

October 22, 2023 10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Twenty First 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

•	Craig A. Satterlee Bruce Thorsen
	Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist	Bruce Williams
Instrumentalists	Raymond Herek, Maracas
	Nick Hirschenberger, Steel Drum
Administrative Assistant	Connie Denbrock
Youth & Education Director	Pam Williams
	Raymond Herek
Church email	faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website	www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page facebook	cebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

Introduction to the Day

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

PRELUDE

"Abbot's Leigh"

arr. Robert A. Hobby

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, \oplus 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 \(\frac{1}{4}\) Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – GOD IS HERE! (ELW 526)



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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 (Sing Twice)



^{*} May be sung in canon.

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945
Music: DU ÅR HELIG, Per Harling
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South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity." ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from Thessalonians.

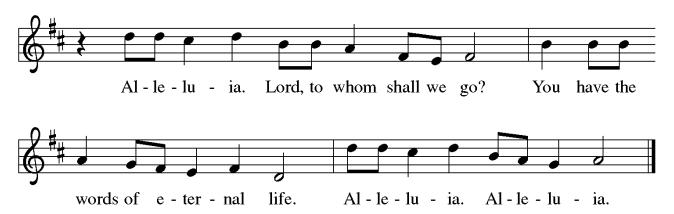
Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW 674)



- 1 Let us tal ents and tongues em ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a ble to make us one, at the ta ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo-ken and seen and heard. teach-ing peo-ple to live to bless, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man-u-el) ev-'ry-where!



Je - sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980

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PRESENTATION

Having been authorized by the church to install The Rev. Bruce J.

Thorsen, our co-worker in the gospel, as Transitional Pastor, I now ask for certification of this call.

[Michael Eschelbach – Congregation Council President]

After prayerful deliberation, we, of Faith Lutheran Church, have called The Rev. Bruce J. Thorsen to serve as a minister of word and sacrament in the position of Transitional Pastor.

I present The Rev. Bruce J. Thorsen and this letter certifying the call.

Address and Questions

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

Pastor Bruce, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church?

Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

People of God, will you receive Pastor Bruce as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard Pastor Bruce as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for Pastor Bruce? Will you help and honor Pastor Bruce in carrying out this ministry? In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Pastor Bruce the office of Transitional Pastor is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

[Korine Wawrzynski – member of Mutual Ministry Committee]

You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

[Matt Schnizlein – Member of RIC Committee]

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

They proceed to the place of the meal. A representative of the congregation says:

[Diane Hill – Chair of Worship and Music Committee]

You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

People of God, I present to you Pastor Bruce, your Transitional Pastor.

Let us welcome Pastor Bruce in the name of Christ.

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

"Total Praise"

Richard Smallwood, arr. Joel Raney

Chancel Choir

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.

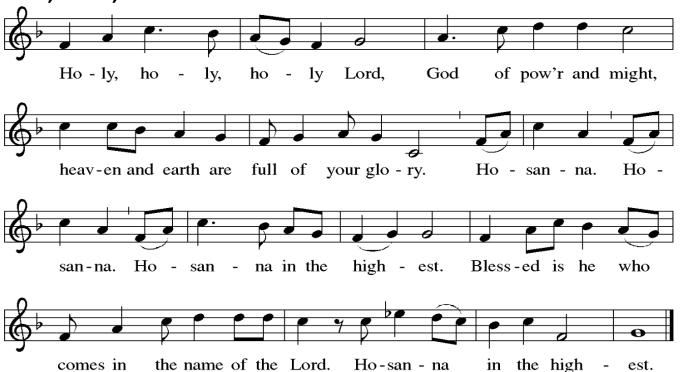
DIALOGUE

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:





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.

