



October 29, 2023

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Twenty-Second 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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

PRELUDE

"A Mighty Fortress"

arr. Timothy Albrecht

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 – CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION (ELW 645)



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

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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)

You Are Holy *Du är helig*

1*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm 46

Odd Verses = Low Voices

Even Verses = High Voices

R [All Voices] – The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away. R**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.” R**

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES:

- Spark Children's Bible: Henry Brown, Theodore Hartwick, Audra VanDerMoere
- Spark Bible: Lydia Boyan, Oliver Thompson, Charlie Herek

Luke 2:41 –52 – Spark Story Bible

Pastor: Receive the Word of God. Learn its stories and study its words. Its stories belong to us all, and these words speak to us all. They tell us who we are. They tell us that we belong to one another, for we are the people of God.

Children respond: **We receive these Bibles with our hands, our hearts, and our minds. Thank you. We will read and study the Bible together.**


Congregation to children: **We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Holy Bible in your home, in your church school classes, and in our worship. We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word.**

Children to congregation:

Your words are a flashlight to light the path ahead of me and keep me from stumbling. (The Living Bible) Thanks be to God.

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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: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

SERMON

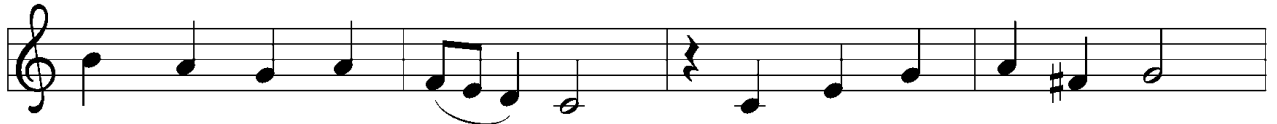
HYMN OF THE DAY – *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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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

"Hear, Oh Israel"

Ron Nelson

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 by Mark Erson

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 is our mighty fortress and our strength.

You call your church to remain steadfast in your Word,

That all might know the good news of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the
hosts of heaven, We raise 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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.

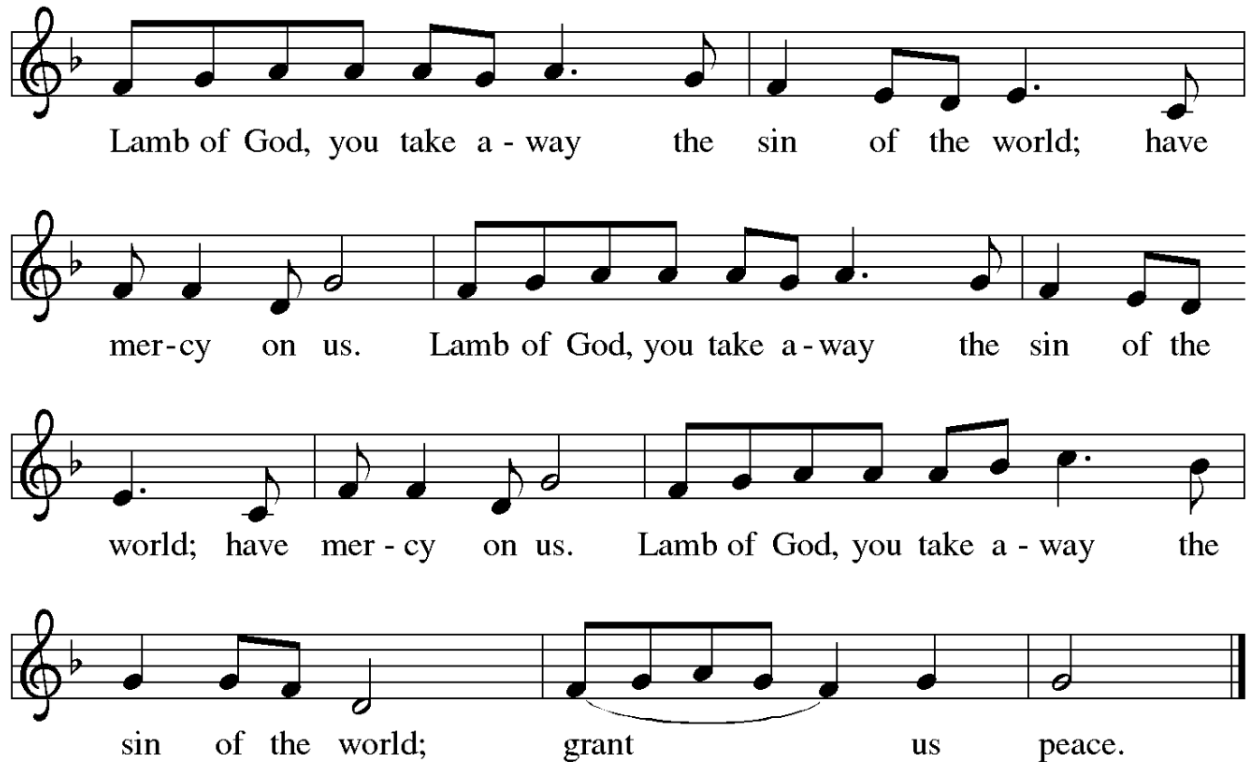
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Richard Warner

