

# REFORMATION SUNDAY October 27, 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
Supply Musician	Kathy Richardson
Custodian	Kelly Nickols
Sound Technicians	Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
Church email	faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website	<u>www.faithlutheranokemos.org</u>
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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission

#### **PRELUDE**

"A Mighty Fortress"

arr. Wilbur Held

#### **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 中 Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

#### Amen.

## GATHERING SONG – THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION (ELW 654)



- Ε lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth.
- op pressed, Though with a scorn-ful won - der this world sees her
- Through toil and trib u la tion and tu - mult of her war.
- on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in Yet she



his new she is cre - tion by a her char - ter of sal va - tion one schisms. . rent sund - er, by a by she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of mys-tic sweet com - mu - nion with and

wa - ter and the word. birth: Lord, one faith, one her - e - sies dis - tressed, peace for - ev - er more: those whose rest won.



From heav'n he came and ho - ly name she one yet saints their watch are till with the vi - sion bless - ed heav'n-ly Oh,

sought her his ho - ly bride; to be bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food, keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?" glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest, cho - rus! Lord, save us by grace,



with his own blood bought her, and for her life he died. he press - es en - dued. and to one hope she with ev - 'rv grace night weep - ing shall and soon the of be the morn of song. the great church vic - to - rious shall the church at and be rest. see you face that we, like saints be - fore us, may face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

One License Licensing Permission Repinted/Streamed with Permission under One License #A-708005

#### **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**



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 53:4-12

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 46** 

Odd Verses = Low Voices

**Even Verses = High Voices** 

R [All Voices] - The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away. R

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth." R

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:1-10** 

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON (NOISY OFFERING PARISH HOUSE)



#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



#### **GOSPEL: John 8: 31-36**

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

## The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

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

#### **SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY - BY GRACE WE HAVE BEEN SAVED (W&P 25)



Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas; Frederick Whitfield, refrain Music: North American traditional, arr. Rusty Edwards Text & 1997 Selah Publishing Cu.; arr. & 1999 Augsburg Fortress

#### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

## **Presentation of New Members**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Waylon Sanford, Kalea Sanford, Reagan Sanford, Remi Sanford, Beauden Sanford Janet Boyer, Nick Hirschenberger, Bob Borcherding & Anne Missavage

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

## **ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS**

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of god. We are called to live among god's faithful people, to hear the word of god and share in the lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of god in christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, Do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among god's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,

Do you promise to support and pray for *these* new *members* in *their* life in Christ? We do, and we ask god to help and guide us.

#### Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly.

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to god

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

And proclaim the good news to all the world.

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**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

arr. Mark Patterson

Kaley Rodriguez, Trumpet

#### **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** by Mark Erson

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

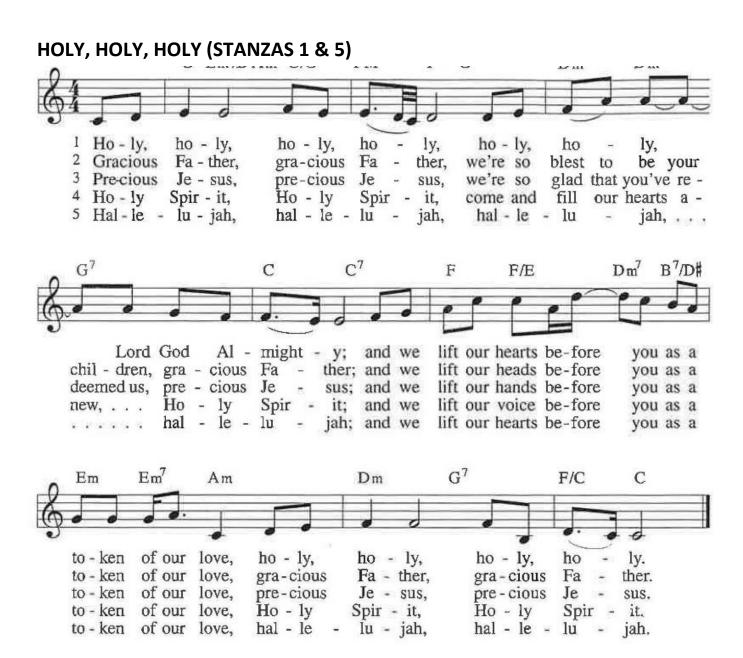
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ,

who is our mighty fortress and our strength.

