



December 17, 2023

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Third 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 Deb Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams
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

“Rejoice always!” Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

PRELUDE

“The Rocking Carol”

arr. Douglas Wagner

Faith Bells

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 – On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (ELW 249)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

He Came Down (ELW 253) **Stanzas 1, 2, 3**



- 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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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand. **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Narrators: Calvin Kadrofske, Andrew Herek, Maddie Webb

Welcome

Part I: Mary and Joseph

Duet- Joseph, Dearest, Joseph Mine

Addie & Ryan Thompson

As the song is sung, Mary and Joseph come forward.

Jaelyn Marquardt and Charlie Herek

Part II: The Animals

On Christmas Night

Chancel Choir

As the song is sung, animals come forward.

Henry Brown -Donkey and Owen Thompson -Sheep

Part III: Angels

Congregational Hymn - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing - #270, stanza 1

During the singing of the hymn, the angels come forward.

Peyton and Riley Williams

Part IV: Shepherds

Congregational Hymn - Go Tell It on the Mountain - #290

During the singing of the hymn, shepherds come forward.

Max and Liam Nyquist

Part V: Wise Persons and Star

Congregational Hymn - We Three Kings

Stanzas 1 and 5

During the singing of the hymn, Wise Men process in.
Edison Robinson, Oliver Thompson, Lydia Boyan

[Noisy Offering]

We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.
Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891

Part VI: Conclusion

Congregational Hymn – Joy To The World - #267

Star: Freya Cowell

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

“Holy Is His Name”

John Michael Talbot, arr. Phil Perkins and Rick Modlin
Chancel Choir

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.

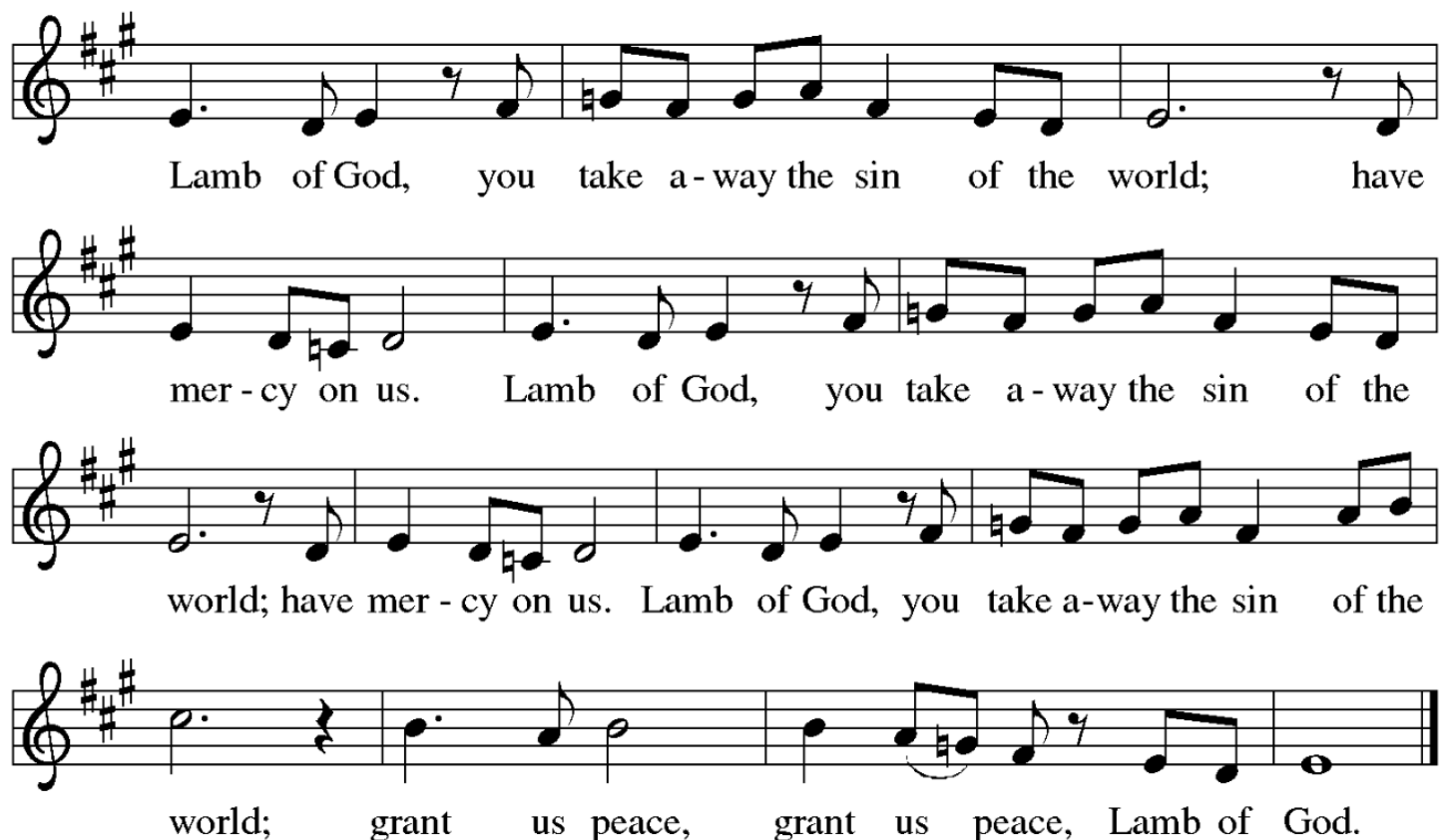
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

