



EPIPHANY 3

January 21, 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 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

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

PRELUDE

“Be Thou My Vision”

(Irish folk tune, arr. Sandra Eithun)

Faith Bells

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 - BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS (ELW 303)



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR. James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

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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.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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.

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-10

A reading from Jonah.

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a days walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – FAITH BEGINS BY LETTING GO (ACS 1004)



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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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

"Wade in the Living Water"

Rebecca Fair and Michael Barrett

Chancel Choir; Chris Lewis - Soloist

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



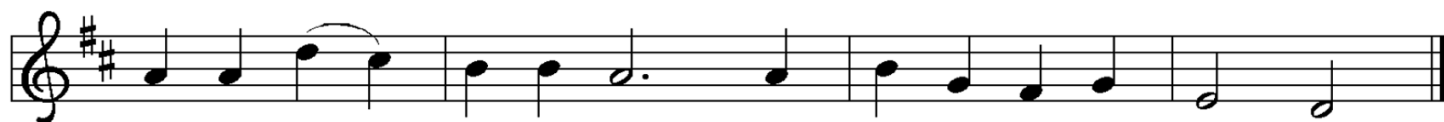
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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 – GO, MAKE DISCIPLES (ELW 540)



“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.



Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.



Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.



Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're



serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson

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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Sortie in F”

Cesar Franck

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: John McCracken
Lay Assistant: Ray Herek
Ushers: McCracken/Milne
Acolyte: Maddie Webb

Greeter(s): Rich Weingartner
Altar Care: Rich Weingartner
Nursery: Open, but not staffed
Coffee Hour: Jamie & Randy

OFFERING REPORTS

January - December 2023

Income	\$ 323,834
Expenses	<u>\$ 330,915</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (7,081)

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

January 7

Loose Cash	\$ 66.00
General Fund	\$ 3,290.00
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 220.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,576.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 6,142.00
Building	\$ 125.00
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 6,417.00

TOTAL **\$ 9,993.00**

January 14

General Fund	\$ <u>7,380.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 7,380.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 536.75
Parish House	<u>\$ 10.10</u>
Subtotal	\$ 546.85
TOTAL	\$ 7,926.85

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. 21:

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

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

Monday, Jan. 22:

- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 6:15 pm – OLD FELLOWSHIP HALL
- Boy Scouts Meeting @ 7:00 pm – FELLOWSHIP HALL

Tuesday, Jan. 23:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call

Wednesday, Jan. 24:

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

Saturday, Jan. 27:

- Euchre Refresher @ 6:30 pm – Fellowship Hall
- Euchre Tournament @ 7:30 pm – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Jan. 28:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **RIC Sunday**
- *Annual Congregational Meeting – after Service.
*Please bring your copy of the annual report. A few copies will be available at church.
- 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm – Private Event

THANK YOU!!!! Your help is still needed.

Shared Pregnancy:

A huge thank you for the amazing support for the Shared Pregnancy drive! If you still have items to drop off, **the cart will be out until Jan. 22nd**. All gifts of money earmarked for the Caring Committee in January will be pooled to purchase a larger item off their wish list.

Parish House:

In addition, we now have **5 new youth living in our Parish House** that we'd like to welcome with some basic clothing/shoes! Please use the sign-up link if you are able to help them out this month. Meijer gift cards are always appreciated as well!

Gifts

With much gratitude,

Natalie, Kathy and Laurie

* * * * *

YOU ARE ALL INVITED

Shrove PANCAKE Supper
Tuesday, February 13th; 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Faith Lutheran Church



Two Options:

1. You can come into the church and eat your supper with your family. You can have all the pancakes you would like.
2. You can have your pancake supper to go. You can pull up and we will have a person who can bring you your food.

The Youth will be serving pancakes (let us know if you are gluten free), sausage, applesauce and drinks (for the people inside)

**We will be taking a free will offering which will go to our youth programs.

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth (grades 6 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 pm to 9 pm

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

* * * * *

EUCHRE ANYONE?!

Membership Development will be hosting another Euchre tournament on Saturday, January 27th at 7:30 pm.

There will be a “refresher” at 6:30 pm.

Be watching for more details and the sign-up sheet soon.



JANUARY 28, 2024

- ✓ RIC Sunday
- ✓ Annual Congregational Meeting (following service)
*Please bring your copy of the annual report. A few copies will be available at church.

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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