



PENTECOST 8

July 14, 2024

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FLC Staff

Pastor Bruce Thorsen
Music Director Deb Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams
Custodian Kelly Nickols
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

Welcome Statement

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

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power and Herod has him killed. In Herod’s fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God’s saving love.

PRELUDE

“Passacaglia and Pifaro on Nettleton”

William Allen Pasch

Verse of the Day

[Read in Unison]

To God-whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine-to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end. Amen Ephesians 3:20-21 The Inclusive Bible

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

[Silence is kept for reflection]

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.

A reading from Amos:

⁷ This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

"The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 85:8-13 (read responsively)

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

A reading from Ephesians:

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON - NOISY OFFERING - *Micro Food Pantry*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

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

¹⁴ King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous

and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – There is a Redeemer



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my king for - ev - er, in that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and



send - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Text: Keith Green
Music: GREEN, Keith Green

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CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

“Acquaint Now Thyself”

by Michael Head

Soloist – Rev. Bruce J. Thorsen

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

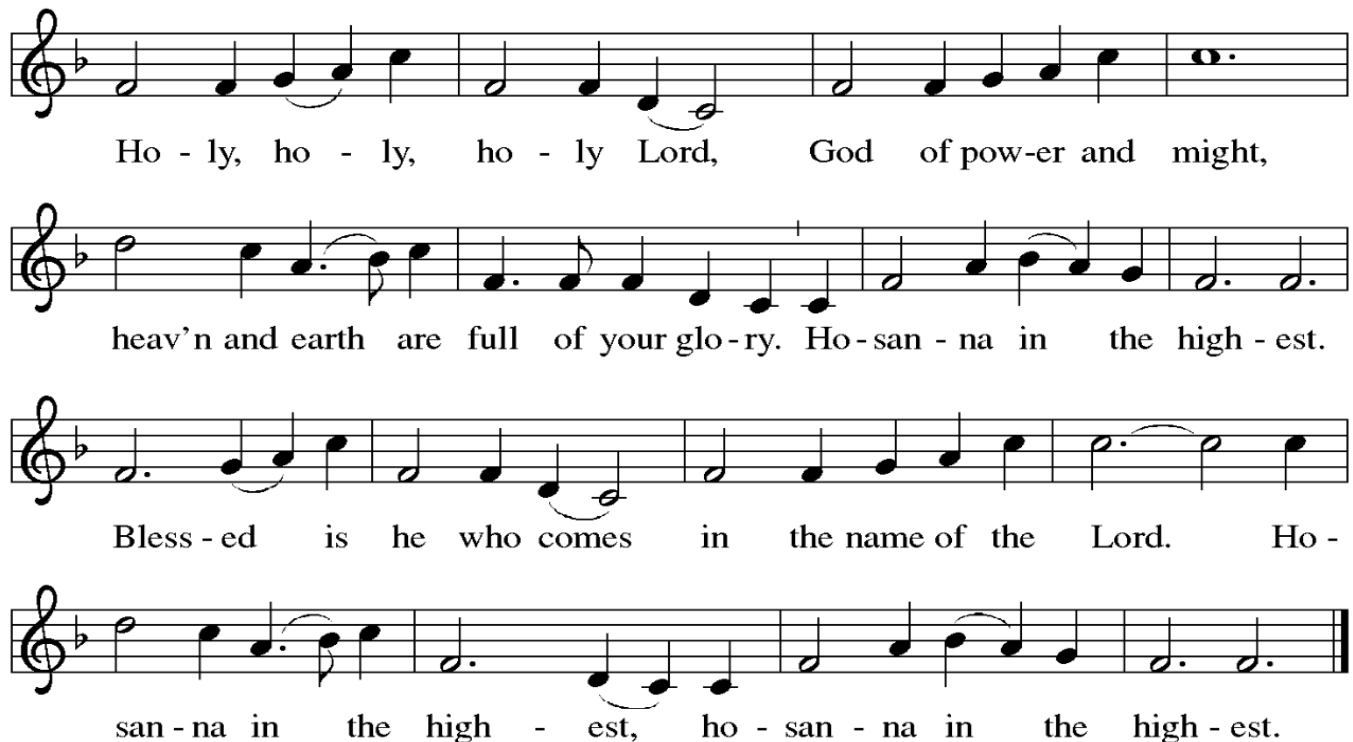
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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 on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

There are gluten free wafers available, just let the pastor know when you are at the altar rail. As you receive communion, in the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine.

