



**PENTECOST 15**  
**September 1, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

**FLC Staff**

Pastor ..... Bruce Thorsen  
Administrative Assistant .....Kalea Sanford  
Music Director ..... Deb Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist ..... Bruce Williams  
Custodian ..... Kelly Nickols  
Sound Technicians ..... Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek  
Church email ..... [faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website ..... [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page ..... [facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://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**

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God’s law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

## **PRELUDE**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Franklin D. Ashdowne

## **Verse of the Day**

[Read in Unison]

**1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, 2 and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

Ephesians 5:1-2 NRSVUE

(NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION)

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first  
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

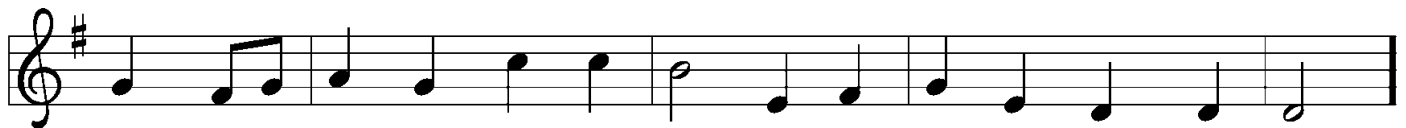
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG – For the Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879)



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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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 our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

**PSALM OF THE DAY:** Psalm 15 (Read Responsively)

*LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (Ps. 15:1)*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## **SECOND READING: James 1:17-27**

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

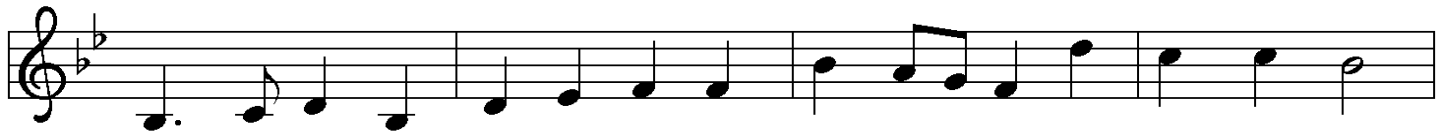
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## 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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

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

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."



<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

<sup>21</sup>“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY – Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

"As the Deer"

(Martin J. Nystrom, arr. Douglas Wagner)