“The Angel Gabriel”

arr. David Cherwien, arr. Charles Callahan

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 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW 244)



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

arr. Paul Manz

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: N/A
 Lay Assistant: Randy Royalty
 Ushers: Walter & Brenda Kopf
 Acolyte: Maddie Webb

Greeter(s): Doug & Linda Hirt
 Altar Care: Heidi Bowers
 Nursery: Open, but not staffed
 Coffee Hour: Education Committee

January - October 2023

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

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

December 3

Loose Cash	\$ 92.00
General Fund	\$ 7,015.00
Flowers	\$ 154.00
Quilter's Fund	\$ 55.00
Kinawa Christmas Gifts	\$ 225.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 775.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 9,416.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 4,255.00
Building	\$ 125.00
Caring	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 100.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 4,580.00

TOTAL **\$ 13,996.00**

December 10

General Fund	\$ 690.00
Flowers	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 1,028.58
(Kroger \$28.58/Anonymous \$1,000)	
Parish House	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 2,128.58
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	<u>\$ 624.00</u>
Total	\$ 624.00

TOTAL **\$ 2,752.58**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Time & Talent form has been emailed to the congregation. You can also find paper copies in the Narthex. Please fill out and place in the basket on the table in the Narthex.

Please complete the form by December 31st. Thank you!

- The Church Office will be closed on 12/25/2023 and 1/1/2024.
- There will be NO Sunday School on 12/24/2023 and 12/31/2023.

Annual Congregational Meeting
JANUARY 28, 2024 – following the Service.

Sunday, Dec. 17:

- 10:00 am - Worship Service [Noisy Offering] – 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 10:00 am - Christmas Pageant (during Service)
+ Coffee Hour w/cake (after Service)
- 11:30 am – Worship Committee Meeting – Library
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm – Private Event – Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Private Event – Sanctuary

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

Monday, Dec. 18:

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

Tuesday, Dec. 19:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call

Wednesday, Dec. 20:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am – Fellowship Hall
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 24:

- 10:00 am - Worship Service – 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 3:45 – Prelude begins / 4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service
- 7:45 – Prelude begins / 8:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

* * * * *

Financial Update

Income	\$ 254,784
Expenses	\$ 277,303
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (22,519)

Our income continues to fall short of our expenses. Please prayerfully consider if you can make a donation this month to help us end the year on a positive note and start 2024 with a clean slate. Thank you!

FAITH FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Please be sure to **read Page 2** of the Newsletter (link below) ... in preparation for the Christmas Eve Services.



Newsletter



LUNCH BUNCH

Everyone is Invited!!

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. 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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