



**PENTECOST 17**  
**September 15, 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**

Three weeks ago we heard Peter’s confession of faith as told in John’s gospel. This week we hear Mark’s version, when Peter says, “You are the Messiah.” In John, the stumbling block is Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus’ words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus’ words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

### **PRELUDE**

"Holy, Holy, Holy!"

(John B. Dykes, arr. Douglas Wagner)

Deb Borton, Linda Hirt, Matt Schnizlein, Addie Thompson, Rich Weingartner,  
Handbells

### Verse of the Day

[Read in Unison]

**Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil, and it will flee from you. Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you. James 4:7-8**

The Inclusive Bible

## **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 – I WILL CALL UPON THE LORD (W&P 70)

Optional descant

I will call up - on the Lord

I will call up - on the Lord who is wor - thy to be

who is wor - thy to be praised. So shall I be

praised. So shall I be saved from my en - e - mies.

saved from my en - e - mies.

I will call up - on the Lord. The

Lord liv - eth, and bless - ed be the Rock, and let the God of my sal -

va - tion be ex - alt - ed. The Lord liv - eth, and bless - ed be the Rock,

and let the God of my sal - va - tion be ex - alt - ed.

## 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

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

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

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 116:1-9 (Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD watches over the innocent;  
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, O my soul.  
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

<sup>8</sup>**For you have rescued my life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

## SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

*This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every

species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species,<sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.<sup>9</sup> With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.<sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.<sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water?<sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine yield figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

*This story provides the turning point in Mark’s gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

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

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”<sup>28</sup> And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”<sup>29</sup> He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”<sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.



<sup>31</sup>Then he 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. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But 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.”

<sup>34</sup>He 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. <sup>35</sup>For 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. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those 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 – 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!

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## INSTALLATION OF CALL COMMITTEE

### 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**

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need.

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

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

## **OFFERING**

“Revive Us Again”

(arr. Mark Hayes)

Chancel Choir

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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.**

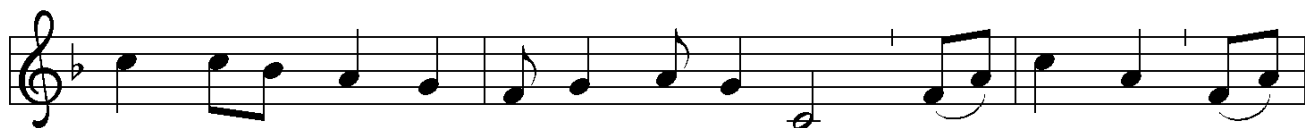
## PREFACE

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'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

## **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**

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

## **COMMUNION**

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

## COMMUNION SONG – Bread of Life From Heaven (ELW 474)

*Refrain*



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas  
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## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Speak, O Lord”

(Getty/Townend, arr. James Koerts)

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 – What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (ELW 774)



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,  
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

(arr. Mark D. Himmelman)

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## FLC SCHEDULE

### Sunday, September 15

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**
- Installation of Call Committee
- Worship Committee @ 11am in Library

### Monday, September 16

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

### Tuesday, September 17

- Bible Study @ 12pm in Library - Hybrid

### Wednesday, September 18

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 (Hosted by Quilters)
- Faith Bells rehearsal @ 6:30pm
- Chancel Choir rehearsal @ 7:30pm

### Sunday, September 22:

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**
- Confirmation @ 11:30am in Old Fellowship Hall



### 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.

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

### FAITH VOLUNTEERS

#### September 15

Greeter(s): Doug & Linda Hirt  
Reader: Brenda Kopf  
Lay Assistant: Bob Nelson  
Ushers: Brenda Kopf  
Altar Care: Jamie Royalty  
Sunday School: Heidi Bowers  
Coffee Hour: The Boyans  
Counters: Doug Hirt, Randy Royalty  
Acolyte: Andrew Herek

#### September 22

Greeter(s): Connie Nelson  
Reader: Linda Hirt  
Lay Assistant: Doug Hirt  
Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt  
Altar Care: Jamie Royalty  
Sunday School: Connie Nelson  
Coffee Hour: The Herezas  
Counters: John McCracken, Linda Hirt  
Acolyte: Abigail Steinke

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### EVENTS

#### 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 1:30**. Cost is \$10 per person. No golfing experience or equipment necessary. Just join us for some good fun.

## **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

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## **Card Writing for Bring Smiles to Seniors**

Bring Smiles to Seniors sends cheerful greeting cards to people in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. These cards brighten people's days and remind them that they are valued and remembered. Diane Hill from our own congregation is the Michigan coordinator of this effort! To support the program, we'll have cards available to write out and/or decorate before and after this month's Lunch Bunch on September 18. Please join in if you can! If you can't attend Lunch Bunch but would like to help, there's also a basket of unfinished cards on a counter in the narthex.

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## **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

**Wednesdays – 6:15 – 7:15 pm**

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**



## **First Communion Class – Saturday, October 12**

Pastor Bruce would like to offer a First Communion class on Saturday, October 12 from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. This is for all who take communion. For all children and youth who can attend, please have an adult accompany them.

It is important for us to review and learn what it means to take communion to the extent that we can understand it. This is an intergenerational event. Please e-mail Pastor Bruce at [pastorbruce@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:pastorbruce@faithlutheranokemos.org), to register as books will need to be ordered.

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## **Thanksgiving Food Drive**

**What** - Our way to participate with other churches/businesses in Meridian Township to help those in need of food during Thanksgiving. The Township has a program that allows churches like Faith to donate money to help those in need. The Township will take the money we donate and purchase "food only" Meijer cards to be given to those that reach out for food assistance during the Thanksgiving Holiday. We would like to collect \$1000 to help 12-14 families.

**When** - Money will be collected Sept. 1-Oct. 13  
(\$\$ is due to the Township by Oct. 15)

**How** - you may donate by check (please note Meridian Thanksgiving on the envelope) or via Vanco (choose Caring Committee). Cash/Checks may also be placed in the offering plate with a note on the envelope "Meridian Thanksgiving", or via your Vanco account and select "Caring Committee".

Please contact Natalie Dingledine or Kathy Mace with questions.

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## **"Climate Change as of 2024"**

An easy-to-understand presentation on the factors changing our planet now.

October 24, 2024 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 549 E Mount Hope Ave 48910

Simple. Serious. Solvable.

“Climate Change as of 2024” is a fact-based, easy-to-understand presentation by meteorologist Chris Edwards that looks at the scientific issues and impacts involved in climate change, localized in many ways to Michigan. It explores a range of ideas to address the significant challenges we face and what each of us can do.

You’ll learn:

- which Michigan season has warmed the most.
- why there are more flooding rains.
- where the climate is changing the fastest.
- 10 things you can do to help combat climate change.
- when science first predicted climate change.
- what climate change means for hurricanes (this might surprise you)

Chris Edwards began his career as a forecaster in the U.S. Air Force. Edwards began carefully studying and reporting on global warming in 1987.

As a retired TV meteorologist, he now enjoys part-time work teaching communications at the University of Michigan, where he collaborated with Professor Richard Rood to produce a video on climate change. Edwards is also Climate Change Specialist for the city of Detroit, and regularly gives climate change presentations to a variety of organizations.

