



February 11, 2024

10:00 AM

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FLC STAFF

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

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

PRELUDE

"He Knows My Name"

Bradbury/Walker, arr. Linda R. Lamb

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.

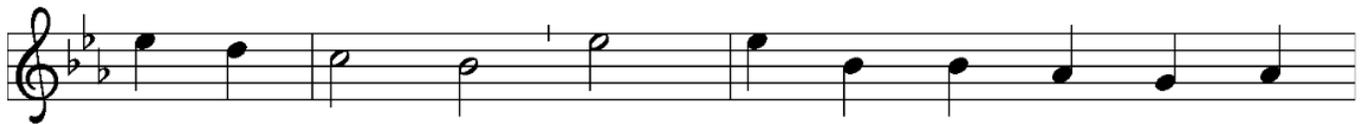
GATHERING HYMN - Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones (ELW 424)



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye
 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -



ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
 glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:
 pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!
 per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
 "Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs
 Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
 Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:
 strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:
 Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

A reading from 2 Kings.

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

PSALM: Psalm 50:1-6

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken; calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence; with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause, for it is God who is judge.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – Beautiful Savior (ELW 838)



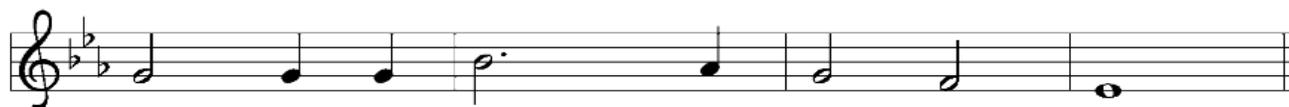
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

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WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Presentation of New Members

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

- Peggy Falk
- John & Ramona Backman have come to our congregation from First Lutheran Church in Dollar Bay, Michigan.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

Address and Questions

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for *these* new members in *their* life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Let us welcome *these sisters and brothers* in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

"He Knows My Name"

Tommy Walker

Chancel Choir / Singing Sinners, Andy Boyan - Guitar

[Please stand if you are able.]

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

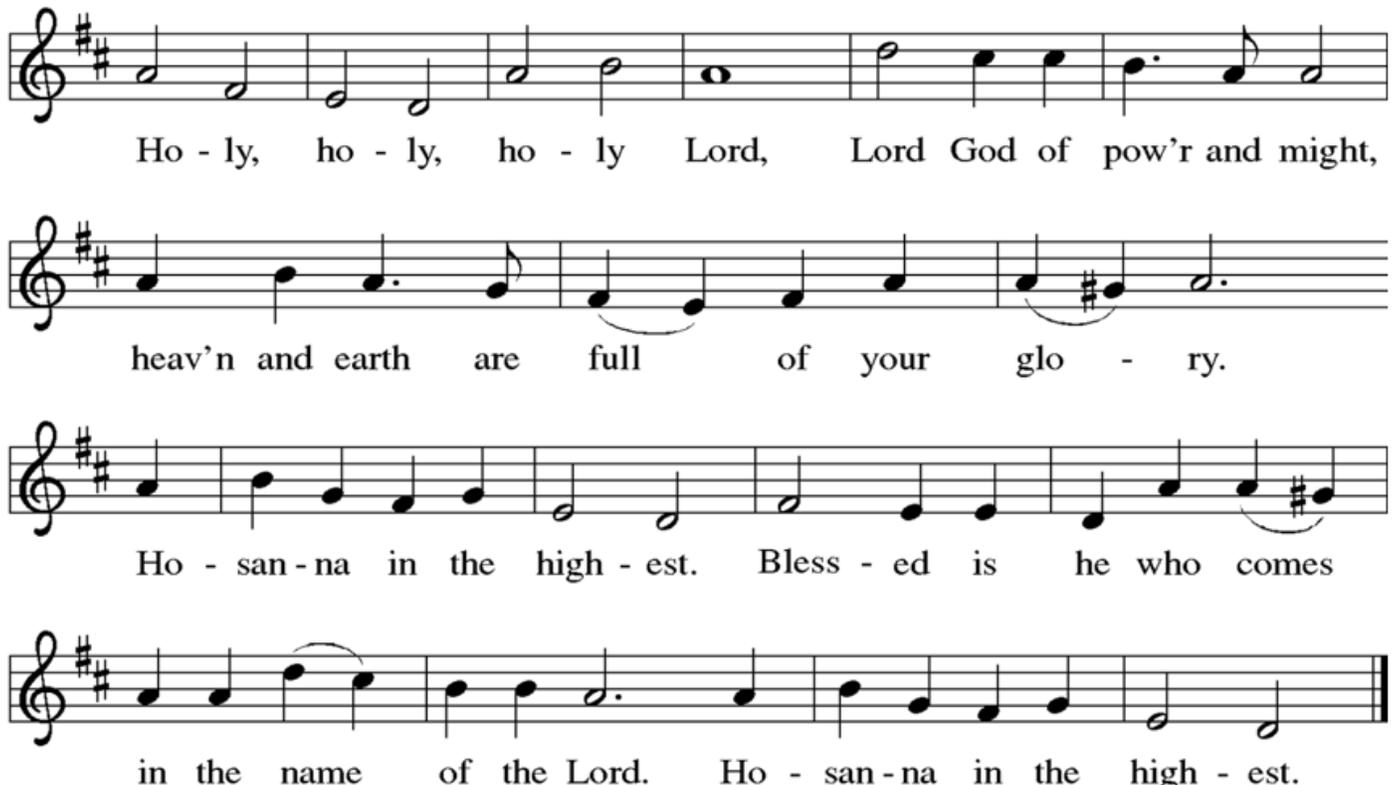
DIALOGUE

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; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. 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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

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

“Beautiful Savior”

arr. Dale Wood

[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,
Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body.
Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✚ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON - FAREWELL TO THE ALLELUIA

P: Before Lent, we say good-bye to the alleluia. The word is always sung with joy and energy. It means “praise God” in Hebrew. This practice began with the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church. They chose not to sing this song of joy during Lent as it is a season of prayer and repentance. Putting the alleluia aside gives us greater delight when it returns as we sing many beautiful alleluias at Easter.

