

December 24, 2023

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Fourth 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

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Based on the O Antiphons

The O Antiphons are a set of medieval refrains originally used before and after the singing of the Magnificat. They were in use already in the eighth century. Each invokes the Messiah under a different title derived from the Old Testament. This title is then amplified and followed by an appeal to “come” and save us in a particular way. Around the twelfth century, they were collected into a Latin verse hymn, which was later translated by John Mason Neale, finally becoming the beloved Advent hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel” (ELW 257, LBW 34). (The version in Evangelical Lutheran Worship restores two original stanzas that were omitted in the LBW version.) These antiphons form the structure of this service. They are pointed for chanting, or they may be spoken. The corresponding stanza of “O come, O come, Emmanuel” is sung after each antiphon.

PRELUDE

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

GATHERING HYMN – People, Look East (ELW 248)



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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DIALOGUE

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!

I will hear what the Lord God has to say—

A voice that speaks for peace.

Peace for all faithful people

and those who turn to him in their hearts.

God's help is near for those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land.

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, through the ages you have sent your promise to your people in many ways, through many voices. But in these last days, your Son has come to bring it among us in person. Through your Spirit, prepare our hearts to recognize him in his many forms, and to receive him as our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - He Came Down (ELW 253)



- 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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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.
As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you.
Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these
candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to
refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in
the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – ELW 257



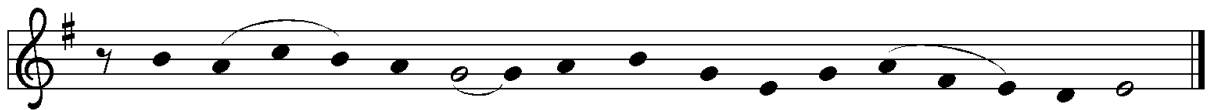
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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LESSONS AND CAROLS

Antiphon

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Hymn stanza: O come, O Wisdom - ELW 257, Stanza 2

Lesson: Isaiah 40:3-5

Carol: Comfort, comfort now my people - ELW 256



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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Antiphon

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

Hymn stanza: O come, O Lord of might - ELW 257, Stanza 3

Lesson: Exodus 6:2-7a

Carol: Come, thou long-expected Jesus - ELW 254



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Antiphon

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage: Come quickly to deliver us.

Hymn stanza: O come, O Branch of Jesse - ELW 257, Stanza 4

Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Carol: Lo, how a rose e'er blooming - ELW 272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN RÖS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

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Antiphon

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open:

Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

Hymn stanza: O come, O Key of David - ELW 257, Stanza 5

Lesson: Isaiah 42:5-9

Carol: On Christmas Night - ELW 274, Stanzas 1 & 4



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
sing, all for to see the new-born king.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.

Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

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Antiphon

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Hymn stanza: O come, O Dayspring - ELW 257, Stanza 6

Lesson: Luke 1:68-79

Carol: Blessed Be the God of Israel - ELW 250



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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Antiphon

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

Hymn stanza: O come, O King of nations - ELW 257, Stanza 7

Lesson: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Antiphon

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:

Come and save us, Lord our God.

Hymn stanza: O come, O come, Emmanuel - ELW 257, Stanza 1

Lesson: Isaiah 7:14

Carol: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn - ELW 242, WOV 633



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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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.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Our world stumbles blindly toward chaos—

come, source of wisdom, and reveal yourself to us.

What we imagine to be strength is really weakness—

come, mighty Lord, and fill us with your true strength.

We long for a standard to look up to—

come, Root of Jesse, claim us as your own.

We languish in prisons of mind and spirit—

come, Key of David, and set us free.

The darkness grows thick around us—

come, Light of light, and dawn upon us.

We are scattered, lacking a sure leader—

come, Prince of peace, and lead us.

We need to know that God is with us—

come, Emmanuel, and dwell in our hearts.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

For Behold, Darkness Will Cover the Earth and
The People Who Walked in Darkness – G. F. Handel
Soloist – Pastor Bruce Thorsen

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

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

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

As you receive communion, in the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine.

COMMUNION SONGS

Hark the Herald Angels Sing - ELW 270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



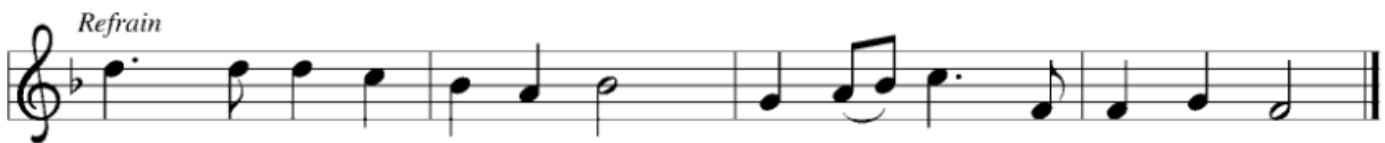
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

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Away in the Manger - ELW 277



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In our Savior Christ, God is with us. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG – Joy to the World (ELW 267)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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POSTLUDE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

arr. Dale Wood

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: Warren Heilman
 Lay Assistant: Paul Hereza
 Ushers: Walter & Brenda Kopf
 Acolyte: Isaak Nyquist

Greeter(s): Ken & Ellen Milne
 Altar Care: Heidi Bowers
 Nursery: Open, but not staffed
 Coffee Hour: N/A

OFFERING REPORTS

January - November 2023

Income	\$ 273,234
Expenses	<u>\$ 301,686</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (28,452)

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

December 17

Loose Cash	\$ 76.00
General Fund	\$ 24,950.00
Caring Committee	\$ 25.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 790.47
Pampered Chef (\$396.47)	
Staff Appreciation	\$ <u>600.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 26,441.47
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 1790.50
Building	\$ 25.00
Caring Committee	\$ 25.25
Staff Appreciation	\$ 101.00
Youth	\$ <u>25.25</u>
Total	\$ 1,967.00
 TOTAL	 \$ 28,408.47

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.

Connie will be out of the office January 11-26 ... still working ... but, from Florida 😊✌️

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On **March 3, 2024** (after Worship Service) we will have a Congregational Meeting to discuss Transition Team Updates.

The meeting will include a Chili Cookoff and Cookie Bake Off.

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

Sunday, Dec. 31:

- 10:00 am - Worship Service

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

I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all those who helped with the church pageant. We had people of all ages downstairs helping with the kids, costumes, and practice. A special thank you to **Sheila Smith** for all her help with the costumes; I really appreciate it.

Pam Williams

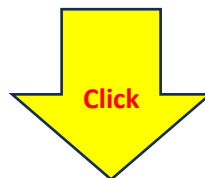
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Financial Update

Income	\$ 254,784
Expenses	<u>\$ 277,303</u>
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



Newsletter

Annual Congregational Meeting

JANUARY 28, 2024 - following the Service

[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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