

# **RECONCILING IN CHRIST**

January 28, 2024 10:00 AM

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

# **Welcome Statement**

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, "for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith." (Galatians 3:26) We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability – you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God's love and grace to be our help and guide.

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	r 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**

Today is RIC Sunday. As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, we have adopted a public welcome statement that affirms our commitment to welcome and include all people. Today we reflect on what it means to be an RIC congregation and to recommit ourselves to our all-inclusive welcome and our call for justice for all marginalized communities. We encourage you to review our welcome statement above and reflect on how we can continue to grow to live into our welcome and how we can live our lives for justice.

#### **PRELUDE**

"All Are Welcome"

arr. Ron Schmoltze

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we begin our worship, we are mindful that as we gather here, we are on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. Faith Lutheran resides on land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw.

May we honor the people of this land.

May we remember that the oppression of Native peoples is not a relic of the past but continues today.

Through God's Spirit, we repent and walk forward together, changing systems that discriminate as we live into authentic diversity and healing.

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font.

In the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer,  $\oplus$  and the Sanctifier, whose voice reverberated in blazing bush, and whose image reflects our sacred belonging and purpose.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism; we are held so close by God's endless compassion and transformation, which flow like an unfailing stream. God's generous gift of water is for all God's beloveds. While remembering that water is restorative, that precious resource as it is, water is used for healing, washing, playing, nurturing, cleansing, and in many traditions and communities water is used in spiritual practices, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give thanks for the breath that hovered over resounding waters and spoke life into being. For the great flood that proclaimed God's promise through rainbow-colored brilliance. For the sea that split open our thirst for power, control, and dominance. We give thanks for the One who transformed water into wine and then yearned to share it with those that society said disenfranchised.

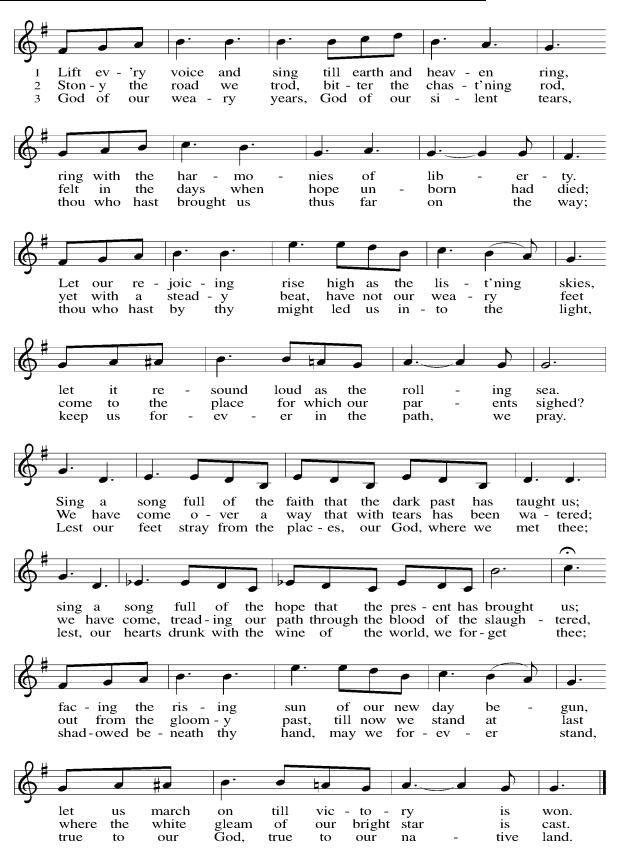
We give thanks for the gift of baptism and this not-particularly-special water that came from a faucet proclaims that you, me, WE ALL are beloved children of God, and nothing can separate us from that love of God made known through Jesus.

Cleanse our fears. Drown our divisions. Let us die to a life that pulls us from your relentless love and let us rise to a life that says yes, and...

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. And all God's people say,

Amen.