If you would prefer only a blessing, please have your hands folded and the pastor will give you a blessing.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG – Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken (ACS 966)



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



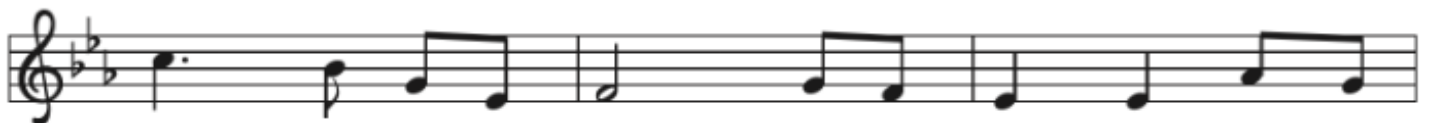
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Calvin Taylor

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG – Lord, I Lift Your Name on High (ELW 857)



Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your



prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,



I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth



to show the way, from the earth to the cross,



my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave,



from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Text: Rick Founds

Music: LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME, Rick Founds

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Cornet Voluntary”

William Walond

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PRAYER PARTNERS

Please see the bulletin board entitled “Prayer Partners” in the Narthex. We have received several cards and letters from other churches that are praying for us. We are also participating in this activity, so **please be sure to sign the letter on the table under the bulletin board.**

FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 14:

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **8th Sunday after Pentecost**

Monday, July 15:

- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 6:15 pm in Old Fellowship Hall
- Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm in the Library

Tuesday, July 16:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Hybrid Call
- RIC Committee @ 7:00 pm in the Library

Wednesday, July 17:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- FLC Staff Meeting 10:15 am
- Lunch Bunch 11:45 pm
- Summer Choir 7:00 pm
- Refreshments at Buddies 7:45 pm

Sunday, July 21:

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
- VBS Meeting @ 11:30 am

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

July 14

Greeter(s): Connie Nelson
Reader: Alexa Warwick
Lay Assistant: Ryan Thompson
Ushers: M. Eschelbach & J. Backman
Altar Care: Diane Hill
Coffee Hour: Kathy Mace

July 21

Greeter: H and J Sollenberger
Reader: Lois Neves
Lay Assistant: Bob Nelson
Usher: McCracken/Milne
Altar Care: Elaine Harrison
Coffee Hour: The Sanford's

Lutheran World Relief

LWR continues to give aid to refugees and persons displaced by natural and human disasters. We are collecting items for School Kits during July and August.

Each School Kit Contains

- Four spiral notebooks – 70 pages in each
- One ruler – with both inches and centimeters
- Five pencils – unsharpened with erasers
- Five ink pens – blue or black ink
- One eraser – flat pink
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of scissors – with blunt points
- One box of crayons – 16 or 24 count

See the display board and collection bin in the fellowship area.

STAFF NEEDED FOR VBS

To grow our church and God's Kingdom, we need to work together. We are looking for helpers for Vacation Bible School this summer. It will be held July 29 to August 2nd from 9:00 a.m. until noon. We need you even if you can only help on one day. **Please let Pastor Bruce know if you can help. There will be cards that you can fill out at church ... on the table in the Narthex.**

Faith Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran is offering VBS "*Son Games*"

When: Monday, July 29th to Friday August 2nd

Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Who: Ages 4 thru going into 6th grade

Best of all –It is FREE!

Come and celebrate the victory we have in Jesus!

If you had signed up last month online, please reregister.

Sign up to attend below (QR code) or by calling the church office or going to our website or e-news.

(Held at Faith Lutheran-4515 Dobie Rd)

**For questions, email Pastor Bruce at
pastorbruce@faithlutheranokemos.org**



CHARGE (Gathering Youth Grades 6-12)

Dates: November 8-10, 2024

Where: Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, Michigan (<https://www.greatwolf.com/traverse-city>)
(indoor entertainment and water park)

Depart: 4 pm Friday, November 8, from FLC parking lot

Return: About 3 pm Sunday, November 10, to FLC parking lot

Cost: \$95 (cost **includes** registration fee, lodging, waterpark passes, Saturday lunch, Saturday night pizza, breakfasts x 2; please make check payable to 'Faith Lutheran Church' and place in Kadrofske mailbox)

Other costs: Souvenirs, arcade games, ice cream, additional snacks, Friday dinner, Sunday lunch)

Deadline for registration: **September 1, 2024**; please complete form and send to me electronically or place in Kadrofske FLC mailbox

What to bring: Bathing suit and bathroom and other personal items; warm jacket, etc. for outdoor bonfire Saturday night

Food: GWL has decent food and treat options (pizza, grinders, burgers, ice cream); more specific plans for eating:

- Friday pm: Dinner at Culvers in Traverse City (about 6:45 pm); bring cash
- Saturday lunch: Sleders (<https://sleders.com/>); fun, family-friendly atmosphere ("Smooch the Moose!!")-wide variety of good food
- Saturday dinner (GWL pizza, which is quite good)
- Sunday lunch (Panera or similar); bring cash
- Saturday and Sunday breakfast in the hotel room (cereal, fruit, juice, donuts, etc)

➤ Please notify me of any allergies, food allergies, or food restrictions

My contact information:

Mark Kadrofske

517-703-6837 (call or text); markkadrofske@gmail.com