



PENTECOST 18
September 22, 2024
10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FLC Staff

Pastor Bruce Thorsen
Administrative AssistantKalea Sanford
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

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

PRELUDE

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

arr. Wilbur Held

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 – GOD IS HERE (ELW 526)



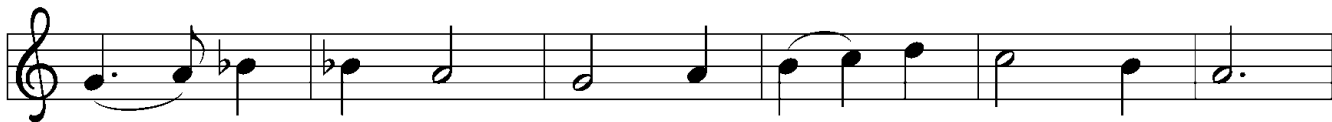
1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Michael O'Shields
 Music: O'SHIELDS, Michael O'Shields

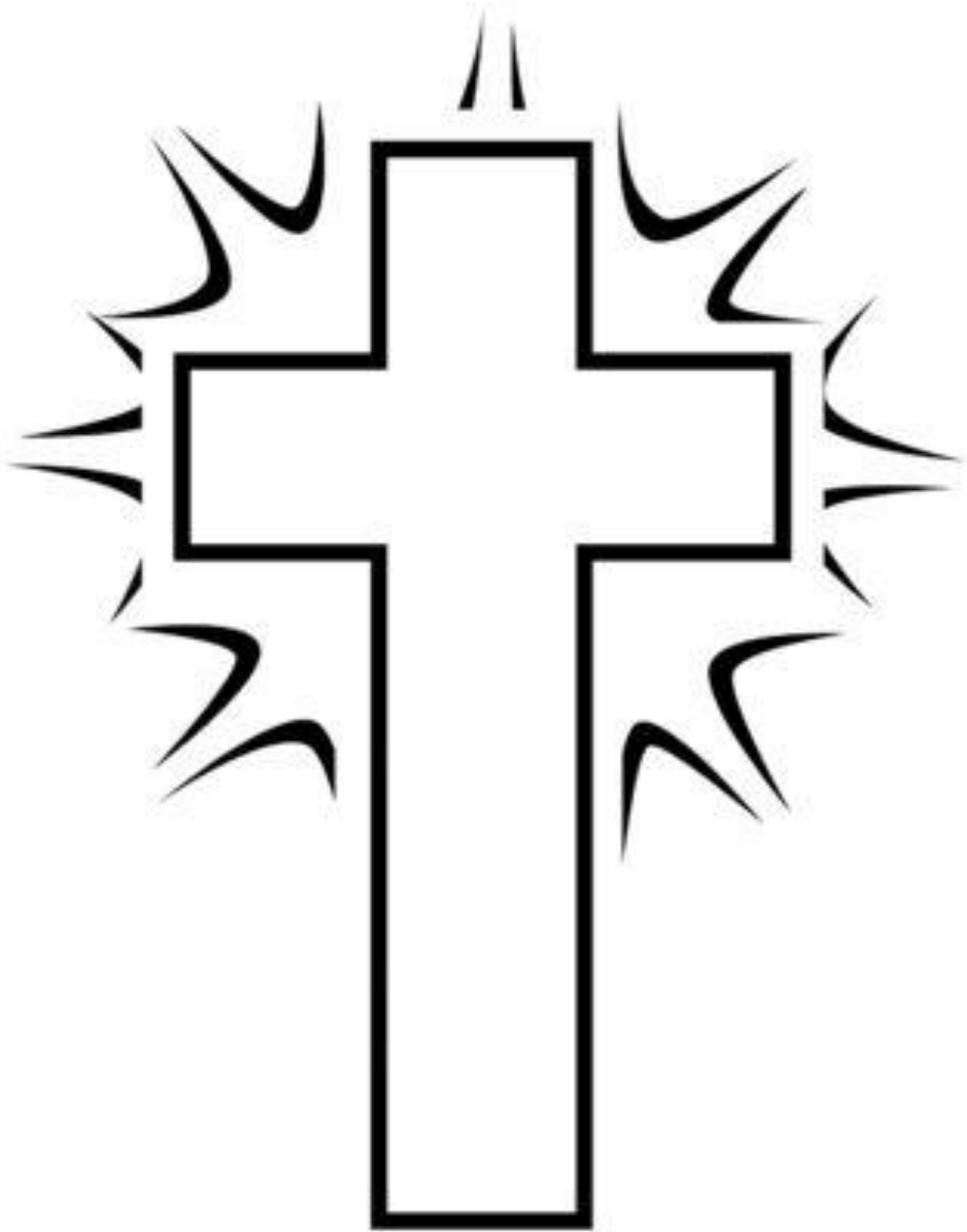
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GREETING