### **GATHERING HYMN - Lift Every Voice & Sing (ELW 841)**



Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

#### **GREETING**

The grace of the One who redeemed and redeems us from binaries, the love, mercy, and justice of the One who created all beyond our wildest dreams and called it all GOOD, and the wisdom of the One who challenges us to go and do likewise be with you all.

And also with you.

#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

Holy and Living God, we open to you this day. May peace flow and let justice roll down like an ever-flowing stream. Open our eyes and help us to see that no one is outside your love; outside our love. Remind us that we are not alone thanks to your abiding presence and the ministry of ReconcilingWorks and the Reconciling in Christ program, through Jesus Christ, the free gift of grace.

#### Amen.

### FIRST READING: Amos 5:21-24

From The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

(Read responsively)

I despise and reject your feasts! I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies!

When you offer me burnt offerings, I reject your oblations, and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle!

Spare me the racket of your chanting! Relieve me of the strumming of your harps!

Instead, let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream.

### **PSALM: Psalm 111** (Read in unison)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. <sup>2</sup>Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them. <sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion. <sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant. <sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations. <sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure. <sup>8</sup>They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity. <sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name. <sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

### **SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-39**

From The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

(Final paragraph read in unison by congregation)

What should be our response? Simply this: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Since God did not spare the Only Begotten but gave Christ up for the sake of us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? Since God is the One who justifies, who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died—or rather, was raised—and sits at the right hand of God, and who now intercedes for us! What will separate us from the love of Christ? Trouble? Calamity? Persecution? Hunger? Nakedness? Danger? Violence?

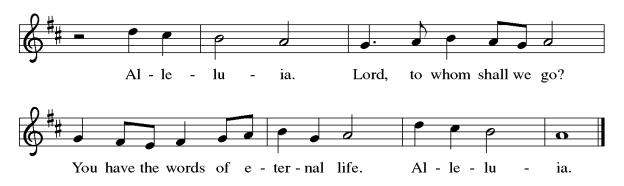
As scripture says, "For your sake, we're being killed all day long; we're looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered." Yet in all this, we are more than conquerors because of God who has loved us.

For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither heights nor depths—nor anything else in all creation—will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON AND NOISY OFFERING

The Pantry Ministry & the Parish House Ministry are an important and vital part of our community. Today we will be taking an offering for Michigan Refugee Hope.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



### **GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37**

From First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

#### A SLY SCROLL KEEPER SETS A TRAP

A scroll keeper, one who was skilled in his knowledge of tribal law, came to Creator Sets Free (Jesus) to test him and trap him in his words. "Wisdomkeeper," he said. "What path must I walk to have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony?" He answered him, "What is written in our tribal law about this? Tell me, how do you see it?" The scroll keeper spoke from the words of the law, "You must love the Great Spirit from deep within, with the strength of your arms, the thoughts of your mind, and the courage of your heart, and you must love your fellow human beings in the same way you love yourselves." "You have answered well," Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said back to him. "If you walk this path, you will live." But the scroll keeper, wanting to look good to others, asked him, "Who are my fellow human beings?"

