

PENTECOST 21 October 13, 2024 10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FLC Staff

Pastor	Bruce Thorser
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
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

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

PRELUDE

"Great Is The Lord"

arr. Jack Schrader

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.

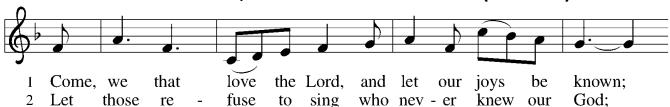
Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.
The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering 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 – COME, THAT WE LOVE THE LORD (ELW 625)

Zi -



on yields Then a-bound, and ev - 'ry let our songs tear be dry;



join song with sweet ac - cord, join with in in song but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren the of the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore fore we reach we reach the we're march-ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march-ing through Im -

a

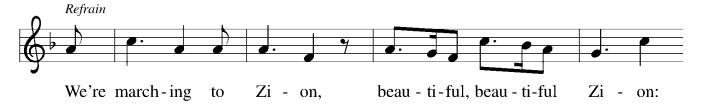
thou-sand sa -

cred

sweets



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne. heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets. heav'n-ly fields, or walk the worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high. man-uel's ground, to fair - er





Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain

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GREETING

Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

The

3

hill

of

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

⁶Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.
⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.
¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.
¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.
¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. 15 Hate evil and love good,
 and establish justice in the gate;
 it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
 will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 90:12-17

- ¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- ¹³Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants.
- ¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.
- ¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us and as many years as we suffered adversity.
- ¹⁶Show your servants your works, and your splendor to their children.
- ¹⁷May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON (NOISY OFFERING for FOOD PANTRY)



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

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

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

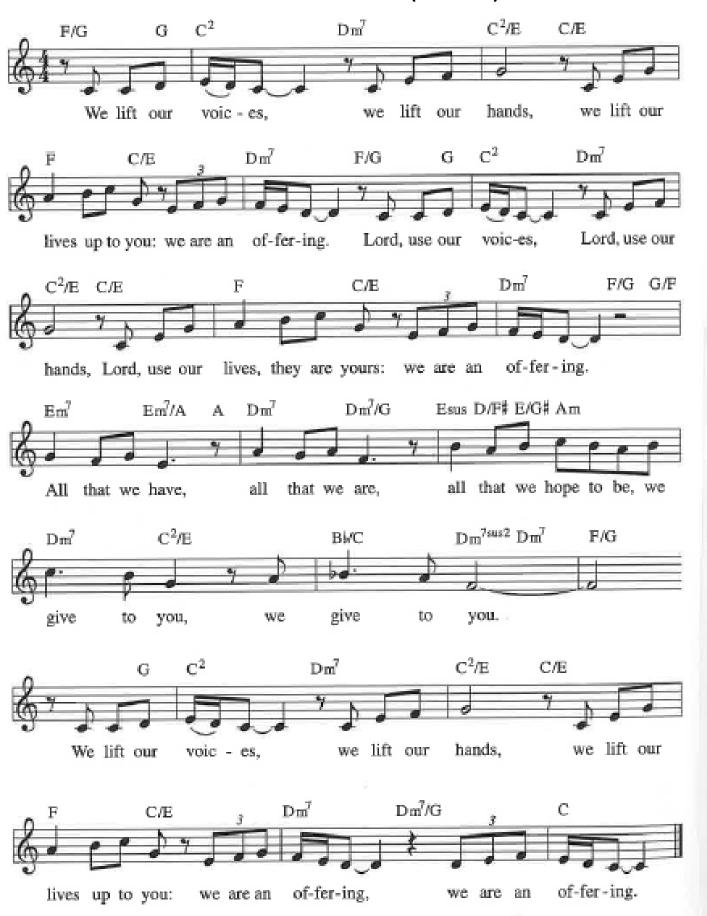
²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

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

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY – WE ARE AN OFFERING (ELW 692)



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

"Heart for the Nations"

Martin Nystrom & Gary Sadler arr. Mark Kellner 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.