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

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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING Jeremiah 11: 18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 54 (Read Responsively)

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper;**

it is the Lord who sustains my life.

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

SECOND READING: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON (Noisy offering for the Parish House)

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 9: 30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

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

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

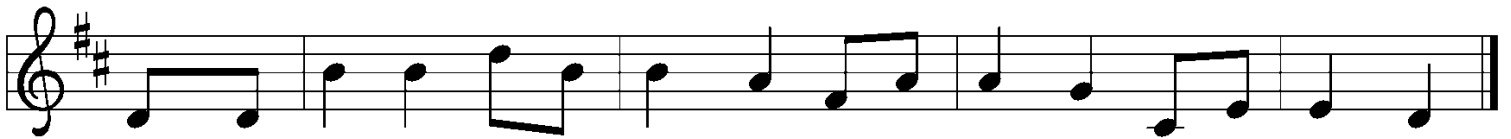
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER (ELW 781)



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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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

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

"WHOEVER WOULD BE GREAT AMONG YOU"

(arr. Ronald Nelson)

Chancel Choir

Andy Boyan, Guitar

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.**

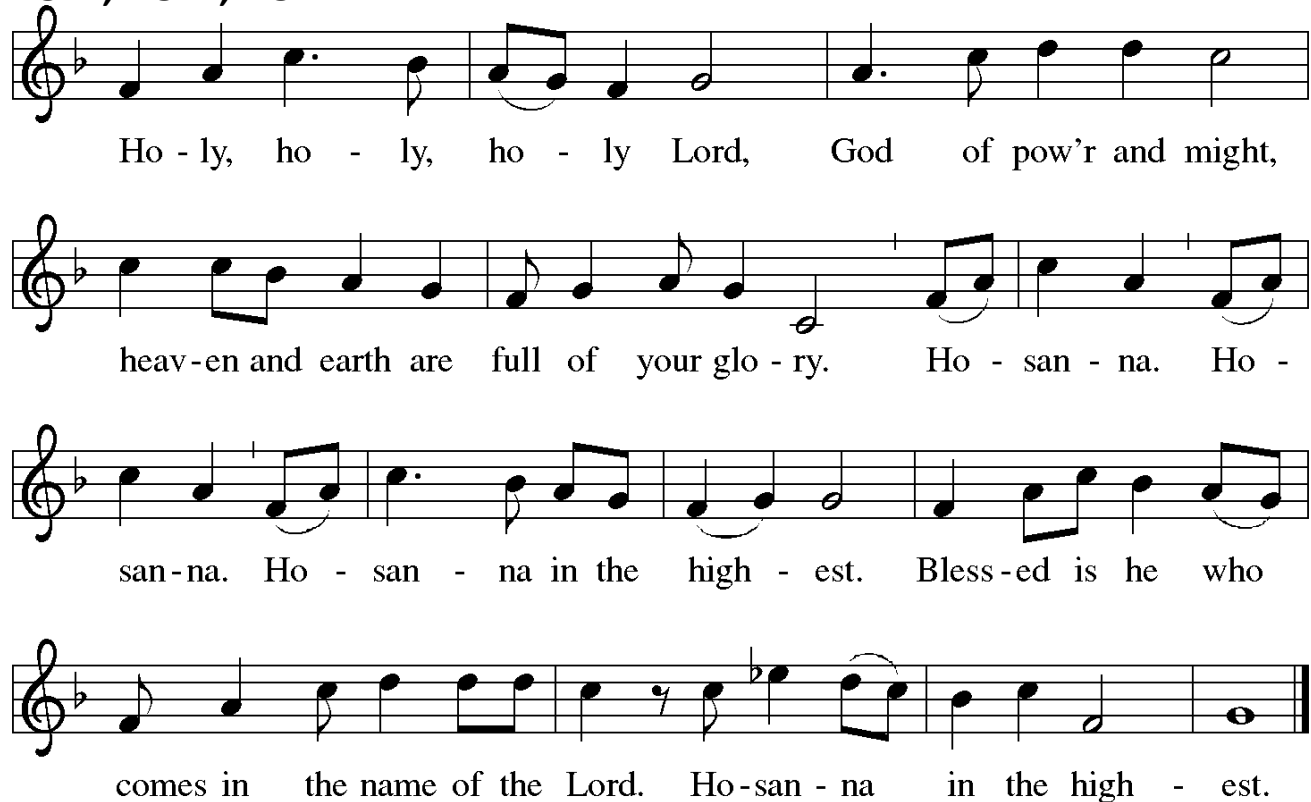
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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.

