

*Invite Everyone
You find*



October 15, 2023

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Twentieth 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
Website www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos
WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

Introduction to the Day

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

PRELUDE

"Joy and Elation"

Cynthia Dobrinski

Faith Bells

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
 God's compassion is beyond compare.
 In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
 In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart (ELW 873)

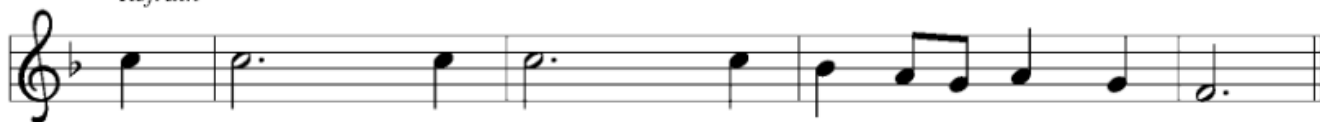


1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

5 At last the march shall end;
 the wearied ones shall rest;
 the pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
 the Lord whom we adore:
 the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
 one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.
 Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

PSALM: Psalm 23 (Read in unison)

¹**The 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.**

³**You 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.**

⁵**You 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.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians.

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.
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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.

¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Now We Join in Celebration* (ELW 462)



- 1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
- 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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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

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

arr. Mack Wilberg

Chancel Choir

Gwynne Kadrofske, flute Ian Morgan, oboe

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.**

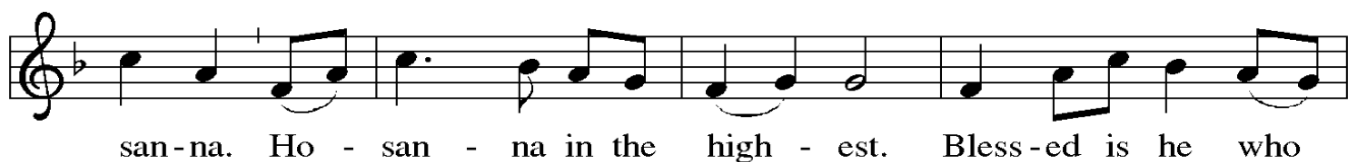
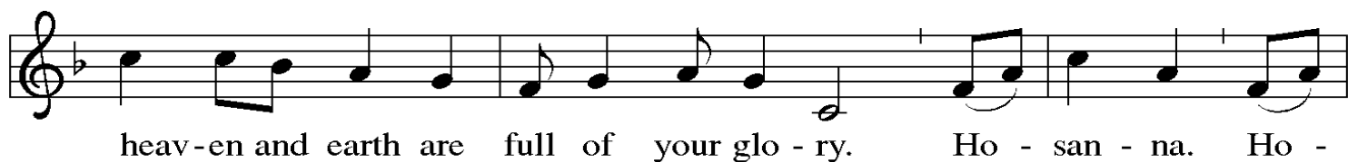
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 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.

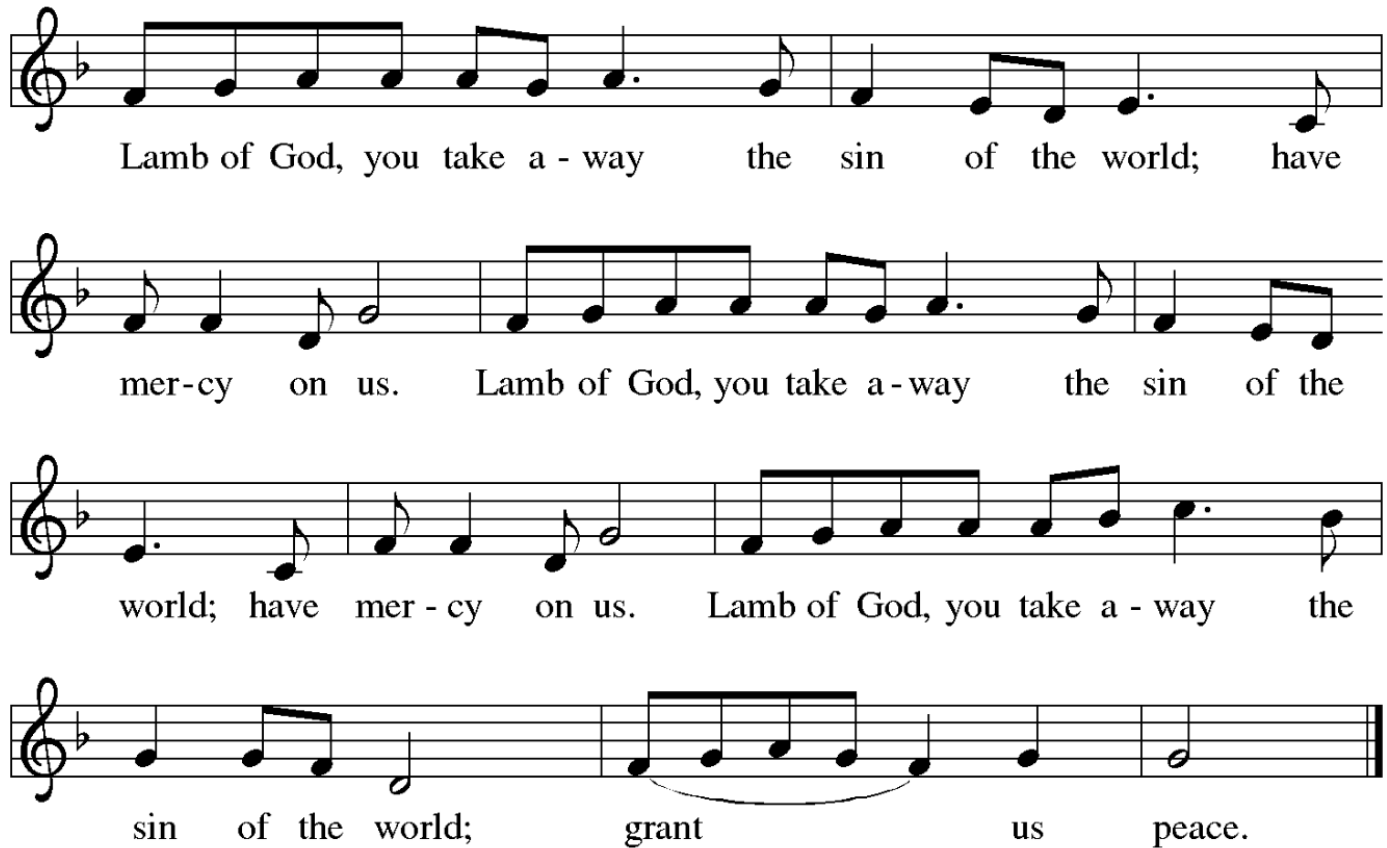
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Franklin 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

