



LENT 4

March 10, 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

Presiding Minister Today John Schleicher
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

In today's gospel, Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the bronze serpent Moses lifted up in the wilderness (see the First Reading) so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

PRELUDE

"Wondrous Love"

arr. Gordon Young

"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 – GIVE TO OUR GOD IMMORTAL PRAISE! (ELW 848)



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of



truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er



God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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GREETING

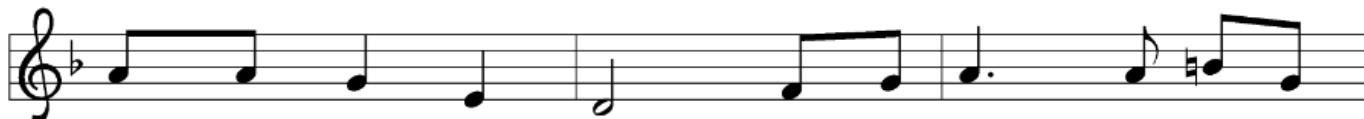
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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: Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers.

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from Ephesians.

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON AND NOISY OFFERING FOR THE MICRO PANTRY

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 first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to". The second staff continues the lyrics: "wor - ship you; O my soul, re - jice. Take". The third staff continues: "joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a". The fourth staff concludes with: "sweet, sweet sound in your ear." The score includes various guitar chords such as F², Gm/F, F, Bb, F/A, Gm⁷, C⁷_{sus}, C, Bb/D, C/E, F⁷, F_{sus}/G, Bb²/F, and F².

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to
wor - ship you; O my soul, re - jice. Take
joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a
sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

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

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS (ELW 666)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Sing PRAYER SONG again (repeat above)

PEACE

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

OFFERING

The Tree of Life

Pécselyi Király Imre von, 1961
Paraphrased by Erik Routley, 1974

SHADES MOUNTAIN
K. Lee Scott

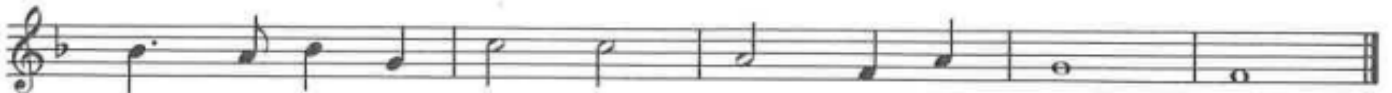
(♩ = 88)



All 1. There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom, whose leaves hold
Women 2. Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!" There on its
Men 3. Thorns not his own are tan - gled in its fo - liage; our greed has
Choir 4. See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come; hear what the
All 5. This is my end - ing, this my res - ur - rec - tion; in - to your
All 6. All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose Pas - sion of - fers in



forth the heal - ing of the na - tions: Tree of all know - ledge,
branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring; see where the ten - drils
starved it, our de - spite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its
Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry! Give me your sick - ness,
hands, Lord, I com - mit my spir - it. This have I searched for;
mer - cy heal - ing, strength and par - don. Peo - ples and na - tions,



Tree of all com - pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
of our hu - man self - hood feed on its life - blood.
grief has not de - stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
give me all your sor - row, I will give bless - ing."
now I can pos - sess it. This ground is ho - ly.
take it, take it - free - ly!" A - men! My Mas - ter!

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[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 Father 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

