holy One" - Hymns affirming the LGBTQIA2S+ Community. We Are a Rainbow (copyright symbol) 2017. David Kai <a href="mailto:davidwkai@gmail.com">davidwkai@gmail.com</a>

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#### **CREED**

Let us profess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Architect and Guardian, who, in the beginning, breathed life into the void, sprouting all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in Jesus Christ, that in order to reconcile the cosmos this God sent a piece of God's own self to be born human as kin to us all. And who, at the hands of political tyranny, was killed. He rose again to new life in love to return the world to God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is one with the Creator and Savior. She is our guide and wisdom. She pours her spirit into apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, and listeners. We believe in the uniting of all Christians into the one body of Christ, and we believe in our return to God at the end. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's expansive love and mercy, let us pray for the world, the whole church, and all in need.

...

Liberating and Holy One, you shatter barriers, free those who are oppressed, and love each and every one of us fiercely. Open our hearts beyond dualistic ways of knowing and being in this world so that we may come to know and love you more fully and wholly. We commend these prayers and love, justice, and thanksgiving to you in the name of our parent, friend, and inspiration.

**AMEN** 

#### **PEACE**

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

#### **OFFERING**

Holy Manna

Setting by Joel Raney

Singing Sinners Summer Choir

Please stand if you are able.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

## **DIALOGUE**

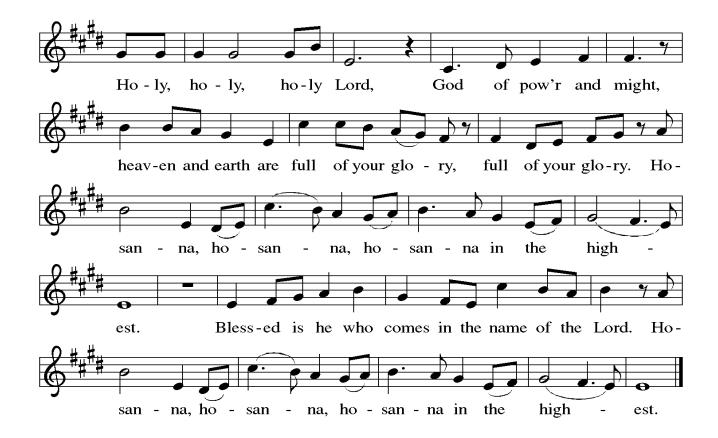
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Beloveds of God, Community of saints, We are called to gather around the table of love and emancipation, To immerse our whole selves in the visions of God, To be nurtured by this meal of promise and love.

God calls each and every one of us just as we are.\* Bring your small bodies, tall bodies, Fat and squishy bodies, skinny and bony bodies. Bring your disabled bodies, your chronically ill bodies, Bring your aching bodies, your healing bodies, Rested and renewed bodies. Bring your trans bodies, bodies yearning to be free, bodies destined for metamorphosis. Bring your scarred bodies, pierced bodies, and tattooed bodies. Bring your hairy bodies, stubbly bodies, lumpy bodies, and smooth bodies. Bring your perfectly imperfect bodies. Bring all of you. There is more than enough room. Christ invites us to the table of abundance and nourishment to be fed. Come and be fully fed. Come just as you are. Come out, come in; you are welcome here.

As we are united together in this holy meal, We remember all the ways that Christ has shown up for us. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Holy One.

On the night that Jesus's closest friends handed him over, Jesus sat at a crowded table surrounded by those he loved the most, Talking, sharing, and connecting. As he was spending his last meal with his beloveds,

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with the disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, and shared it with his disciples, saying, "Drink from this, beloveds; this is the cup of the new covenant. Do this in remembrance of me."

Holy Spirit, come over this meal, fill us to the brim with the blessings that only you can give. Give us new and receptive hearts for all that you have in store for us. For the sake of our community, for the lives lost and the lives yet to come, for the land where we dwell, feed us wholly, until the day we meet our creator face to face. **Amen**\*Tyler Feder, Penguin Random House LLC, New York, 2021)

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

Our beloved Parent on high, hallowed be your name.

Your Kin-dom come, Your will be done.

In this realm and beyond.

Give us today, our daily bread.

Forgive 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.

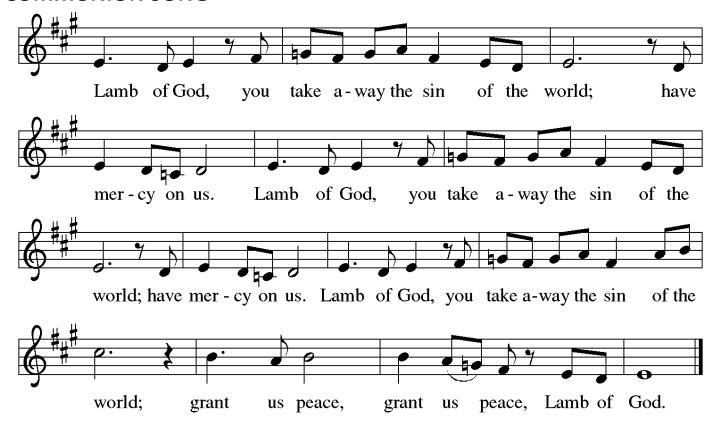
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come you who are weak and weary, come you who are persecuted and abandoned, come you who are cast to the margins, come you who search for love and wholeness. Come if you are LGBTQIA+ or an ally. Come as you are for yours in the kin-dom of God. These are the gifts of God given for the people of God and all are welcome at this table. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### **COMMUNION**