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

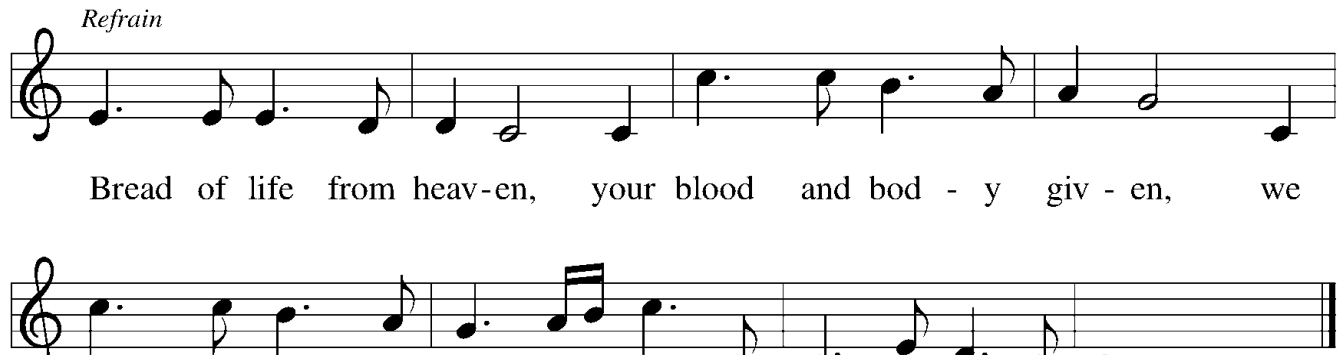
Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

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

“Children of The Heavenly Father”

arr. Dale Wood

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 – JESUS LOVES ME! (ELW 595)

