



December 3, 2023

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

First Sunday in Advent

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 Kathy Richardson
Administrative Assistant Connie Denbrock
Youth & Education Director Pam Williams
Sound Technicians Cody Boyan & 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

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE

"An Advent Prelude"

Charles Callahan

Gwynne Kadrofske – flute, Pastor Bruce

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.**

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – Hark, a Thrilling Voice (ELW 246)



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!”
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv’n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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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.**

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – He Came Down (ELW 253) 1st Stanza



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. ²As when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil, to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

SERMON

Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

Amen

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953

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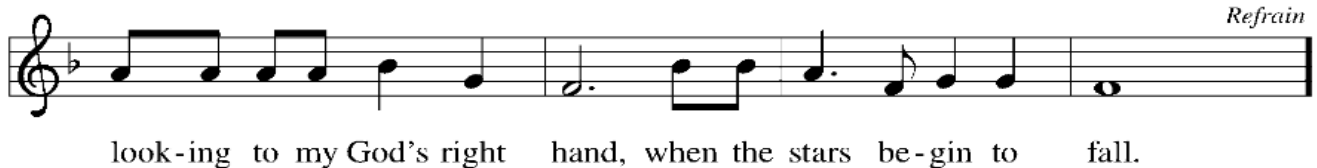
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HYMN OF THE DAY – My Lord, What a Morning (ELW 438)

Refrain



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH. African American spiritual

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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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all.

...

God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

"Waiting for Bethlehem's Light"

Dale Peterson and Charles McCartha

Chancel Choir; Gwynne Kadrofske, flute

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

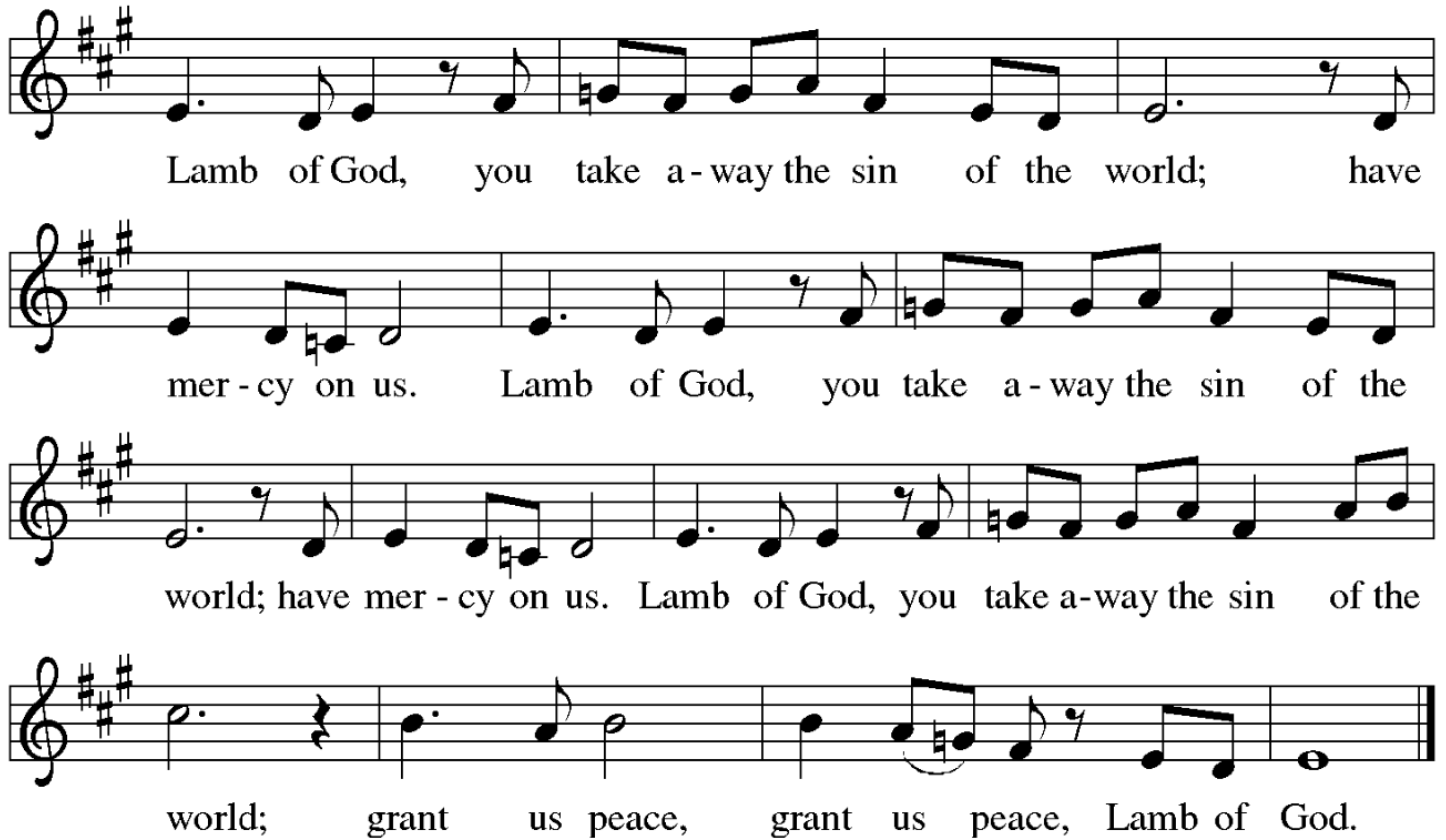
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Prelude on "Wachet Auf"

