



**October 1, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

Eighteenth 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 ..... Bruce Thorsen  
Music Director ..... Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist ..... Bruce Williams  
Administrative Assistant ..... Connie Denbrock  
Youth & Education Director ..... Pam Williams  
Sound Technicians ..... Raymond Herek  
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)  
WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

## Introduction to the Day

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

## PRELUDE

"Improvisation on Laudes Domini"

arr. Raymand H. Haan

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak.**

**We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN – *I Will Sing, I Will Sing* (WP 73)



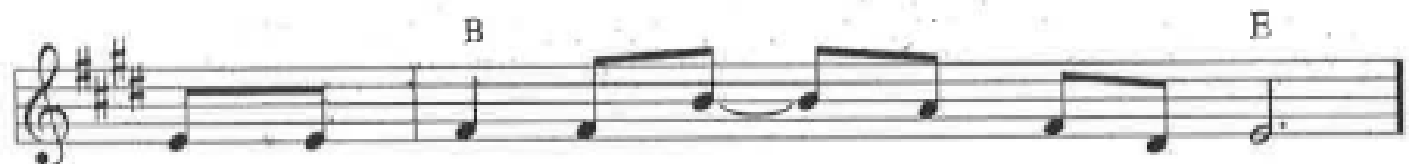
1 I will sing, I will sing a song un - to the Lord.  
 2 We will come, we will come as one be - fore the Lord.  
 3 If the Son, if the Son shall make . . . . . you . . . free,  
 4 They that sow in tears . . . . shall reap . . . . . in . . . joy.  
 5 Ev - 'ry knee shall bow . . and ev - 'ry tongue con - fess,  
 6 In his name, in his name we have the vic - to - ry.



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 We will come, we will come as one be - fore the Lord.  
 if the Son, if the Son shall make . . . . . you . . . free,  
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 They that sow in tears . . . . shall reap . . . . . in . . . joy.  
 ev - 'ry knee shall bow . . and ev - 'ry tongue con - fess,  
 In his name, in his name we have the vic - to - ry.



Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.  
 you . . . . shall be free . . . . . in - deed.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.  
 that . . . . Je - sus Christ . . . . . is . . . Lord.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.

*Refrain* E

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord. Al - le -

B E

lu, al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia, glo -

B E

- ry to the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.

Text and music: Max Dyer  
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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

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

A reading from Ezekiel.

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

## **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

A reading from Philippians.

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the <sup>6</sup>form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON - "NOAH'S ARK"

### 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.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*



<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

**SERMON**

# HYMN OF THE DAY – *Here I Am, Lord* (ELW 574)



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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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**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

...

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

# OFFERING

## The Tree of Life

Pécselyi Király Imre, ca. 1590-1641  
Para. by Erik Routley, 1917-82

SHADES MOUNTAIN  
K. Lee Scott



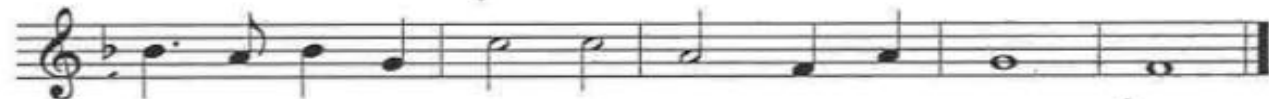
**All:** 1. There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of  
**Women:** 2. Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our  
**Men:** 3. Thorns not his own are tan - gled in its  
**Choir:** 4. See how its branch - es reach to us in  
**All:** 5. This is my end - ing, this my res - ur -  
**All:** 6. All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose



Wis - dom, whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing  
Sav - ior!" There on its branch - es see the  
fo - liage; our greed has starved it, our de -  
wel - come; hear what the Voice says, "Come to  
rec - tion; in - to your hands, Lord, I com -  
Pas - sion of - fers in mer - cy heal - ing,



of the na - tions: Tree of all knowl - edge,  
scars of suf - f'ring; see where the ten - drills  
spite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its  
me, ye wea - ry! Give me your sick - ness,  
mit my spir - it. This have I searched for;  
strength, and par - don. Peo - ples and na - tions,



Tree of all com - pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
of our hu - man self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
grief has not de - stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
give me all your sor - row, I will give bless - ing."  
now I can pos - sess it. This ground is ho - ly.  
take it, take it free - ly!" A - men! My Mas - ter!

