



PENTECOST 20
October 6, 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’s gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus’ saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God’s law. Jesus’ rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

PRELUDE

“Though I May Speak”

arr. Dale Wood

VERSE OF THE DAY

[Read in Unison]

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” John 8:31-32

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE)

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 – EARTH IS FULL OF WIT AND WISDOM (ACS 1064)



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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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

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 8

Odd Verses = Low Voices

Even Verses = High Voices

R [All Voices] – You crown us with glory and honor.

¹O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?

R You crown us with glory and honor.

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field

⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

R You crown us with glory and honor.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the

right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?

⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor,

⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

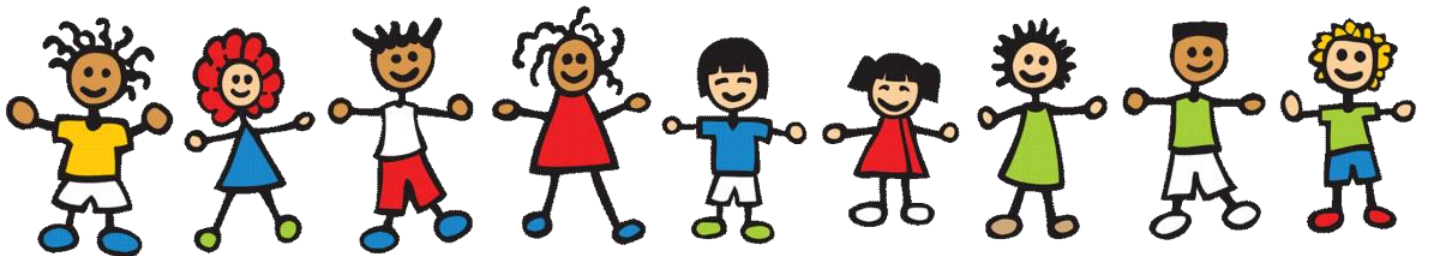
Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

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 10:2-16

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

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

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – GOD, WHEN HUMAN BONDS ARE BROKEN (ELW 603)



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
all the fail - ures we con - fess.
set us free and grant us peace.
make us stron - ger, give us faith.
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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DEDICATION OF LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) QUILTS AND KITS

LEADER: Let us pray. O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many Gifts — a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the Quilts we have made, to you.

PEOPLE: We dedicate these Quilts and Kits to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each Quilt or Kit is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, a collection of items — making each piece we have created an expression of love. There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life — how you can use something as small as a Quilt, a Baby Care Kit, a School Kit to radiate your love from us to the world. May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.

LEADER: Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being: draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people. Amen.

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

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation. **Amen.**

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

"Send Down the Rain"

arr. Joyce Eilers

Singing Sinners/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.**

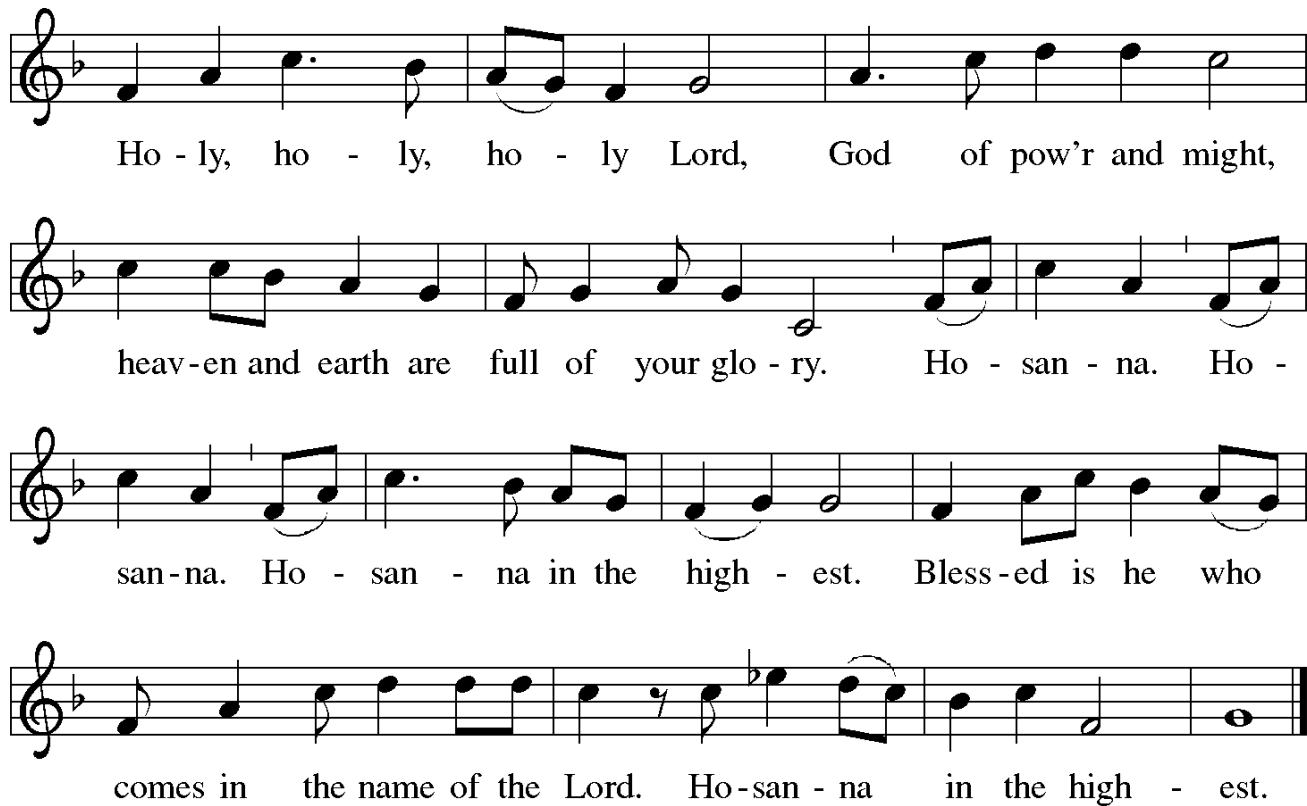
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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.