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 – FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH (ELW 879)



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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PROCESS TO SOLAR PANELS

Faith Lutheran Church Green Team Mission Statement

Recognizing the importance of being good stewards of all God's creation, especially in this time of heightened world-wide environmental stress, the Faith Lutheran Green Team, through thoughtful prayer and pastoral guidance, will

- Propose an array of ways for members of the congregation to reduce waste by recycling and improving energy efficiency, both in our life together and in our homes, and
- Provide opportunities for education, engagement and, in consultation with the Congregation Council and other community of faith, public advocacy in caring for this beautiful Earth.

Blessing of Solar Panels

O Source of Light, by Your light we see light. (Psalm 36:10)

"And God made the two great lights...and God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the Earth...and God saw that it was good."

(Genesis 1:16-18)

Creator God, may we have the wisdom to appreciate the goodness in Your creation.

All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.

"Give thanks...to the maker of the great lights, whose loving kindness extends eternally." (Psalm 136:1,7)

Gracious God, may we experience Your ever-renewing bounty with awe and gratitude, and may we use it wisely.

All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.

"With a rising-place at one end of heaven, and a circuit that reaches the other, nothing escapes [the sun's] heat." (Psalm 19:7)

Holy God, may this simple act of harnessing Your eternal light help us escape the global heating that our generation is causing over Your creation.

All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.

"Arise, shine, for Your light has dawned -- the presence of the Eternal will shine upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)

Loving God, Your gift of light enables us to shine. May we, created in Your image, be worthy reflectors of Your glory.

All: Amen.*

From Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda, Maryland

PROCESS TO RAIN GARDEN AND BRIDGE

Blessing of the Rain Garden and Bridge

Now the Green Blade Rises

(read in unison)

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green. Green comes up in churches – love for earth and air, Let this place be symbol of our will to care. Damage is done that makes creation weep — We stand with all gardens — promises to keep. Softly words are spoken, gently trust is born. sanctuaries chosen when our hearts are worn on this small ground we share each others' need and the holy Gardener gives us shoot and seed.

WordPress.com blog. Gifts in Open Hands – Prayers and songs for a Garden Dedication – Posted by Maren.

CLOSING PRAYER

Reader: Jamie Royalty
 Lay Assistant: Randy Royalty
 Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt
 Acolyte: Calvin Kadrofske

Greeter(s): Rich Weingartner
 Altar Care: Tammy Heilman
 Nursery: Open, but not staffed
 Coffee Hour: Ray & Angie Herek

January - August 2023

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

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

<u>October 1</u>	
Loose Cash	\$ 20.00
General Fund	\$ 1,630.00
Living Water/Stony Lake	\$ 52.00
Youth CHARGE	<u>\$ 95.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,797.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 220.00
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 270.00
TOTAL	\$2,067.00

<u>October 8</u>	
Loose Cash	\$ 70.00
General Fund	\$ 3,850.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 202.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Youth CHARGE Breakfast	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 4,197.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 4,655.00
Building	\$ 125.00
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 4,930.00
TOTAL	\$9,127.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bishop Craig A. Satterlee will be preaching and installing
Pastor Bruce on Sunday, October 22nd ...
DURING WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday, Oct. 15:

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am
- Solar Panels/Garden Blessing – during Service
- Worship Committee Meeting – after Service in the Library
- Confirmation @ 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

You can view the Worship Service on our Facebook page (click the link below) <https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos/videos/>

Monday, Oct. 16:

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

Tuesday, Oct. 17:

- Noon Bible Study – Zoom Call

Wednesday, Oct. 18:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- FLC Staff Meeting @ 10:15 am
- Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am – 1:00 pm
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30 pm

Saturday, Oct. 21:

- Private Event – Fellowship Hall + Kitchen



Don't be late for Worship Service on November 5th! And ...
Don't forget your gloves, shovels, hedge trimmers, tree branch pruners, rakes, and wheelbarrows.

The Outside property will be winterized ... cake refreshments provided. Please join us if you can. The Rain Date will be Sunday, Nov. 12. Any questions, see Bob Nelson or Rick Baderstadt. 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. Join us once - - or every month - - we'd love to see you!

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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