During the Middle Ages, many churches sang hymns praising the alleluia and wishing it well on its last day before lent began. Then it was “buried” for forty days. [The Alleluia banner is taken down.]

P: Lord of joyful noise and solemn silence, today we bury this word of praise so that we can spend time in prayer and repentance. You are a loving Father to us, a forgiving Savior, a guiding Spirit, always ready to turn our steps toward goodness and peace. Give us a good and holy Lent. In forty days, when Lent is finished bringing us back to this place to reclaim our song of Easter joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

SENDING SONG – Shine, Jesus, Shine (ELW 671)

♩ = 112

A Asus A E/A

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shin - ing,
 2. Lord, I come to Your awe - some pres - ence,
 3. As we gaze on Your king - ly bright - ness,

1 A Asus A E/A

in the midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing;
 from the shad - ows in - to Your rad - i - ance;
 so our fac - es dis - play Your like - ness;

D E/D C#m F#m D E/D

Je - sus, Light of the world, shine up - on us, set us free by the
 By the blood I may en - ter Your bright - ness, search me, try me, con -
 Ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our

8 C#m F#m G Esus E G Esus E

truth You now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.
 sume all my dark - ness. Shine on me, shine on me.
 lives tell Your sto - ry. Shine on me, shine on me.

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: Ryan Thompson
Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach
Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt
Acolyte: Andrew Herek

Greeter(s): Lois Neves
Altar Care: Diane Hill
Nursery: Open, but not staffed
Coffee Hour: Ray & Angie Herek

OFFERING REPORTS

January - December 2023

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

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

January 21

Loose Cash	\$ 41.00
General Fund	\$ 2,105.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 2,296.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 1,945.50
Building	\$ 25.00
Youth	<u>\$ 25.25</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,995.75
TOTAL	\$ 4,291.75

January 28

Loose Cash	\$ 10.00
General Fund	\$ 5,025.00
Building Rental	\$ 100.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
World Hunger	\$ 80.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 932.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 6,197.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 360.00
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 410.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,607.00

Easter Candy for the HUNT on March 16th

The Youth will be helping me stuff Easter Eggs in advance of our HUNT on Saturday, March 16th. It would be wonderful if you could donate a bag of candy for us to use. Please be sure the candy is small enough to fit into a plastic egg. You can place the candy in the pink candy bucket in the Narthex.

Thanks! *Pam*

Culver's Fundraiser A Success!!

On January 29th, we had our fundraiser at Culver's. Based on our excellent sales for the evening - Culver's will be donating \$363.42 to our micro-pantries. We also had a donation box out that collected \$40.79. Thus we raised a total of \$404.21 from the evening!

Thank you to everyone who came out to eat, helped promote the event, and especially to those who volunteered and were excellent servers to bring the food to everyone and shared information about our pantries with people!

In communicating with the Outreach and Engagement Manager at Culver's, they gave us this message: "We THANK YOU for all YOU do for the community as well! I have seen your food pantry firsthand, and it is second to none!"

SNOW PLOWING / SHOVELING / SALTING

Faith Lutheran has a contract with McKearney Asphalt to plow the snow from our parking lot. However, we are responsible for shoveling the entrances, as it was felt that their charge for this service is quite high and we want to be good stewards of our budget. The charge is \$70 for each time shoveling the entrances. If you are physically able, **please shovel and salt as much as possible at the main entrance if that is needed when you arrive at church. A shovel and ice melter are at the two parking lot entrances. Thank you for your assistance.**

FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, Feb. 11:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 9:15 am – Choir Warm-up
- 10:00 am – Worship / **Transfiguration of Our Lord**
- 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Private Event in SANCTUARY (Recital Rehearsal)

Monday, Feb. 12:

- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 6:15 pm – Old Fellowship Hall
- **Private Event @ 6:30 pm in SANCTUARY (Recital)**
- Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm -- LIBRARY
- Boy Scouts Meeting @ 7:00 pm – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 13:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call
- **PANCAKE SUPPER @ 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm – FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Wednesday, Feb. 14:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @ 7:00 pm

Sunday, Feb. 18:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **First Sunday in Lent**
- **Installation of Officers and Committee Heads (during Service)**

FYI - I (Connie) will be on vacation February 20 - March 6. I had a Caribbean cruise scheduled prior to accepting the position with the church. Thank you for understanding! 😊 ✈️ 🌴 🍹 🍷

EVERYONE IS INVITED!!

[YOUTH SPONSORED]

Shrove PANCAKE Supper**

Tuesday, February 13th; 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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.

PARISH HOUSE NEEDS

We have **5 new youth living in our Parish House.** They need some basic clothing/shoes! Please use the sign-up link if you are able to help them out. **Meijer gift cards are always appreciated as well!**

Gifts

With much gratitude, *Natalie, Kathy, and Laurie*

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.*

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