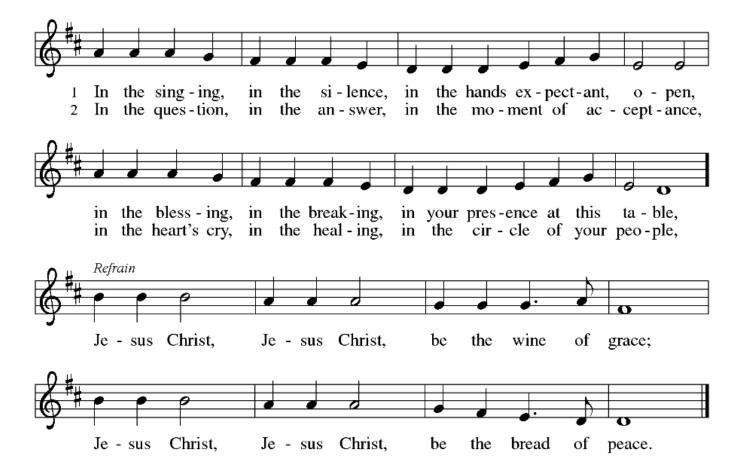
COMMUNION

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

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

"Reflection on a Swedish Folk Tune" arr. Anna Laura Page Cecelía Kramer, Brenda Kopf, Gretchen Paíge, Deb Borton-McDonough Handbells

COMMUNION SONG – In the Singing (ELW 466)



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BRÉAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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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 - GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY (ELW 705)



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"God of Grace"

arr. Paul Manz

Reader: Walter Kopf Greeter(s): Ken & Ellen Milne

Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach Altar Care: Brenda Kopf

Ushers: Holte/Robinson Nursery: Open, but not staffed Acolyte/Curcifer: Jasper Wawrzynski Coffee Hour: Ken & Ellen Milne

 January - September 2023

 Income
 \$ 227,994

 Expenses
 \$ 251,959

 Net Income (Loss)
 \$ (23,965)

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

October 8		October 15	
Loose Cash	\$ 70.00	Loose Cash	\$ 32.00
General Fund	\$ 3,850.00	General Fund	\$ 4,595.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 202.00	Pantry Fund	\$ 320.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00	Youth: CHARGE Trip	\$ 150.00
Youth CHARGE Breakfast	\$ <u>25.00</u>	Sunday School	\$ 6.00
Subtotal	\$ 4,197.00	Subtotal	\$ 5,103.00
<u>Vanco</u>		<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 4,655.00	General Operating	\$ 121.00
Building	\$ 125.00	Pantry Fund	\$ 50.50
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00	Parish House	\$ <u>50.50</u>
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00	Subtotal	\$ 222.00
Parish House	\$ <u>50.00</u>		
Subtotal	\$ 4,930.00	TOTAL	\$5,325.00
TOTAL	\$9,127.00		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Quarterly Congregational Meeting October 29, 2023 – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE

Sunday, Oct. 22:

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am
- Pastor Bruce's Installation during Service

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

Monday, Oct. 23:

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

Tuesday, Oct. 24:

- Noon Bible Study Zoom Call
- Private Event Fellowship Hall @ 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 25:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30 pm

Saturday, Oct. 28:

Private Event – Sanctuary @ 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Sunday, Oct. 29:

- Quarterly Congregational Meeting Sanctuary, Immediately Following Service
- Reformation Sunday Giving out Bibles to Youth

The <u>Sunday School students</u> decided they want to collect bags of candy as their offering. We will be collecting the bags of candy on **Oct. 22 and Oct 29**. We plan to put together baggies of candy and a card to have them delivered to our Shut-ins from our church. If everyone can bring one bag of candy we should be all set. If you have questions let me know. Thanks, Pam Williams



Don't be late for Worship Service on <u>November 5th!</u> 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 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. 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!

CHARGE Scholarship Board

There is a poster board that the 6th grade and up youth made to help fund their trip to CHARGE, Nov. 10-12th. CHARGE is the event by Living Waters Ministries that brings together students from Michigan to grow in faith, engage in service, and develop leadership skills. It is held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. There are some pictures from last year, and the kids really had a great time. They met new people and they bonded with each other. If you want to help, please take the card (on the poster board), attach the money to it, and put it in the offering with CHARGE on the check. Please see Pastor or Pam with any questions.

October 29th - YOUTH (6th Grade and up) will be meeting at the Kadrofske's house at 5:30 for dinner and conversation. We will be heading to the Jack-o-Lantern's Unleashed in Mason at the Ingham Co. Fairgrounds. It costs \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. I need to know who is all going to the event by October 22nd. We need to plan for food and driver's.

 <u>FLC Calendar of Events</u>: 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.

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