



EPIPHANY 2

January 14, 2024

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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 John Schleicher
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

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

PRELUDE

“Gather Us In”

arr. Mark D. Himmelman

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant. Renew your creation.
Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN - GATHER US IN (ELW 532)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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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

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

A reading from 1 Samuel.

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” [¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

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

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

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

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME (ELW 798)



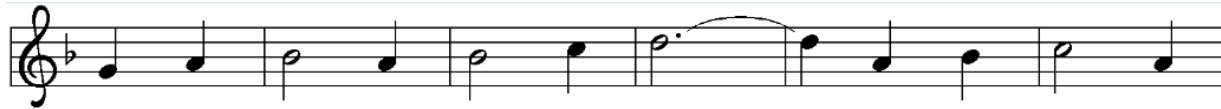
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

...

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

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

"Peace is Our Prayer"

Larry Schackley

Chancel Choir

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

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

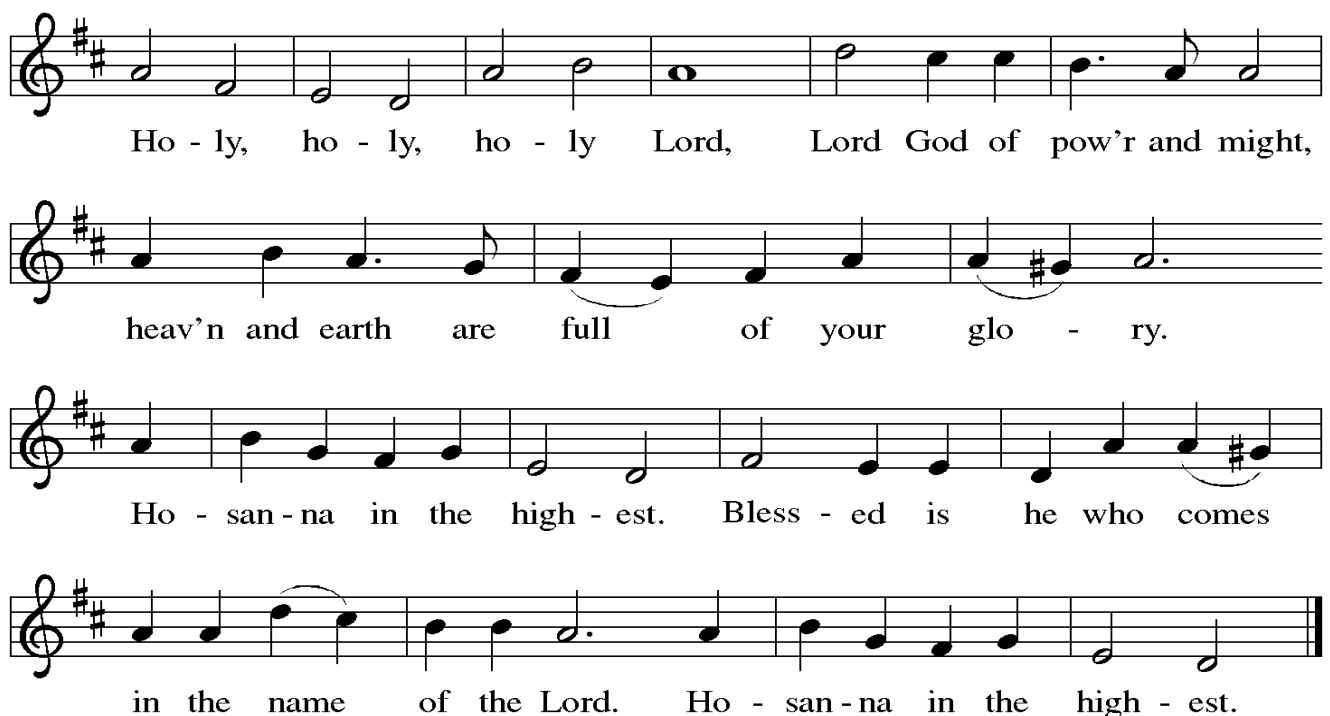
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. **Our Creator 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

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

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.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

arr. Aaron D. Miller

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

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG – I WILL SING, I WILL SING (W&P 73)



1 I will sing, I will sing a song un - to the Lord.
 2 We will come, we will come as one be - fore the Lord.
 3 If the Son, if the Son shall make you . . . free,
 4 They that sow in tears shall reap in . . . joy.
 5 Ev - 'ry knee shall bow . . . and ev - 'ry tongue con - fess,
 6 In his name, in his name we have the vic - to - ry.