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

#### **COMMUNION SONG**



#### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

"Fairest Lord Jesus" Please stand if you are able.

arr. by Bob Walters

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen** 

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

#### **BLESSING**

Beloved siblings in Christ, Let our hearts overflow with love and compassion as we enter the world in peace. Let us stand boldly as fierce advocates for our LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC siblings and all who are marginalized and need inclusion and advocacy. As we depart from this sacred space, let our passion be transformed into action to create a welcoming and affirming community for all. Let our efforts to include and welcome others serve as a shining example of God's love and grace. United by the Spirit, we depart in peace to serve the Creator as one community. Recognize and embrace God's limitless diversity in all that surrounds you, and acknowledge that you are made in the image of the Divine! **Amen.** 

# SENDING SONG - THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE (ELW 677)



Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace! Share the rainbow tapestry of God's love with all,

# Thanks be to God!

#### **POSTLUDE**

"Like a River Glorious"

arr. by Bob Walters

Greeter(s): Connie Nelson Altar Care: Jamie Royalty Reader: Ryan Thompson Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach Ushers: Jon & Elaine Harrison

Acolyte: Open

Nursery: Open, but not staffed Coffee Hour: Jamie Royalty

January - July 2023 \$ 182,874 \$ 186,938 Income Expenses

Net Income (Loss)

# **Weekly Offering Reports**

August 13	
Loose Cash	\$ 10.00
General Fund	1,425.00
Living Waters/Stony Lake	\$ 265.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 313.00
Parish House	\$ 75.00
Youth	\$ 16.40
Subtotal	\$ 2,104.40
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 550.00
Subtotal	\$ 550.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,654.40

August 20	
Loose Cash	\$ 3.00
General Fund	\$ 1,460.00
Living Waters/Stony Lake	\$ 94.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 52.75
LWR School Kits	\$ 52.75 50.00 80.00 50.00 17.00 1,806.75
LWR Hawaii	\$ 80.00
Building Rental	\$ 50.00
Youth	\$ 17.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,806.75
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 2,186.50 25.00
Building	\$ 25.00
Caring Committee	
Breakfast Bags	\$ 50.00
Youth	\$ 60.60
Parish House	\$ 35.35
Subtotal	\$ 50.00 60.60 35.35 2,357.45
TOTAL	\$ 4,164.20

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Portions of the service came from Pride Sunday worship materials from ReconcilingWorks. ReconcilingWorks was delighted to partner with Rev. Margarette Ouji (she/hers) (they/them) and Leon LaCross (he/him, they/them) to create this year's PRIDE worship service. Thank you to both for such a beautiful service and their partnership in this holy ministry.
- Prayer Request Slips are now located in a holder on the bookstand with the guest book as you enter the sanctuary. Please feel free to write your request out and return the slip to the usher or lay assistant.
- Worship Bulletins Over the past couple of months, we changed the bulletins by not having the full readings printed out. Our intentions were good while trying to save paper. We listened carefully to the feedback and have decided to go back to having the readings printed out in all bulletins. We will remain vigilant in printing these without having an abundance of unused bulletins. Thank you all for your patience during this process.
- RALLY DAY is Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am!! Continental Breakfast @ 9:00 + Potluck will follow the 10:00am Service.
- Micro Pantry The next NOISY Offering is August 27<sup>th</sup> -- Matching Grant Opportunity – contributions will be matched by an anonymous Donor!

Pantry Items Needed This Week:

- Plastic (Meijer/Kroger) Grocery Bags
- Kleenex tissue (any variety)
- Pop Tarts
- The Caring Committee is asking for your help! We are collecting Breakfast Foods for the Back-to-School Breakfast Bags starting August 1. We have received, from Meridian Township, a list of 12 families in need. Please see the Sign-up Genius link (below) for the list of foods needed this year. The shopping cart will be in the Narthex beginning August 1.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA4A62FA3F49-back

Collect food: August 1-31

Food delivery: Sunday, September 10

- <u>Lutheran World Relief</u> continues to give aid to refugees and persons displaced by natural and human disasters. We are collecting items for School kits (<u>during August</u>) and Personal Care kits (<u>during September</u>). Please see the Friday E-NEWS for the list of items requested. There is a Display Board and Collection Bin in the Narthex. Thank you from the Stewardship Group Women of Faith
- Faith Lutheran Church Calendar of Events: All scheduled Sunday Services, church events, meetings, and facility use events are now posted on the FLC Website under <u>About Us</u> / <u>Calendar</u>. OR, you can click "Calendar" from the top right corner of the Home Page. Here is the direct link: <u>Faith Lutheran Church Calendar of Events</u>. Links to the Sunday Services (recorded and Live), Tuesday Bible Studies (via Zoom), etc., are available within the individual calendar events.
- LOST AND FOUND: On the shelf above the coat rack in the Narthex.

# • CHRIST'S KALEIDOSCOPE

Instructors: Samuel Brink, Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp intern and Pastor Bruce J. Thorsen, Faith, Okemos, Michigan.

Sundays for five weeks, September 24-October 22 on Zoom 4 -5 p.m. Eastern Time, 3-4 Central Time.

This five-week study focuses on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Together we will navigate media and text sources and engage in weekly group discussion as we seek greater awareness and Deeper understanding of these groups. The material for each week invites dialogue surrounding historical perspectives, contemporary realities, and implications for future action and advocacy. This is an extension of the 2023 Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge that was done in Northern Great Lakes Synod. Each week of the study is grounded in our Christian faith and Lutheran tradition. As a person signs up they will be sent the media and text sources as well as a zoom invitation.

Registration Link: Registration Form

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