#### HE TURNS THE TRAP WITH A STORY

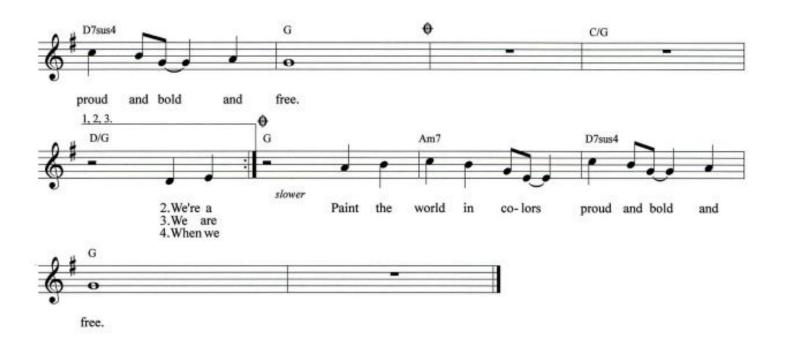
Creator Sets Free (Jesus) answered him with a story. "There was a man walking the road from Village of Peace (Jerusalem) to Moon Village (Jericho). On the way, he was attacked by thieves, who beat him, stripped him of his clothes, and left him bleeding to death. "Now it happened that a holy man was on the same road, not far behind. When he saw the man, he went around him on the other side of the road. Not far behind him was another man, also from the tribe holy men are chosen from. When he saw the wounded man, he did the same thing as the holy man. "Then a man from High Place (Samaria), who was also walking the road, saw the wounded man. Even though he was not a Tribal Member but a mixed blood despised by the tribal people, he felt pity for the man. He helped him by pouring good medicine on his wounds and wrapping them in a cloth. He put the man on his own animal and took him to a lodging house to care for him. "The next day, when the man of High Place (Samaria) was leaving, he gave from his own money pouch to the keeper of the lodging house. 'Use this to care for him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will give you anything more that is needed." Creator Sets Free (Jesus) then looked at the scroll keeper and said, "Which one of these three acted as a fellow human being to the man who was attacked by the thieves?" The scrollkeeper answered, "The one who had pity on him." "Go," Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, "and walk in the same way."

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

**SERMON (Rich Weingartner)** 

#### HYMN OF THE DAY - We Are A Rainbow





Website: www.sites.google.com/site/davidwkaismusic Email: davidwkai@gmail.com

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#### **CREED**

Let us profess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Architect and Guardian, who, in the beginning, breathed life into the void, sprouting all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in Jesus Christ, that in order to reconcile the cosmos this God sent a piece of God's own self to be born human as kin to us all. And who, at the hands of political tyranny, was killed. He rose again to new life in love to return the world to God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is one with the Creator and Savior. She is our guide and wisdom. She pours her spirit into apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, and listeners. We believe in the uniting of all Christians into the one body of Christ, and we believe in our return to God at the end. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this moment, we open the doors of our lives to the call of our Creator, the God of all people, who invites us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

Prayers of intercession are prayed. After each petition, the assembly responds as indicated.

... God of inclusion and justice, Receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident that you will turn to us and be gracious to us as you always do to those who love your name. **Amen.** 

#### **PEACE**

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

#### **OFFERING**

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Paul Beloche, arr. Jack Schrader

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

For the gift of unconditional love, we give thanks.

For the way in which these offerings will become gifts of love embodied, we give thanks.

For the gift of this community bound and working together, we give thanks.

#### **DIALOGUE**

God be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to our God.

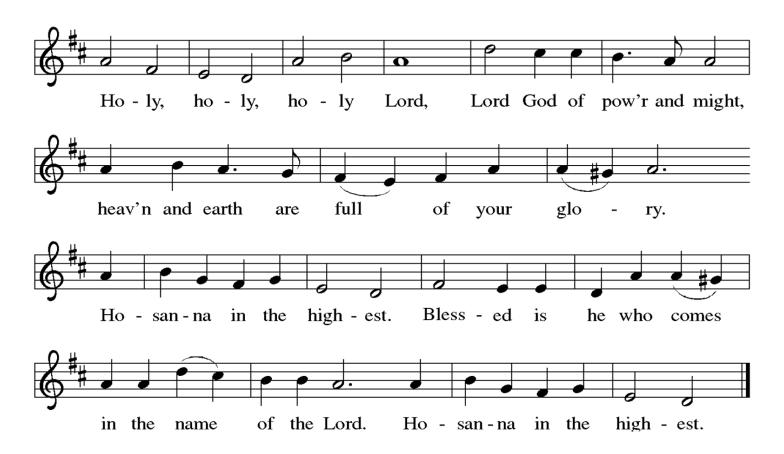
Let us give thanks to the One who cherishes and nourishes us.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### **PREFACE**

It is good to cry out for the waters of justice to roll down, bringing heaven on earth, watering it with God's will for love-soaked humanity since creation began. For God continues to stand with and for all peoples. And so we sing with all the company of heaven:

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, just, and merciful God. New birth for creation broke forth upon us in Jesus. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. In these acts of love and justice, we see the birth of our call as church to let the waters of justice roll, knowing we have been delivered from death through a covenant of water and the Spirit.

