



LENT 2

February 25, 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

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

PRELUDE

"Foundation"

arr. Wilbur Held

"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 – HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION (ELW 796)



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

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GREETING

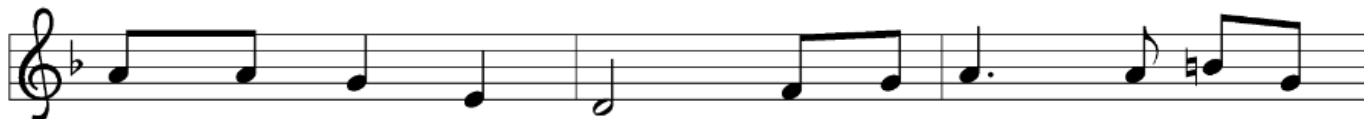
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1-7, 15-16

A reading from Genesis.

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

A reading from Romans.

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON AND NOISY OFFERING

Today we will be taking an offering for the Michigan Refugee Hope.

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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear." The chords are: F², Gm/F, F, Bb, F/A, Gm⁷, F/A, C⁷_{sus}, C, Bb/D, C/E, F², Gm/F, F, F⁷, Bb, F/A, F_{sus}/G, C⁷, Bb²/F, F².

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS (ELW 335)



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” Lani Smith
Chancel Choir Addie Thompson, flute

[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)



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. God. of
rod and to be called a lamb of God. God. of

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

“O Man Bewail Your Grievous Sin”

J. S. Bach

[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 – LET US EVERY WALK WITH JESUS – (ELW 802)



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share God's grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Cornet Voluntary"

Henry Heron

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: Alexa Warwick
Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner
Ushers: Holste/Robinson
Coffee Hour: Hereks

Greeters: Matt Schnizlein &
Nick Hirschenberger
Altar Care: Elaine Harrison
Acolyte: Calvin Kadrofske

OFFERING REPORTS

January 2024

Income	\$ 27,201
Expenses	<u>\$ 25,991</u>
Net Income	\$ 1,210

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

February 11, 2024

Loose Cash	\$ 78.00
General Fund	\$ 1,075.00
Pantry Fund (Culver's)	\$ 150.00
Youth	\$ 50.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 350.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,703.00

Vanco

General Operating	\$ 1,251.85
Caring Committee	\$ 50.50
Parish House	\$ 10.10
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 50.50</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,362.95

TOTAL **\$ 3,065.95**

February 18, 2024

Loose Cash	\$ 85.00
General Fund	\$ 1,605.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 251.00
Youth – Pancake Supper	\$ 345.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 2,486.00

Vanco

General Operating	\$ 1,675.50
Building	\$ 25.00
Youth	\$ 25.25
Subtotal	\$ 1,725.75

TOTAL **\$ 4,211.75**

FYI – The 2024 Michigan Primary Election will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on February 27, 2024.
The church office will be closed that day.

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. 25:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **2nd Sunday in Lent**
- 11:30 am – Confirmation: FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Youth Activity @ Launch

Monday, Feb. 26:

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

Tuesday, Feb. 27:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call
- Church Office Closed -- Presidential Primary Election -- FELLOWSHIP HALL
- Green Team Meeting @ 7:00 pm -- LIBRARY

Wednesday, Feb. 28:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Organ Tuning @ 10:00 am
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:15 pm
- Holden Evening Prayer @ 7:15 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:45 pm

Saturday, March 2:

- Eagle Scouts Ceremony @ 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Sunday, March 3:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **3rd Sunday in Lent**
- 11:00 am – Congregational Meeting
- 11:30 am -- Chili Cook-off / Cookie Bake-off

Let's Celebrate Easter

Saturday, March 16th

9:30am to 11:30am

[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.

The Little Free Pantry Needs Your Help

IMMEDIATELY! HELP NEEDED!!

Needed immediately! . . . **Helper for the Box Brigade for Saturdays Mid-Day.** A Helper delivers a box of pantry products to each pantry, at church and library, on Saturdays between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Time convenient with your schedule. The entire project takes 45 minutes or less to complete each week. For further information, please contact Cecelia Kramer at 517-349-3297.

Pantry Supplies Need

With the increase in usage of our pantries, some assistance with supplying some of our most popular items would be appreciated. As Spring is fast approaching, the Pantry is moving back to providing canned goods in our pantries after the winter months and could use help obtaining supplies for our Box Brigade to deliver. You can donate by check or purchasing products.

Just drop off purchased items to the pantry cupboard in the front foyer of the church. Thank you.

Pantry Items Needed This Week:

Canned Fruit: peaches, pears, applesauce

Canned Vegetables: corn, peas and beans, both green beans and black or garbanzos

Canned Soup

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