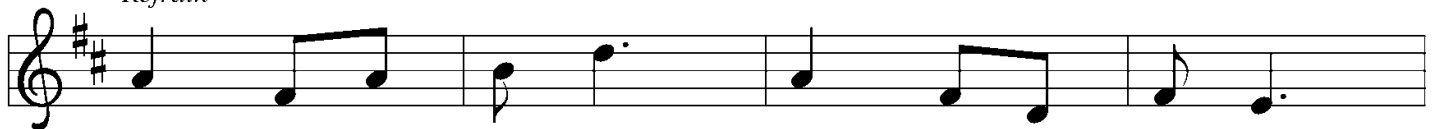


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

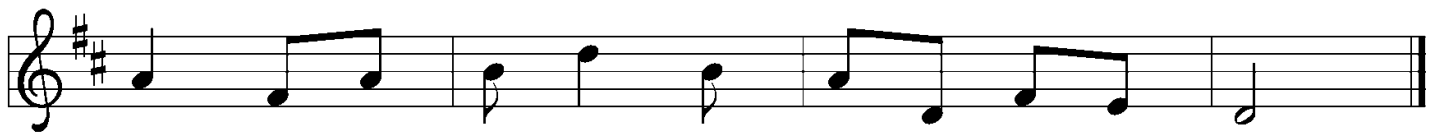


lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“How Majestic Is Your Name”

arr. Jerry Ray

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FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 22

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **18th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Confirmation @ 11:30 in Old Fellowship Hall
- Mini Golf @ 1:30pm @ Hawk Hollow

Monday, September 23

- Stewardship Meeting @ 6pm

Tuesday, September 24

- Bible Study @ 12pm in Library – Hybrid
- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 5:30pm in Old Fellowship Hall
- RIC Meeting @ 7pm in Library

Wednesday, September 25

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Confirmation @ 6:15 in Fellowship Hall
- Faith Bells rehearsal @ 6:30pm
- Chancel Choir rehearsal @ 7:30pm

Thursday, September 26

- Christian Ed @ 4pm

Sunday, September 29:

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **19th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Acolyte Training @ 11am

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 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

September 29

Greeter(s): Harold & Jan Sollenberger
Reader: Jon Harrison
Lay Assistant: Paul Hereza
Ushers: Brenda Kopf
Altar Care: Elaine Harrison
Sunday School: Connie Nelson
Coffee Hour: The Nelsons
Counters: Brenda Kopf, Paul Hereza
Acolyte: Abigail Steinke

YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY SHEET

Mon th	2024 offering + loose	2023 Offering + Loose	Difference from Prior Year	2024 all income	2023 All Income	Difference from Prior Year
Jan	\$ 26,901.25	\$ 26,298.10	603.15	\$ 28,818.60	\$ 27,341.10	1,477.50
Feb	\$ 34,665.35	\$ 27,834.10	6,831.25	\$ 52,612.41	\$ 30,631.16	21,981.25
Mar	\$ 25,914.98	\$ 42,356.10	(16,441.12)	\$ 33,671.51	\$ 46,195.84	(12,524.33)
Apr	\$ 21,707.50	\$ 25,345.50	(3,638.00)	\$ 23,848.41	\$ 35,910.93	(12,062.52)
May	\$ 25,991.48	\$ 20,817.80	5,173.68	\$ 62,178.31	\$ 23,893.42	38,284.89
Jun	\$ 20,978.79	\$ 16,948.50	4,030.29	\$ 25,323.96	\$ 20,478.33	4,845.63
Jul	\$ 22,578.55	\$ 25,482.71	(2,904.16)	\$ 24,111.05	\$ 33,058.79	(8,947.74)
Aug	\$ 14,659.90	\$ 21,229.75	(6,569.85)	\$ 16,033.65	\$ 22,888.85	(6,855.20)
YTD =	\$193,397.80	\$206,312.56	(12,914.76)	\$ 266,597.90	\$ 240,398.42	26,199.48

August 2024	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 14,640	\$26,338	(\$11,698)
Expenses	\$25,618	\$29,893	(\$4,275)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$10,978)	(\$3,556)	(\$7,423)
Year to Date (Jan-Aug 2024)			
Income: General Fund Budget	\$188,804	\$210,700	(\$21,896)
Income: Property Sale Proceeds	\$37,661		
Expenses: General Fund Budget	\$206,255	\$229,317	(\$23,062)
Expenses: Prop Sale Proceeds to Cap Repair	\$29,000		
Net Income (Loss)	(\$8,790)	(\$18,617)	\$9,827

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
-

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.

CONFIRMATION DATES

Sundays - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

September 22 - Class #1 – Introduction, 1st and 2nd 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, to register as books will need to be ordered.

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.