You call your church to remain steadfast in your Word,

That all might know the good news of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, We raise your name and join their unending hymn:



Text and music: Jimmy Owens

Text and music © 1972 Bud John Songs, Inc., admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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**.

#### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

"Oh Lord, You're Beautiful"
"The Solid Rock"

Keith Green, arr. Keveren arr. Laura Bergquist

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

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

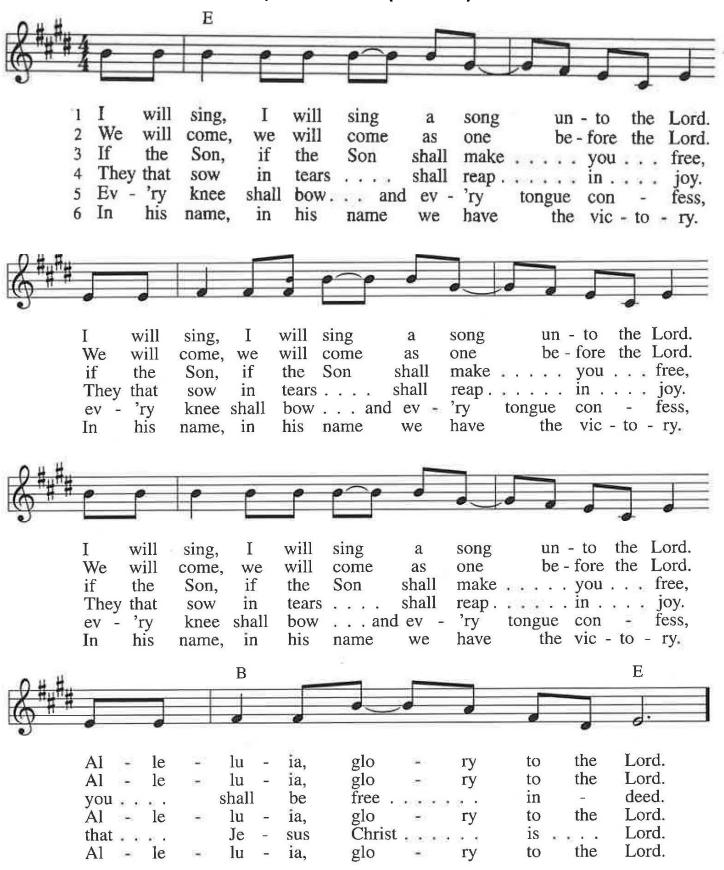
Let us pray.
Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

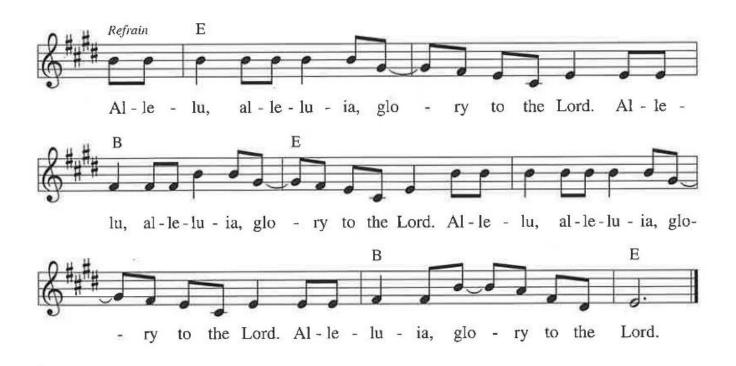
#### **BLESSING**

God all mighty,
God most merciful

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

## SENDING SONG – I WILL SING, I WILL SING (W&P 73)





Text and music: Max Dyer

Text and music @ 1974 CELEBRATION, admin, The Copyright Company

#### **DISMISSAL**

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

## **Quarterly Meeting immediately following service**

Copyright Information

Acknowledgments: Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000803. CCLI: Streaming License #CSPL141616 Size B. CCLI Church Copyright License #720217 Size B. Podcast/Streaming and Music printed by permission under OneLicense #A-708005. Scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