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 – BY GRACE WE HAVE BEEN SAVED (W&P 25)



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and
2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's
3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through
4 We know the wage of sin is death; thank
5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by
plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -
Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ
God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus
va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.
filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.
died for us. We gained by God's own loss.
rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.
feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas; Frederick Whitfield, refrain
Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS. North American traditional

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reader: Brenda Kopf
Lay Assistant: Paul Hereza
Ushers: Walter & Brenda Kopf
Acolyte/Crucifer: Isaak Nyquist

Greeter(s): Lois Neves
Altar Care: Cecelia Kramer
Nursery: Open, but not staffed
Coffee Hour: Pam/Youth

January - September 2023
Income \$ 227,994
Expenses \$ 251,959
Net Income (Loss) \$ (23,965)

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

<u>October 8</u>		<u>October 15</u>	
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	\$ <u>6.00</u>
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

Please send Connie the names of those whom you would like mentioned during the All Saint's Service on November 5th ... please, only those who have died in the last year. Send your message to connie@faithlutheranokemos.org.

Sunday, Oct. 29:

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am – Reformation Sunday
- Giving out Bibles to Youth – during Service
- Conversation with Leadership – Fellowship Hall @ 1:15 pm
- Youth Gathering at the Kadrofske's @ 5:30 pm

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

Monday, Oct. 30:

- Community Service Group – Outside @ 10:30 am
- Boy Scouts Meeting – Old Fellowship Hall @ 7:00 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 31:

- Noon Bible Study – Zoom Call

Wednesday, Nov. 1:

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

Thursday, Nov. 2:

- Stewardship Meeting – Library @ 6:00 pm
- Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support – Fellowship Hall @ 7:00 pm

Saturday, Nov. 4:

- Private Event – Fellowship Hall + Kitchen @ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday, Nov. 5: Time Change @ 2:00 am

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am – All Saint's Day
- Fall Cleanup – following Service
- Confirmation – Fellowship Hall @ 11:30 am

Pledge Cards were sent via the U.S. Postal Service this week. Please let Connie know if you don't receive yours in the next few days. **Completed cards should be brought to Stewardship Sunday on November 19th.** If you are not able to be in worship on November 19th, feel free to drop your card in the Offering basket at any Service after that. You can also mail your card to:

Faith Lutheran Church
c/o Financial Secretary
4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Feel free to contact Connie at the office if you have any questions – 517.349.0620.

* * * * *

The World Hunger Globe will be out this Sunday. The money collected will go toward Lutheran Disaster Relief for the Humanitarian Crisis.

* * * * *

WANTED ... USHERS

A few of your duties would be to pass out bulletins and greet people, fill out the usher's report, direct people for communion, and collect the Offering. All are welcome from high school on up. Training will be provided (TBA). Please contact Brenda Kopf – call or text 517-927-1800 or email bjktchr@sbcglobal.net.

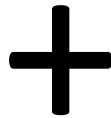
CHARGE

Trip to Great Wolf Lodge -- November 10-12

Thank you so much for providing scholarships for the youth attending CHARGE next month!! We still have the cost of the hotel to cover, and I am going to change the cards on the poster board to smaller amounts so you do not feel that you need to donate so much. We appreciate any amount you can help with.

The cards are on the poster board in the Narthex. If you want to help, please take the card from the poster board in the Narthex, attach the money to it, and put it in the offering with "CHARGE" on the check. Please see Pastor or Pam with any questions.

NOVEMBER 5th



Don't be late for Worship Service on November 5th!

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!

- **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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