



February 18, 2024

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

FAITH 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

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah’s family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

PRELUDE

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

arr. Paul Manz

“Make me to know your ways, O God; teach me your paths.” Psalm 25:4

Confession and Forgiveness

[All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.]

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

[Silence is kept for reflection.]

Holy God,
We confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.
Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
 Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin,
 washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – JESUS, STILL LEAD ON (ELW 624)



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to our Fa - ther's land.
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
 till we safe - ly stand in our Fa - ther's land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
 Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

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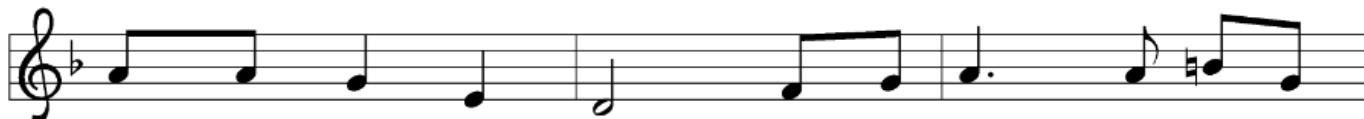
GREETING

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.

KYRIE – Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery – (ELW 334)



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

Lent 3

Living Water of salvation,
 be the fountain of each soul;
 springing up in new creation,
 flow in us and make us whole.

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation
 you have loved us as your own;
 stay with us through all temptation,
 make us turn to you alone.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
 make us children of your light.
 Give us hearts to live more nearly
 as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing,
 may we be a blessing true;
 may we live and die confessing
 Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow,
 God who lives beyond our death,
 hold us close through each tomorrow,
 love as near as every breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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: Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from Genesis.

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from Peter.

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON And Noisy Offering

The Pantry Ministry is an important and vital part of our community. Today we will be taking an offering for the Pantry Ministry.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – I Love You, Lord Words and Music by Laurie Klein

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes.

Staff 1: *F*² *Gm/F* *F*
I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to

Staff 2: *Bb* *F/A* *Gm*⁷ *F/A* *C*⁷*sus* *C* *Bb/D* *C/E*
wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take

Staff 3: *F*² *Gm/F* *F* *F*⁷
joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a

Staff 4: *Bb* *F/A* *F**sus/G* *C*⁷ *Bb*²/*F* *F*²
sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

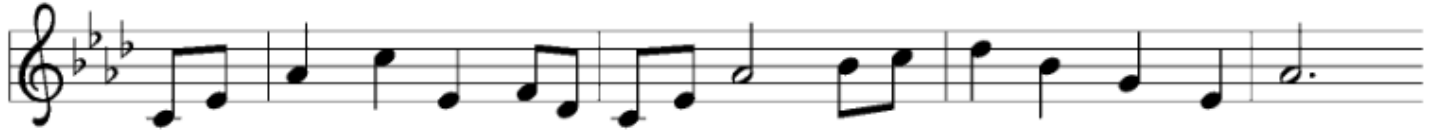
¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

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."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – THY HOLY WINGS (ELW 613)



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite

Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune

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INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters *and* brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

OFFICERS

2024 COUNCIL President –

Vice-President – Randy Royalty

Past President – Mike Eschelbach

Secretary – Molly DeHate

Financial Secretary – Jon Harrison

Treasurer – Gwynne Kadrofske

Member at Large – Jack Dingedine

Member at Large – Jean Lewis

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education Committee – John McCracken

Stewardship Committee – Paul Hereza

Mutual Ministry Committee – Mark Kadrofske

Membership Development Committee – Tammy Heilman, Erica Boyan, Diane Hill

Worship Committee – Diane Hill

Caring Committee – Kathy Mace & Natalie Dingedine

Evangelism/Outreach Committee – Brenda Kopf

HR Committee – Lori Haven

Property Committee – Bob Nelson & Rick Beaderstadt

Technology Committee – Ryan Thompson

RIC Team – Rich Weingartner

Green Team – Randy Royalty

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected*?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

[The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.]

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

[Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.]

I now declare you installed as Officers and Committee Chairs this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PRAYER SONG – Open Our Eyes (W&P 113)

D G² G Em⁷/A A⁷
O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

G/D D A/C# Bm D/A GM⁹
Je - sus, to reach out and touch

Em A⁷ G/D D² D
him, and say that we love him.