In this moment, we remember all who suffer in our day and imagine how Jesus would respond to them. In this silence, I invite you to call to mind and heart, remembering to God the people and places, known and unknown, that need our prayers that so desperately need a place at our table of love.

Just as he said that last night with his disciples, Jesus says to us, "Come, gather around my friends." This common bread at our table is much more than it seems. This is the brokenness of the world, and I feel it as my body. Whenever there is suffering, I suffer with you. I am broken for you.

This common cup at our table is much more than it seems. The blood of innocent ones is too often shed at the hands of oppressors. Whenever there is suffering, I suffer with you. I am poured out for you.

We proclaim this truth:

Death is part of life. **Christ has died.**But death will not have the last word. **Christ has risen!**And suffering will end. **Christ will come again.** 

...and again and again, every time suffering is alleviated, comfort is given, food is offered, hope is restored.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this body gathered here and on our union with each other and with these gifts of bread and cup. May we become your body for the sake of a world where justice rolls down like an ever-flowing stream.

All praise to God, Creator of Love! All praise to Jesus, Love Incarnate! All praise to Spirit, Love In Action!

#### **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.

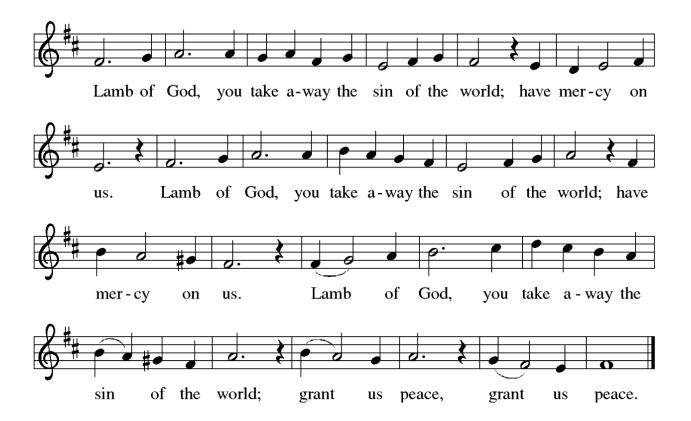
#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God knows what you need. Come and receive it; be inspired to offer it to the world! Everyone is welcome at the table of God.

#### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

#### **COMMUNION SONG**



#### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

"O God, Beyond All Praising"
"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

arr. Thomas Keesecker

(Please stand if you are able.)

May you deeply trust the nourishment provided to us by our Savior Jesus Christ, and may it urge you forward, with renewed strength and life, to be God's love in, to, and for the world. **Amen.** 

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray,

God, we give thanks, for the opportunity to serve and be served by those you place in our paths, for our beloved siblings of all genders, sexual orientations, gifts, talents, abilities, marginalizations, and privilege.

Take our thanks and make it action. Take your rolling, love-soaked justice and drench us with the desire and capacity to bring it more fully into every single thing we do. Take our thanks and make it action. Take your rolling, love-soaked justice and drench us with the desire and capacity to bring it more fully into every single thing we do.

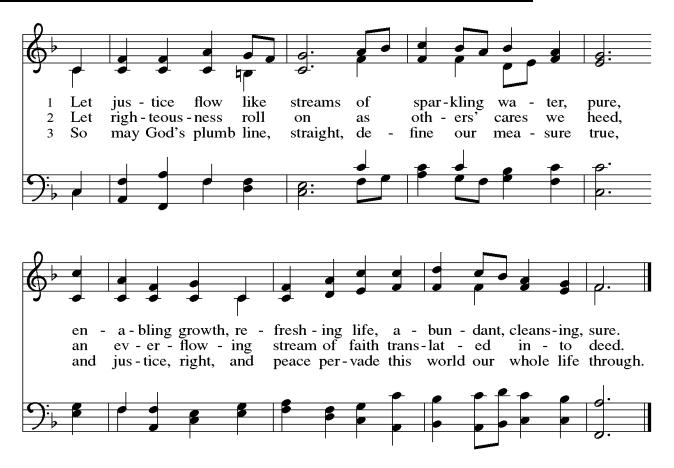
Because you give us the courage, you give us the freedom, you call us to walk in the ways of your Son, the Christ, the redeemer, in this world with your Spirit by our side. We honor this call and give thanks. **Amen.** 