Addie Thompson and Deb Borton-McDonough, handbells

## 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.**

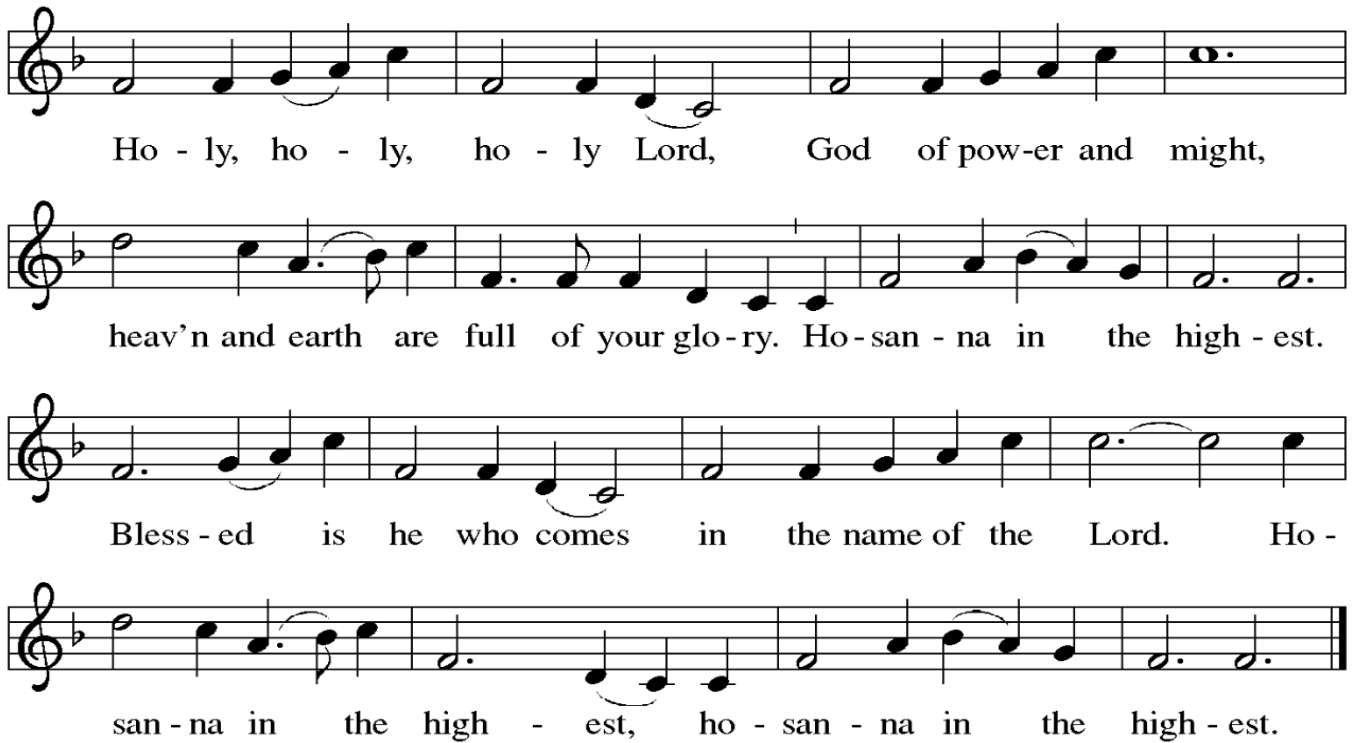
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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!

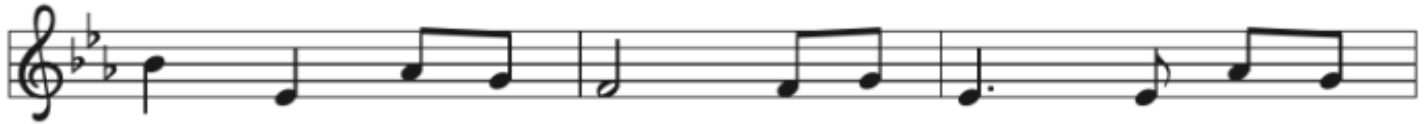
## **COMMUNION**

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



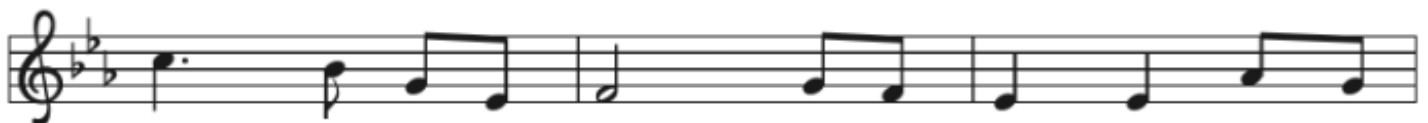
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



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**

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

arr. Fred Bock

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

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.

**Amen.**

# SENDING SONG – Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW 583)

*Refrain/Estribillo*



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té  
1 Take my hands and let them move  
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
3 Take my voice and let me sing  
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
at the im - pulse of thy love;  
not a mite would I with - hold;  
al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
take my feet and let them be swift and  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
take my lips and let them be filled with  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

*Refrain/Estribillo*



pul - so de tu a - mor.  
beau - ti - ful for thee.  
pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
mes - sag - es from thee.  
be thy roy - al throne.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955  
Music: TOMA MI VOZ (1874), William Dixheimer Pharris, b. 1956  
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## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

“Hymn to Joy”

arr. Wayne Wold

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## FLC SCHEDULE

### Sunday, September 1

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

### Monday, September 2

- Office is Closed for Labor Day
- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 6:15 pm in Old Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, September 3

- Bible Study @ 12pm – Hybrid

### Wednesday, September 4

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Faith Bells rehearsal @ 6:30pm
- Chancel Choir rehearsal @ 7:30pm

### Thursday, September 5

- Alzheimer’s Care Support Group @ 7pm

### Sunday, September 8:

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Rally Day Service @ 10:00 am: **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**
- Installation of Sunday School teachers
- Rally Day Picnic and Potluck following service. All are Welcome!