DM⁷ A/G G Em⁷ A⁷
O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

G/D D A Bm⁷ D/A GM⁹
lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Em⁷ A⁷ D
Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Text and music: Bob Cull

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Prayers

Sing PRAYER SONG again (repeat above)

PEACE

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

OFFERING

“Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley/Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve
Seen” arr. Lowell Everson

Chancel Choir

[Please stand if you are able.]

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered so that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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 - (ELW 190 Schubert)



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



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



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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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 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

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG: LAMB OF GOD (Your Only Son) – (ELW 336)

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should - have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

Refrain
sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

arr. Raymond Henry

[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

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

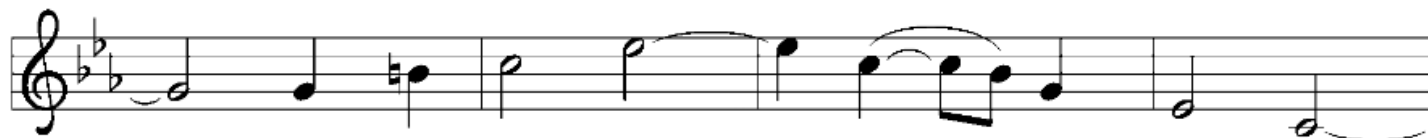
SENDING SONG – I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME – (ELW 325)



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share God's grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Fugue in C major"

Dietrich Buxtehude

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: Elaine Harrison

Greeter(s): John & Ramona Backman

Lay Assistant: Paul Hereza

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison

Ushers: Jon & Elaine Harrison

Acolyte: Isaak Nyquist

Coffee Hour: Laurie & Paul Hereza

OFFERING REPORTS

January - December 2023

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

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

February 4, 2024

Loose Cash	\$ 20.00
General Fund	\$ 12,420.00
Pantry Fund (Culver's)	\$ <u>404.21</u>
Subtotal	\$ 12,844.21
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 4,440.00
Building	\$ 125.00
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ <u>100.50</u>
Subtotal	\$ 4,765.50
TOTAL	<u>\$ 17,609.71</u>

February 11, 2024

Loose Cash	\$ 78.00
General Fund	\$ 1,075.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 150.00
Youth	\$ 50.00
Parish House	\$ <u>350.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,703.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 1,251.85
Caring Committee	\$ 50.50
Parish House	\$ 10.10
Pantry Fund	\$ <u>50.50</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,362.95
TOTAL	<u>\$ 3,065.95</u>

THANK YOU!

We want to thank everyone for coming to the Pancake Supper on Tuesday. Thanks to all who worked, brought in supplies, and who came and ate. The Youth made \$345. Thanks so much for your support!

Pam and Faith Youth

FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR

"I heard about your work supporting refugees and I wanted to lend a hand. I belong to a Facebook Random Acts of Kindness (RAOK) group, and your need appeared close to my assigned day. Please keep this \$500 donation anonymous."

FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, Feb. 18:

- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **1st Sunday in Lent**
[Installation of Officers and Committee Heads (during Service)]
- 11:00 am Worship Committee Meeting -- LIBRARY

Monday, Feb. 19:

- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 6:15 pm – Old Fellowship Hall
- Boy Scouts Meeting @ 7:00 pm – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 20:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call
- Transition Team Meeting @ 7:00 pm – LIBRARY

Wednesday, Feb. 21:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:15 pm
- Holden Evening Prayer @ 7:15 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:45 pm

Sunday, Feb. 25:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **2nd Sunday in Lent**
- 11:30 am – Confirmation: FELLOWSHIP HALL

FYI – The 2024 Michigan Primary Election will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on February 27, 2024.

Let's Celebrate Easter

Saturday, March 16th

9:30am to 11:30am

Games, Crafts, Snacks, FUN!

[Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:00am]

All are welcome to come!!

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Rd. Okemos

Contact: pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org or call us at 517-349-0620.

Silent Auction for Two Beautiful Quilts!

To raise money to continue their work, the quilting team here at Faith has completed two beautiful queen/king size quilts for silent auction. The quilts will be on display in the Narthex from Sunday, February 18 through Sunday, March 17, so place your bids! Bidding sheets are located next to the quilts. (If you don't need a quilt, there's also a donation can, and all amounts are welcome!)

The quilting team meets at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings in the church basement. We work for an hour, break for coffee and snacks, and then continue working until 11:30 a.m. or so. Come join in when you have time. You don't need to know how to sew, and we'd love to have more people. More hands can make more quilts, and we know there's a need.

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