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 – ALTHOUGH I SPEAK (ELW 644)



1 Al - though I speak with an - gel's tongue, my faith, my
2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er
3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions
4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to



knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are
vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -
end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now
one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one



vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.
dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.
see: then we will see love face to face.
mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
Music: O WALY WALY, English traditional
Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“O Bread of Life from Heaven

arr. Raymond Haan

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 – YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY (W&P 138)

You shall go out with joy _____ and be led forth with peace. _____ The

6 G C/G G D/F# D⁷ B/D#

moun-tains and the hills will break forth _____ be - fore you; There'll be

10 Em

shouts of joy, _____ and all the trees of the

13 Em/B B⁷ Em/B B⁷ Em Fine

field will clap, will clap their hands.

17 D⁷ G C/G G D claps

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, _____ the

22 G claps

trees of the field will clap their hands; _____ The trees of the

field will clap their hands _____ while

30 G D⁷ Em B⁷ Em D.C. al Fine

you go out with joy.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Holy Manna”

arr. Wilbur Held

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FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 6

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **20th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Youth Group @ 11:30 at LAUNCH

Monday, October 7

- Boy Scouts @ 7pm in Old Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 8

- CAMTA @9am in Sanctuary
- Bible Study @12pm in Library (All are Welcome) – Hybrid
- Girl Scouts Meeting @5:30pm in Old Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 9

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

Saturday, October 12

- First Communion Class @9:30am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Private Rental @12 in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 13

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **21st Sunday after Pentecost**
- Confirmation Class @11:30am in Fellowship Hall
- Worship Committee Meeting @11:30am

PRAYER PARTNERS

We are participating in this activity and would love for you to add your signature. The letter is located on the table underneath 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

October 6

Greeter(s): Nick Hershenberger, Matt Schnizlein
Reader: Elaine Harrison
Lay Assistant: Paul Hereza
Ushers: Brenda Kopf, Ken Milne
Altar Care: Elaine Harrison
Sunday School: John McCracken
Coffee Hour: The Hereks
Counters: Tammy Heilman, Kathy Mace
Acolyte: Andrew Herek

October 13

Greeter(s): Rich Weingartner
Reader: Linda Hirt
Lay Assistant: Doug Hirt
Ushers: John Backman
Altar Care: Heidi Bowers
Sunday School: John McCracken
Coffee Hour: Janet Boyer, Deb Borton
Counters: Mike Eschelbach, Ramona Backman
Acolyte: Owen Thompson

CONFIRMATION DATES

Sundays - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

October 13 - Class #2 – Commandments 3 – 6
November 24 - Class #3 – Commandments 7-10

Wednesdays – 6:15 – 7:15 pm

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 – DEADLINE SUNDAY OCTOBER 6

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.

OUR 2024 SHIPMENT TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR)

This coming weekend we'll be delivering the following for shipment to LWR:

- 30 quilts; 41 personal care kits; 59 school kits; 3 sewing kits

This past week we also delivered 8 additional quilts to Samaritas in Lansing.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions! **Also, if you're interested in joining the quilting group that works on this project, we meet in the church basement at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday. No sewing skills are needed, and you'd be very welcome. We work until about 11:30 and then have coffee time.**