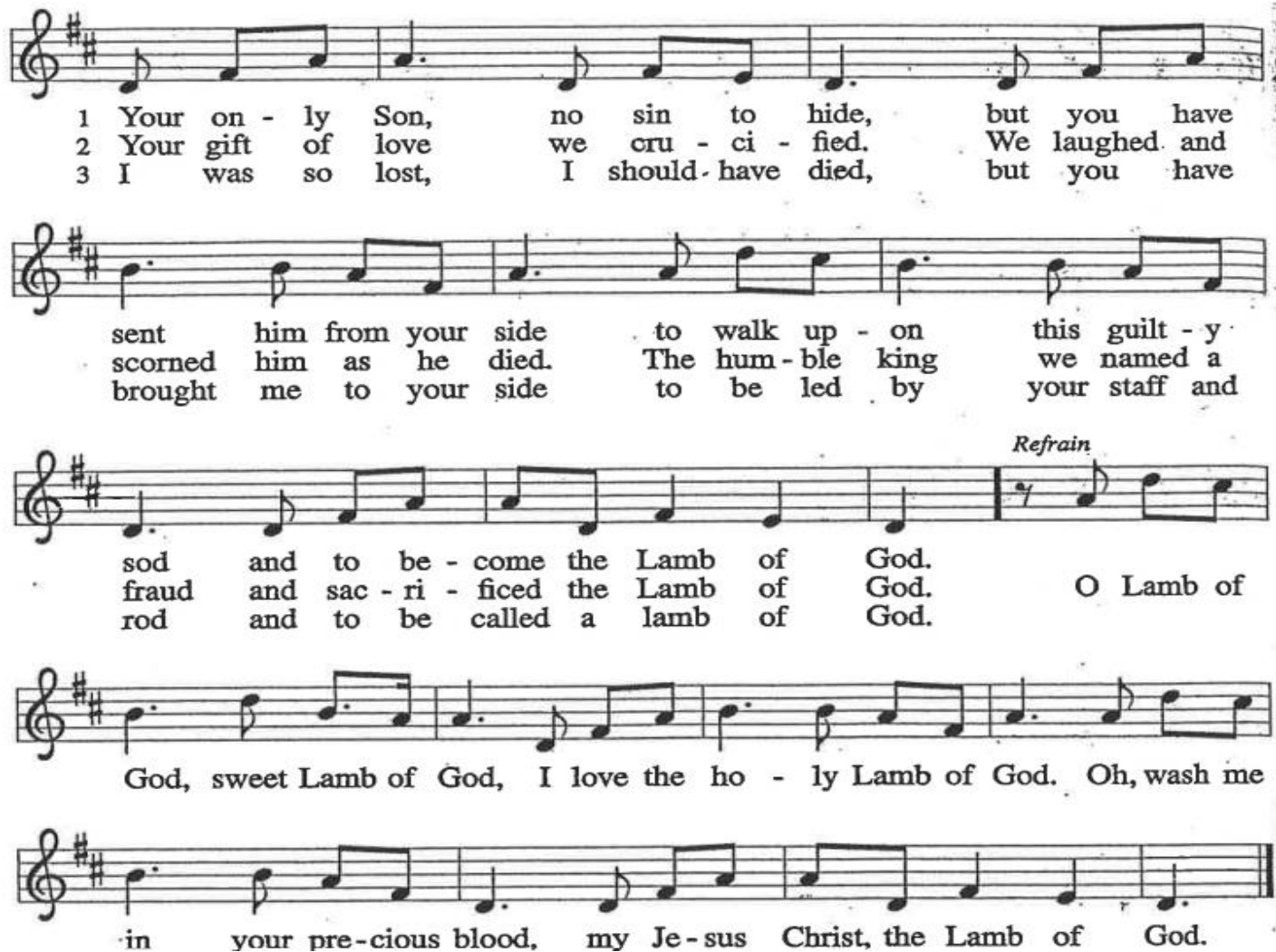
Bread for the journey.

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

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

“God Loved the World”

arr. Robert Farley

[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 – LIFT HIGH THE CROSS (ELW 660)



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share God's grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Allegro”

Thomas Arne

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer
Lay Assistant: Ray Herek
Ushers: Brenda Kopf

Greeter(s):
Altar Care: Diane Hill
Coffee Hour: Matt & Nick

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

February 25/26, 2024

Loose Cash	\$ 75.00
General Fund	\$ 11,105.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 20.00
Other- Bldg. Rental	\$ 100.00
Youth	\$ 50.00
Memorial	\$ 15,000.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 275.00
Parish House	\$ <u>310.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 26,890.00

Vanco

General Operating	\$ <u>835.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 835.00

TOTAL **\$ 27,725.00**

March 3, 2024

General Fund	\$ 9,032.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 80.00
Memorial	\$ 325.00
Worship	\$ 50.00
Youth-Transition Team	\$ 265.05
Pantry Fund	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 9,802.05

TOTAL **\$ 9,802.05**

FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 10:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **4th Sunday in Lent**
- Private Event @ 1:00 pm – SANCTUARY

Monday, March 11:

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

Tuesday, March 12:

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

Wednesday, March 13:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- FLC Staff Meeting @ 10:15 am
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:15 pm
- Holden Evening Prayer @ 7:15 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:45 pm

Saturday, March 16:

- Easter Celebration @ 9:30 am – 11:30 pm
- Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:00 am

Sunday, March 17:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **5th Sunday in Lent**
- 11:00 am – Worship Committee Meeting – LIBRARY
- 11:30 am – Confirmation – FELLOWSHIP HALL

Let's Celebrate Easter

Saturday, March 16th
9:30am to 11:30am
[Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:00am]

All are welcome!!

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Rd. Okemos
Contact: pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org or call 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.

Sunday, March 17th

The Rev. David Sprang, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission, will be our preacher. He will also be giving a presentation on our demographics at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The demographics will assist us in knowing who our neighbor is. It will be no more than an hour. All are invited to attend. It will also be recorded and available for viewing. There will also be a written report.

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