I will sing, I will sing a song un - to the Lord.
 We will come, we will come as one be - fore the Lord.
 if the Son, if the Son shall make you . . . free,
 They that sow in tears shall reap in . . . joy.
 ev - 'ry knee shall bow . . . and ev - 'ry tongue con - fess,
 In his name, in his name we have the vic - to - ry.



I will sing, I will sing a song un - to the Lord.
 We will come, we will come as one be - fore the Lord.
 if the Son, if the Son shall make you . . . free,
 They that sow in tears shall reap in . . . joy.
 ev - 'ry knee shall bow . . . and ev - 'ry tongue con - fess,
 In his name, in his name we have the vic - to - ry.



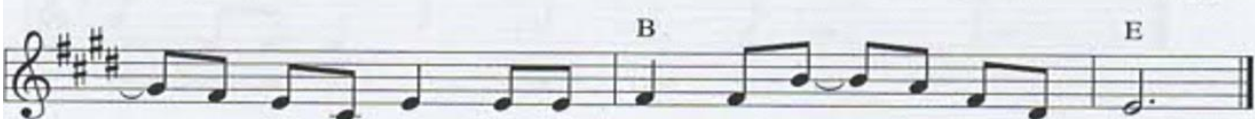
Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.
 Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.
 you shall be free in - deed.
 Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.
 that Je - sus Christ is Lord.
 Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.



Refrain
 Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord. Al - le -



lu, al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia, glo -



- ry to the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to the Lord.

Text and music: Max Dyer

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DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Sortie in F”

Cesar Franck

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: Linda Hirt

Lay Assistant: Doug Hirt

Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt

Acolyte: Isaak Nyquist

Greeter(s): Chris & Jean Lewis

Altar Care: Tammy Heilman

Nursery: Open, but not staffed

Coffee Hour: Matt & Nick

OFFERING REPORTS

January - November 2023

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

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

<u>December 29*</u>		<u>January 7</u>	
General Fund	\$ <u>1,565.00</u>	Loose Cash	\$ 66.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,565.00	General Fund	\$ 3,290.00
<u>Vanco</u>		Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 220.00</u>
General Operating	\$ 550.00	Subtotal	\$ 3,576.00
Pantry Fund	\$ <u>50.00</u>	<u>Vanco</u>	
Subtotal	\$ 600.00	General Operating	\$ 6,142.00
TOTAL	\$ <u>2,165.00</u>	Building	\$ 125.00
		Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
		Parish House	\$ 50.00
		Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
		Subtotal	\$ 6,417.00
		TOTAL	\$ <u>9,993.00</u>

*December 31, 2023, contributions could not be deposited until January 2, 2024, due to the banks being closed. Therefore, December 31, 2023, contributions were included with the January 7, 2024, contribution amounts.

FLC Building Hours/Schedule/Events

If you need something from the church office (Connie), in the next couple weeks, Please SEND ME AN EMAIL ... connie@faithlutheranokemos.org 😊

Sunday, Jan. 14:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **Epiphany 2**

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

Monday, Jan. 15:

- **FLC Office Closed**
- Boy Scouts Meeting @ 7:00 pm – OLD FELLOWSHIP HALL
- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 6:15 pm – Children's Room (downstairs)
- Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm – FELLOWSHIP HALL

Tuesday, Jan. 16:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call

Wednesday, Jan. 17:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- FLC Staff Meeting @ 10:15 am
- Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am
- Christian Education Meeting @ 3:00 pm – Old Fellowship Hall
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30 pm

Sunday, Jan. 21:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **Epiphany 3**
- Worship Committee Meeting @ 11:00 am – LIBRARY
- Confirmation @ 11:30 – Fellowship Hall

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth (grades 6th and up) will be meeting again on January 28th at 5:00 p.m. We will be meeting at Jasper's home. There will be dinner provided. The address is:

6053 Oakpark Trail
Haslett, MI 48840

Please come as we are going to talk about and plan a volunteer activity as well as fun activities and a lively discussion. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Pam Williams

Micro Pantry Fundraiser at Culver's

Monday, January 29th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Culver's of Okemos on Time Square Drive next to Walmart. They will offer up to 20% of their sales to our Micro Pantries.

* * * * *

Mark Your Calendars!

Membership Development will be hosting another Euchre tournament on Saturday, January 27 in the evening. Be watching for more details and the sign-up sheet soon.

* * * * *

JANUARY 28, 2024

- ✓ RIC Sunday
- ✓ Annual Meeting (following service)

Save the Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024*

A Conversation with the Congregation: (following service)

Subject: Who are we?

***The meeting will include a Chili Cook-off and a Cookie Bake-off.**

FLC Website Links:

- ◆ [Main Page](#)
- ◆ Live-streamed worship services through our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos>
- ◆ [Calendar of Events](#)

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