## **FLC SCHEDULE**

## **Sunday, October 27**

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10am: Reformation Sunday
- Quarterly Congregational Meeting following service

## Monday, October 28

Boy Scouts @ 7pm in Old Fellowship Hall

## **Tuesday, October 29**

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

## Wednesday, October 30

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

## Sunday, November 3

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10 am: All Saints Sunday
- Annual Fall Grounds Clean Up following service
- Election Set Up following service

## **FAITH VOLUNTEERS**

#### October 27

Greeter(s): John & Ramona Backman

Reader: Brenda Kopf

Lay Assistant: Ryan Thompson

Ushers: Randy Royalty, John Backman

Altar Care: Brenda Kopf Sunday School: Angie Herek

Coffee Hour: John & Ramona Backman Counters: Randy Royalty, Jack Dingledine

Acolyte: Isaak Nyquist

## **November 3**

Greeter(s): Lois Neves Reader: Jamie Royalty

Lay Assistant: Randy Royalty Ushers Elaine & Jon Harrison

Altar Care: Diane Hill

Sunday School: Alexa Warwick

Coffee Hour: Kathy Richardson, Emily Brown

Counters: Brenda Kopf, Ramona Backman

Acolyte: Maddie Webb

#### **EVENTS**

#### **All SAINTS SUNDAY**

On November 3, we will remember those who have died since November 1, 2023. If you've lost a spouse, child, parent, grandparent, or sibling this past year, let the office know by email or phone by October 29, 2024.

#### **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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).

#### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Visitors Sunday will be on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The goal is for all members to invite friends, family or neighbors to a worship service that will have uplifting music, and a noisy offering for the Food Pantry and Parish House. Coffee hour will be in the Fellowship Hall, so please feel free to bring a dessert/snack to share. During coffee hour members should reach out to visitors to see if they have any questions about Faith. This is a very exciting, upcoming event and we look forward to having many new people visit! For more information/questions contact Raymond Herek herekraymond13@gmail.com

#### YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY SHEET 2024

	2024	2023	Difference	#	2024	2023	Difference
	offering +						
Month	loose	Offering+Loose	from Prior Year	Sun.	all income	All Income	from Prior 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)
A ~	\$		4	_	\$	\$	4
Aug	14,659.90	\$ 21,229.75	(6,569.85)	5	16,033.65	22,888.85	(6,855.20)
Comt	\$			_	\$	\$	
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

#### **MERIDIAN THANKSGIVING UPDATE**

Thanks again to everyone for the generous donations for the Thanksgiving Food Drive! We raised \$2110 for the Meridian Cares Program to use to purchase food gift cards for families in need. Please see Katie's response below!

Also, on November 10th we will have Thanksgiving cards for members to sign that we will be used with the gift cards. A Note from Katie Love, Meridian Cares Coordinator:

"OH, MY GOODNESSS!!!!! I could just cry... good happy tears!!!! Thank you so very much for your support. The need has been very large this year especially among our low-income elderly residents. This morning, I was getting nervous because the amount of need is very high. Although we have dedicated donations coming in, I was starting to worry about meeting all the needs...I walked into my office and I just felt the Holy Spirit say to me "trust me!" Then a few hours later you sent me the email about the higher donation amount.

Thankful for the goodness of God and faithfulness of the people of Faith Lutheran Church!!!"