Lani Smith

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. John Carter

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

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG – THE KING SHALL COME (ELW 260)



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“My Lord, What a Morning”

Sara Glick

Reader: Linda Hirt
 Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner
 Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt
 Acolyte: Jasper Wawrzynski

Greeter(s): Chris & Jean Lewis
 Altar Care: Kathy Mace
 Nursery: Open, but not staffed
 Coffee Hour: Warren & Tammy Heilman

January - October 2023

Income	\$ 254,784
Expenses	<u>\$ 277,303</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (22,519)

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

November 19

Loose Cash	\$ 68.00
General Fund	\$ 3,090.00
Building Rental	\$ 350.00
Quilter's Fund	\$ 20.00
Kinawa Christmas Gifts	\$ 100.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 420.00
Parish House	\$ 895.30
Youth: Sunday School	\$ 5.20
CHARGE Trip	<u>\$ 410.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 5,358.50
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 1,980.50
Building	\$ 25.00
Caring Committee	\$ 10.10
Youth	\$ 25.25
Pantry Fund	\$ 10.10
Parish House	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 2,050.95
 TOTAL	 \$7,409.45

November 26

Loose Cash	\$ 5.00
General Fund	\$ 3,315.00
Flowers	\$ 220.00
Quilter's Fund	\$ 100.00
Kinawa Christmas Gifts	\$ 670.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 937.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 5,747.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	<u>\$ 495.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 495.00
 TOTAL	 \$6,242.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Time & Talent form has been emailed to the congregation. It is also available at the link below. You can also find paper copies in the Narthex. Please fill out and place in the offering basket or the basket on the table in the Narthex. Please complete the form by December 31st. Thank you!

Time & Talent Sheet 2023

Saturday, Dec. 2:

- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm - Christmas Tree & Lights (Volunteers needed)
- 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm - Private Event / Sanctuary
- 8:00 pm – Murder for Two @ Williamston Theatre (doors open @ 7:30)

Sunday, Dec. 3:

- 10:00 am - Worship Service – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 11:00 am - Christmas Tree Decorating (Volunteers needed)
- 11:30 am - 2:30 pm Confirmation Class + Activity– Fellowship Hall and Brookdale Meridian
- 2:30 pm - National ELCA Youth Gathering - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING -- Fellowship Hall

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

Monday, Dec. 4:

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

Tuesday, Dec. 5:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call

Wednesday, Dec. 6:

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

Thursday, Dec. 7:

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

Saturday, Dec. 9:

- Private Event: Kitchen + Fellowship Hall @ 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

* * * * *

As we enter December, our income continues to fall short of our expenses by **over 20,000**. Please prayerfully consider if you are able to make a donation this month to help us end the year on a positive note and start 2024 with a clean slate. Thank You!

Financial Update

Income	\$ 254,784
Expenses	<u>\$ 277,303</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (22,519)

National ELCA Youth Gathering

Organizational Meeting

“Created To Be”

On December 3, at 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, there will be a meeting for all youth and their parents who are interested in going to the National ELCA Youth Gathering.

Details:

- All those in 8th to 12th grade are eligible to attend.
- It will be held July 16 - 20, 2024, in New Orleans, LA.
- The Registration cost is \$450.00 (\$150.00 due at registration). This price does not include the lodging or meals. We will need to do some fundraising.
- The hotel rooms are \$175.00 per person – there can be 3 in a room.
- They recommend \$70.00 a day for meals.

We will need to work out the transportation and the synod is working on group possibilities.

Please let me know if you are planning to join. Also, if you are interested and cannot attend, please let me know and I can keep you in the loop.

Pastor Bruce

SINGING SINNERS SUNDAY

You are invited to join the Singing Sinners! We rehearse at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, then head to Buddie’s after rehearsal for fellowship and laughter! We sing during worship on the following Sunday. The Sunday warm-up time is 9:15 – 9:45. Join us once ... or every month! **Questions? See Deb Borton-McDonough.**

DECEMBER: Rehearse on December 6 @ 7:30 pm
Warm-up on December 10 @ 9:15 am
Sing during Worship on December 10

Mark your calendars!!

The Christmas Pageant - put on by the Youth - will be on December 17th, during Worship Service. Following the Service, there will be coffee hour and cake!

LUNCH BUNCH

Everyone is Invited!!

FLC Wednesday, December 20, 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

December Hosts are Karen Fraser & Deb Borton-McDonough

This is an opportunity for fellowship and food. If you would like to host a month, please let Bob Nelson or Tammy Heilman know. Hosting would involve providing sandwiches, drinks, set up, and clean up. For anyone attending, please feel free to bring a salad or dessert. You can also bring your own lunch if you wish. We hope you can join us. Come and go as you need to during lunch.

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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