## PRAYER PARTNERS

We are also participating in this activity and would love for you to add your signature. The letter is located on the table under the bulletin board entitled Prayer Partners.

## FAITH VOLUNTEERS

### September 1

Greeter(s): Lois Neves  
Reader: Lois Neves  
Lay Assistant: Harold Sollenberger  
Ushers: Elaine & John Harrison  
Altar Care: Rich Weingartner  
Coffee Hour: Rich Weingartner  
Counters: Harold Sollenberger, John Backman

### September 8

Greeter(s): Mike Eschelbach  
Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer  
Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach  
Ushers: John McCracken & Ken Milne  
Altar Care: Rich Weingartner  
Coffee Hour: Rally Day Picnic & Potluck  
Counters: Harold Sollenberger, Mike Eschelbach

**For safety reasons, please do not allow your children to wander unsupervised past the coat racks or downstairs during the church service.**

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**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> is Rally Day.**

This kicks off our Sunday School program and we are looking forward to a great season! A picnic will follow the service. There are sign up sheets for Set up, Clean up and Food in the Narthex. **All are welcome!**

## Golf Outing – Wheatfield Valley Golf Club

Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00am

Questions? Contact: Laurie Hereza (517) 927-6753

Register <https://bit.ly/mrh2024>



## Hawk Hollow Mini Golf

The Membership Development Committee will be hosting miniature golf at Little Hawk Hollow on **Sunday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00**. Cost is \$10 per person. No golfing experience or equipment necessary. Just join us for some good fun.

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## Lutheran World Relief

**LWR** continues to aid refugees and persons displaced by natural and human disasters. We are collecting items for Personal Care Kits in September.

Each Personal Care Kit contains

- 1 bath-size towel (medium weight, dark color)
- - 1 comb (heavy duty with large teeth)
- - 1 pair of nail clippers
- - 1 toothbrush (adult size)
- - 2 or 3 bars of soap (Ivory preferred)
- - 1 pair of shoelaces



## **CONFIRMATION DATES**

### **Sundays - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm**

September 22 - Class #1 – Introduction, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment

October 13 - Class #2 – Commandments 3 – 6

November 24 - Class #3 – Commandments 7-10

We will need a meal. Please let me know who is available on each date.

I will need an Adult Female for each class.

### **Wednesdays – 6:15 – 7:15 pm**

September 11 - Class #1 – Introduction and 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment

September 25 - Class #2 – Commandments 2 & 3

October 9 - Class #3 – Commandments 4 & 5

October 23 - Class #4 – Commandments 6 & 7

November 20 - Class #5 – Commandments 8-10

### **TBD – Date in December**



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## **Confirmation Mentors Needed for 2024 – 25**

Confirmation is gearing up for this and we need Mentors. The Ten commandments will be our area of study for the Fall. We are having 2 classes, due to scheduling, on 3 Sundays after church and 5 Wednesday evenings. Would you please consider being a mentor for one of our students? If you have any questions please contact Pastor Bruce – [pastorbruce@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:pastorbruce@faithlutheranokemos.org) or the church office.

Classes will be on:

- Sundays - September 22, October 13 & November 24  
1:30 am – 1:30 pm. – Attendance at 2 of them.

OR

- Wednesdays – September 11 & 25, October 9 & 23 and November 20 – 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm – Attendance at 3 of them.