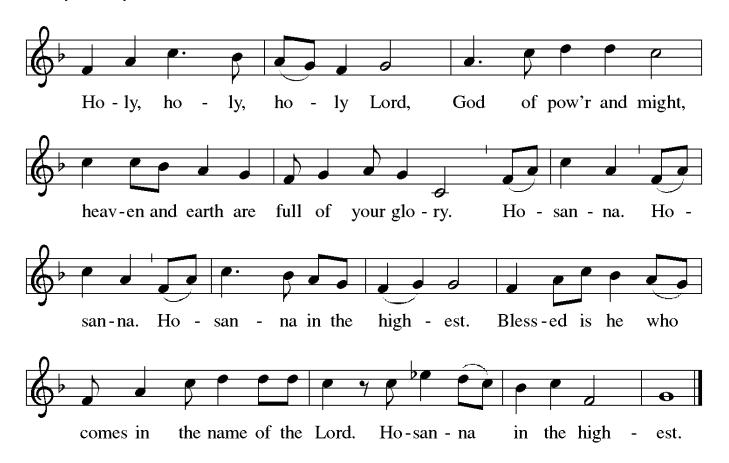
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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



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.

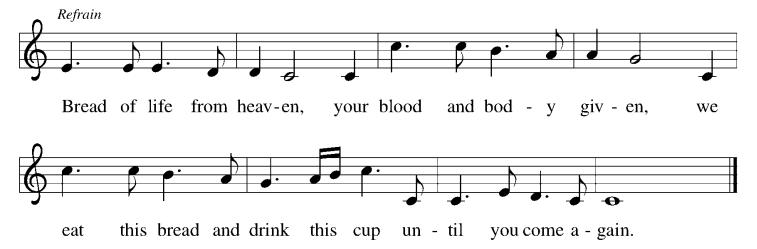
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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)



Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas Text and music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

arr. Aaron D. Miller

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.

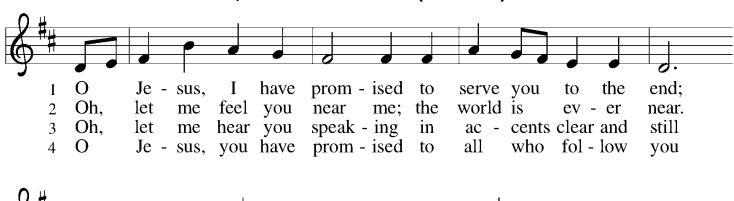
BLESSING

God all mighty,
God most merciful

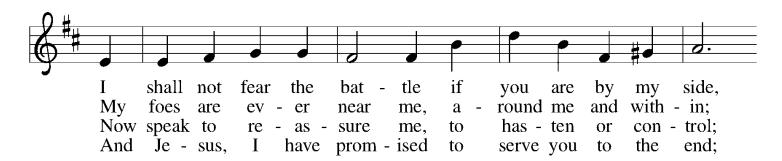
→ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG - O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED (ELW 810)









fol - low, my

mas - ter

and

my

friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

oh,

Music: MUNICH, Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693

grace to

give me

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"We Will Glorify"

arr. Fred Bock

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FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 13

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

Monday, October 14

- Food Pantry Fundraiser from 5pm-9pm at Culvers
- Boy Scouts @ 7pm in Old Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 15

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

Wednesday, October 16

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Lunch Bunch @11:45am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Confirmation @6:15pm in Fellowship Hall
- Faith Bells rehearsal @ 6:30pm
- Chancel Choir rehearsal @ 7:30pm

Sunday, October 20

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10 am: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

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

October 20

Greeter(s): Ken & Ellen Milne

Reader: Warren Heilman Lay Assistant: Bob Nelson Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt Altar Care: Brenda Kopf

Sunday School: Angie Herek

Coffee Hour: Doug & Linda Hirt Counters: Doug Hirt, Brenda Kopf

Acolyte: Marilyn Hartwick

The RIC team would like to give a quick reminder of the current four requirements for being a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation:



- 1. Clearly state a welcome to people of "all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions" or "LGBTQIA+" and name its commitment to "racial equity" or "anti-racism" in its welcome statement.
- 2. Be open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.
- 3. Allow sanctuary/community space to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
- 4. Make a meaningful contribution annually to support the national RIC program.

In support of this the RIC Team will be presenting a proposed updated welcome statement for approval at our October 27 congregational meeting and asking the congregation to also recommit to being an RIC congregation. Another quick reminder from last week as to a new term that is in the proposed welcome statement. "Neurodivergent," which means "having a brain that works differently from the average or 'neurotypical' person," for example ADHD or being on the Autism spectrum.

LUNCH BUNCH

ALL ARE INVITED. Join us for Lunch Bunch, October 16th at 11:45am in the Fellowship Hall. This is a fun opportunity for fellowship and food. Bring a dish to pass or your lunch, if you wish. Come and go as you need to.

We hope to see you there!

Want to host? Contact Tammy Heilman or Bob Nelson.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday, November 9 @ 5pm – There will be appetizers, salads, dessert and the main meal will be at the church. Each participant is asked to bring something to share. Signup sheet is in the Narthex.