#### **BLESSING**

May the outrageous welcome of our Creator  $\pm$  accept and love us for who we are; may the incarnation of the Word touch and hold us close; may the dancing flicker of the rainbow Spirit help us risk ourselves for love; and the blessing of God now and forever.

Amen.

#### **SENDING SONG -** Let Justice Flow like Streams (ELW 717)



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

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#### **DISMISSAL**

Go now in wholeness to love and work for the justice of God.

Thanks be to God!

#### PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR SEATS FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING.

# <u>FAITH VOLUNTEERS</u>

Reader: Warren Heilman

Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner Ushers: Walter & Brenda Kopf

Acolyte: Maddie Webb

Greeter(s): Ken & Ellen Milne Altar Care: Rich Weingartner Nursery: Open, but not staffed

Coffee Hour: Andrew Herek

### <u>OFFERING REPORTS</u>

 January
 - December 2023

 Income
 \$ 323,834

 Expenses
 \$ 330,915

 Net Income (Loss)
 \$ (7,081)

#### **WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS**

<u>January 14</u>		January 21			
General Fund	\$_	7,380.00	Loose Cash	\$	41.00
Subtotal	\$	7,380.00	General Fund	\$	2,105.00
<u>Vanco</u>			Pantry Fund	\$	50.00
<b>General Operating</b>	\$	536.75	Parish House	\$_	100.00
Parish House	\$_	10.10	Subtotal	\$	2, 296.00
Subtotal	\$	546.85	<u>Vanco</u>		
TOTAL	\$	7,926.85	<b>General Operating</b>	\$	1,945.50
	<u>-</u>		Building	\$	25.00
			Youth	\$_	25.25
			Subtotal	\$	1,995.75
			TOTAL	\$	4,291.75

# Micro Pantry Fundraiser at **Culver's**

Monday, January 29th from 5 pm to 9 pm

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

#### Sunday, Jan. 28:

- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Worship Service: **RIC Sunday** [Noisy Offering]
- \*Annual Congregational Meeting after Service.
  - \*Please bring your copy of the annual report. A few copies will be available at church.

#### Monday, Jan. 29:

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

#### Tuesday, Jan. 30:

Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call

#### Wednesday, Jan. 31:

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

#### Thursday, Feb. 1:

Alzheimers' Caregivers Meeting @ 7:00 pm

#### Sunday, Feb. 4:

- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Worship Service: Healing Sunday

#### **HEALING SERVICE** - February 4, 2024

All of us desire to be whole. As Christians we believe that only happens when we are connected to God in Jesus Christ. There are always things that separate us from God. Thus, our brokenness is calling us to be healing and be brought back into a right relationship with God.

Everyone is invited to come to the communion rail to be anointed with oil. You may have a specific need which you are welcome to share with me and I will incorporate that into the prayer. The general one that I will use without a specific need is "Receive this oil as a sign of forgiveness and healing in Jesus Christ."

The response is <u>AMEN</u>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

<u>Parish House</u>: We now have <u>5 new youth living in our Parish House</u> 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! <u>Gifts</u> - With much gratitude, *Natalie, Kathy and Laurie* 

# YOU ARE ALL INVITED - Shrove PANCAKE Supper

### Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>; 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.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

# 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.

#### **NOTES**

The worship service provided is adapted from several sources, including Dr. Marcia McFee's Roll Down Justice from the Worship Design Studio

(https://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/). All other sources are cited as needed. The worship outline was created by David Horton, Word and Service Intern for ReconcilingWorks and edited by Deacon Liz Colver and Rev. Heather Thonvold.

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