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*Please stand if you are able.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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, 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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin[g]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[g]dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

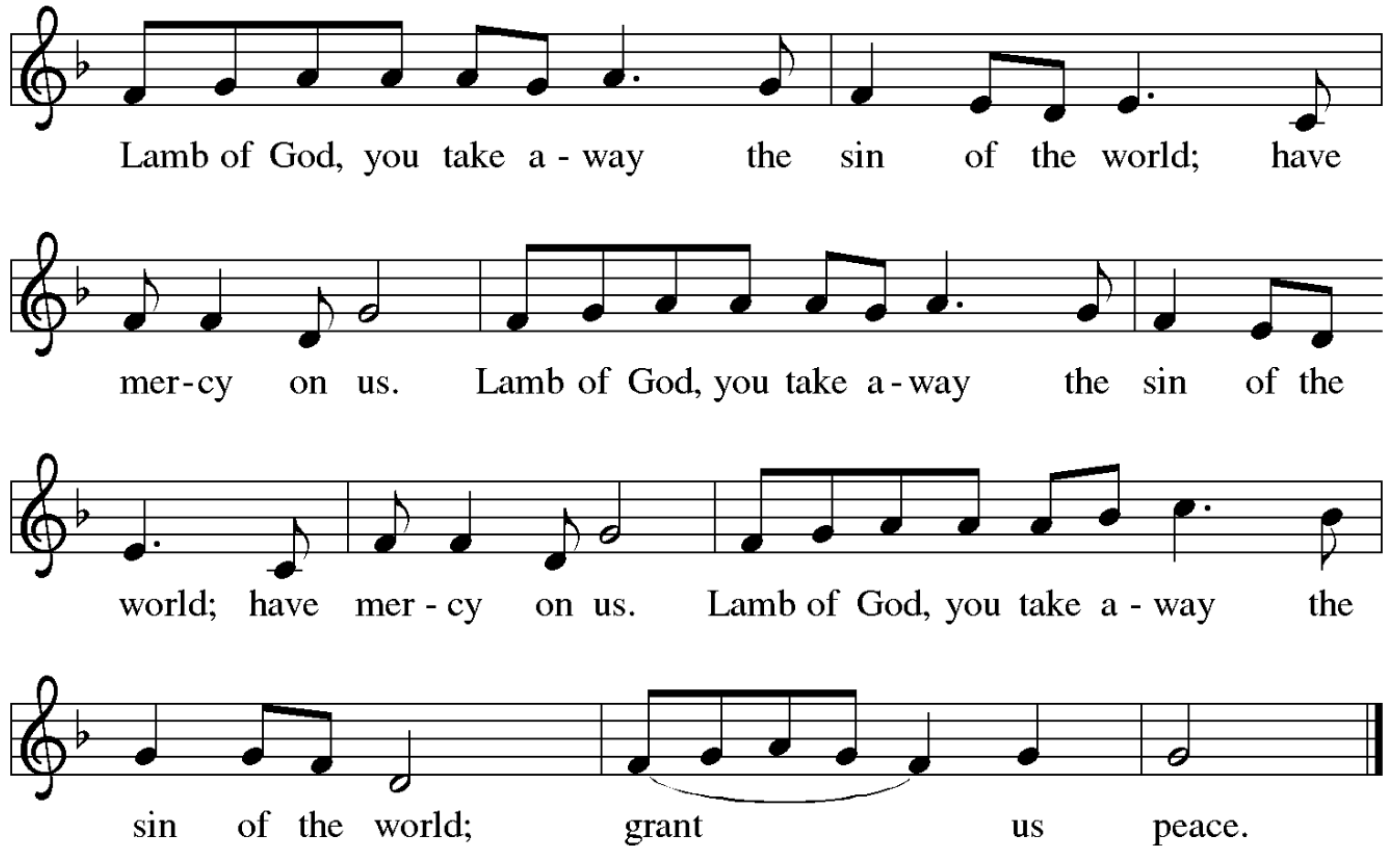
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## **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.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Now”

arr. Charles W. Ore

*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

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG – GO, MAKE DISCIPLES (ELW 540)



“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.



Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.



Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.



Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're



serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

arr. Jerry Ray

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Reader: Linda Hirt  
Lay Assistant: Bob Nelson  
Ushers: Brenda & Walter Kopf  
Acolyte: Jasper Wawrzynski

Greeter(s): Mike Eschelbach  
Altar Care: Tammy Heilman  
Nursery: Open, but not staffed  
Coffee Hour: Dale & Mavis Halvorson

### January - August 2023

Income	\$ 204,178
Expenses	<u>\$ 222,932</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (18,754)

## Weekly Offering Reports

	<u>September 17</u>
Loose Cash	\$ 85.00
General Fund	\$ 3,340.00
Building Rental	\$ 100.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 177.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>\$ 3,702.00</u>
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 1,460.50
Building	\$ 25.00
Youth	\$ 25.25
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>\$ 1,510.75</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$5,212.75</u></b>

	<u>September 24</u>
Loose Cash	\$ 40.00
General Fund	\$ 7,680.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 248.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
World Hunger	\$ 10.00
Youth*	\$ 675.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>\$ 8,753.00</u>
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 975.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>\$ 975.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 9,728.00</u></b>

\*Nat'l Youth Gathering \$ 200.00  
CHARGE \$ 475.00

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **This week @ FLC:**

**Sunday, Oct. 1:** You can view the service on our Facebook page (click the link below) <https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos/videos/>

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am
- CONFIRMATION @ 11:30 am

**Monday, Oct. 2:**

- Boy Scouts Meeting @ 7:00 pm - Old Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, Oct. 3:**

- Noon Bible Study - Zoom Call
- Stewardship Taskforce Meeting @ 6:00 PM - Library

**Wednesday, Oct. 4:**

- WEEDING Party @ 9:00 am
- Quilting @ 9:30 am
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30 pm

**Thursday, Oct. 5:**

- Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support Group Meeting @ 7:00 pm

**Pastor Bruce will be installed on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**DURING WORSHIP SERVICE. Mark your calendars!**

A **WEEDING Party** will be held at the rain garden next Wednesday **October 4th at 9am**. We are going to be on the map for the Meridian event but will wait until next year for the actual tour to let the garden settle in (maybe we can remove the fence by then). People can still drive by and see the gardens, so we need to make sure they're presentable. If you're available, please join us!

**Fall Cleanup** for the outside property will be **Sunday, Nov. 5 after service** and will include cake refreshments. Please join us if you can. Gloves, shovels, hedge trimmers, tree branch pruners, rakes, all would be appreciated. And an extra wheel barrow or two would be great. The Rain Date will be Sunday, Nov. 12. Any questions, see Bob Nelson or Rick Beaderstadt. Thank you.

## SINGING SINNERS SUNDAY

You are invited to join the Singing Sinners! We will rehearse together on the first Wednesday of the month, then sing during worship on the following Sunday. We head to Buddie's after our rehearsal for fellowship time. Come join us once - - or every month - - we'd love to see you!

OCTOBER: Rehearsal on October 4; sing during worship on October 8

NOVEMBER: Rehearse on November 1; sing during worship on November 5

DECEMBER: Rehearse on December 6; sing during worship on December 10

## **See you then!**

- **FLC Calendar of Events**: All scheduled Sunday Services, church events, meetings, and facility use events are now posted on the FLC Website under About Us / Calendar. OR, you can click "Calendar" from the top right corner of the Home Page.  
**Here is the direct link: [Faith Lutheran Church Calendar of Events](#).**  
**Links to the Sunday Services (Recorded and Live), Tuesday Bible Studies (via Zoom), etc., are available within the individual calendar events.**

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