<u>LanSING Out Christmas Concert – December 13 at 7:30 pm</u>

LanSINGout is a voluntary community chorus providing the opportunity for LGBTQ+ persons and their allies. See https://www.lansingout.com for more information. Pastor Bruce is a member.

FAITH NIGHT AT THE THEATRE

Faith Night at the Williamston Theatre will be on Saturday, December 14th at 7:30. The play this year is "A Very Williamston Christmas". Adult ticket prices are \$41 and student prices are \$12. This is a 90 minute play without an intermission, so probably not suited for very young children. Please make your payment to Diane Hill by December 1st. You can either pay in cash or write a check to Williamston Theatre (do not make your check out to Diane).

Update on LWR Quilts & Kits

On Saturday we delivered our congregation's 2024 contribution of quilts and kits to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). While kits and quilts are sent to places all around the world, sometimes the places in need are right here in the United States. For example, LWR is delivering a minimum of **10 truckloads of LWR quilts & kits** to communities in North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Helene. More will be mobilized as needed. Thank you to everyone for your support of this project.

MINI FREE PANTRY FUNDRAISER

Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over.

Monday, October 14th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Culver's of OKEMOS SOUTH at 3440 Okemos Road (near the I-96 Freeway entrance) has offered to donate up to 20% of their sales to our Mini Free Pantries. Dine in and be served by members of the Pantry Committee, order from drive thru, or order on-line. Visit culvers.com to order on-line.

The monies help support our two-Mini Food/Personal Needs/Household Products pantries available to those in need 24/7. One is located at Faith Lutheran Church; the other is at the Okemos Public Library. Culver's wants to help raise funds to ensure they are stocked daily. Thank you for your support!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, November 3 after coffee hour the Property Committee will need volunteers for two important projects.

- 1. **Annual Fall Grounds Clean Up**: Shrub and tree Trimming, removing fallen branches, and leaf raking/blowing. Maximum time commitment: 2 hours. Questions: Bob Nelson.
- 2. **Election Precinct Set Up:** Faith hosts 3 voting precincts at our facility; two in Fellowship Hall, one in the Narthex/Lobby. Chairs and tables need to be moved to make way for election equipment. Questions: Rick Beaderstadt A signup sheet is available in the narthex

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is seeking volunteers to help seniors prepare tax returns for the 2024 tax year. We prepare tax returns starting early February through approximately April 15th . We also have other volunteer opportunities: Client Facilitators (assist taxpayers with completing paperwork), Shift Coordinators, Technical Support, etc.

Training and support are provided to help you learn new skills. The training will probably take place during December and January. You can apply at aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer. If you have any questions, you can contact Ken Milne.

YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY SHEET 2024

	2024 offering +	2023	Difference from Prior	#		2024		2023	Difference from Prior
Month	loose	Offering+Loose	Year	Sun.	1	all income	1	All Income	Year
Jan	\$ 26,901.25	\$ 26,298.10	603.15	4	\$	28,818.60	\$	27,341.10	1,477.50
Feb	\$ 34,665.35	\$ 27,834.10	6,831.25	4	\$	52,612.41	\$	30,631.16	21,981.25
Mar	\$ 25,914.98	\$ 42,356.10	(16,441.12)	4	\$	33,671.51	\$	46,195.84	(12,524.33)
Apr	\$ 21,707.50	\$ 25,345.50	(3,638.00)	4	\$	23,848.41	\$	35,910.93	(12,062.52)
May	\$ 25,991.48	\$ 20,817.80	5,173.68	5	\$	62,178.31	\$	23,893.42	38,284.89
Jun	\$ 20,978.79	\$ 16,948.50	4,030.29	4	\$	25,323.96	\$	20,478.33	4,845.63
Jul	\$ 22,578.55	\$ 25,482.71	(2,904.16)	4	\$	24,111.05	\$	33,058.79	(8,947.74)
Aug	\$ 14,659.90	\$ 21,229.75	(6,569.85)	5	\$	16,033.65	\$	22,888.85	(6,855.20)
Sept	\$ 27,311.86	\$ 23,320.50	3,991.36	4	\$	45,857.15	\$	27,177.75	18,679.40
Oct	\$ -		0.00	5	\$	-			0.00
Nov	\$ -		0.00	4	\$	-			0.00
Dec	\$ -		0.00	4	\$	-			0.00
YTD =	\$ 220,709.66	\$229,633.06	(8,923.40)	52	\$	312,455.05	\$	267,576.17	44,878.88

