



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2024

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FLC Staff

Pastor Bruce Thorsen
Administrative AssistantKalea Sanford
Music Director Deb Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams
Custodian Kelly Nickols
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Facebook Page facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

WELCOME STATEMENT

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as God’s beloved child, “for in Christ Jesus... [we] are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26). No matter your age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, neurodivergent status, faith background, political leanings, or mental, intellectual or physical ability – you are welcomed here just as you are. In this church, we commit to pursue gender and racial equity in all that we do, and to support one another as chosen family, being parents and siblings for each other regardless of who we have as biological family (Mark 3:31-35). For 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 as we strive to serve our world.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

PRELUDE

“Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying”

arr. Paul Manz

VERSE OF THE DAY (Read in Unison)

Show me your ways, O God! Teach me your paths! Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. I wait all the day long for you.

Psalm 25:4-5 The Inclusive Bible

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.
A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✝ Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG – REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS (ELW 244)



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune


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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.**

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

“God Is Near”

Joel Raney

FIRST SUNDAY - THE ANGELS' MESSAGE: *Hear*

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to hear again of God's redeeming work.

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Advent is a time to hear again of God's reconciling love.

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Advent is a time to hear again of God's unmerited grace.

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Advent is a time to hear again of our ultimate hope.

Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Candle Lighting

Today we light the **first candle**. The first candle reminds us that as we wait upon the Lord we do so with a sense of heightened awareness. In a world where our attention is easily diverted in many directions, Advent is a time to quiet ourselves and listen for God's word with expectant ears. This Advent may we hear and receive the message of the One who continues to speak.

Advent texts by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, River Forest, IL

Congregation:

Lis - ten to the an - gels, hear the mes - sage they bring;
tell - ing the news of a com - ing King; fill - ing the
world with_ hope and good cheer. Je - sus, Em -
man - u - el, _____ God is near. _____

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CLOSING PRAYER

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The LORD is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 25:1-10

¹To you, God, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O God!;
teach me your paths!**

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
I wait all the day long for you.

⁶**Be mindful of your mercy, O God, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness, O God!

⁸**You are good and upright God;
therefore you instruct sinners in the way.**

⁹You lead the humble in what is right,
and teach the humble their way.

¹⁰**All of your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep your covenant and testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁶But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought us the good news of your faith and love. He has told us also that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, just as we long to see you. ⁷For this reason, brothers and sisters, during all our distress and persecution we have been encouraged about you through your faith. ⁸For we now live, if you continue to stand firm in the Lord.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another

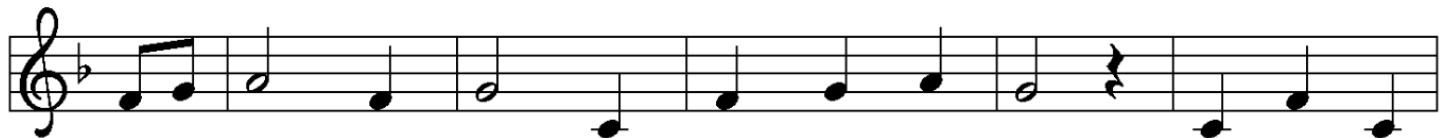
and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Psalm 119:105, refrain; Michael W. Smith, stanzas
Music: Amy Grant
Text and music © 1984 Meadowgreen Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing; and Bag and Bear Music, admin. Word Music, Inc.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING (ELW 438)

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH. African American spiritual

CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places
that long for God's presence.

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

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts,
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

"Listen Here, Listen Here"

Jay Althouse

Chris Lewis, Soloist

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

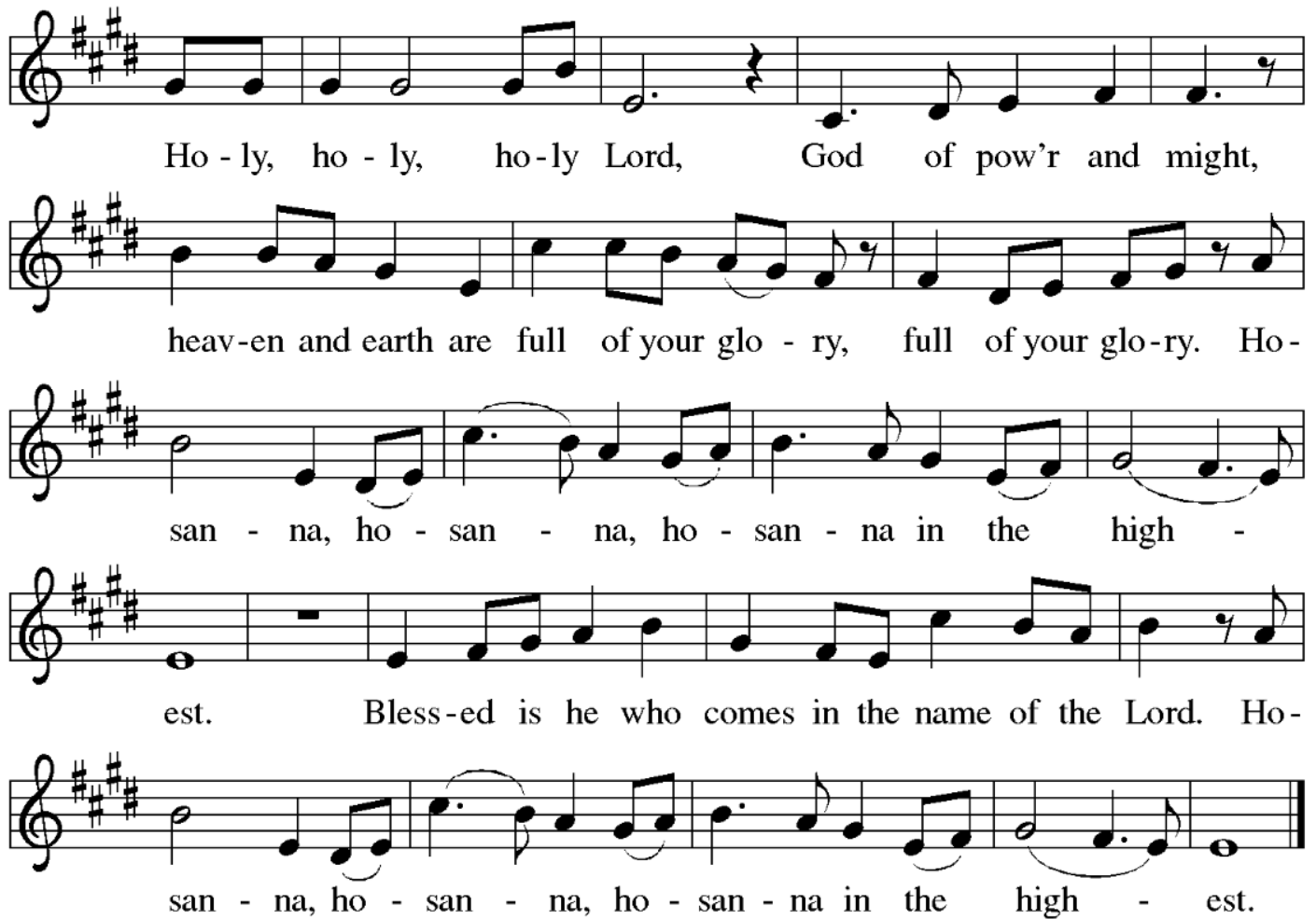
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

There are gluten free wafers available, just let the pastor know when you are at the altar rail. As you receive communion, in the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine. If you would prefer only a blessing, please have your hands folded and the pastor will give you a blessing.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG- HE CAME DOWN (ELW 253)



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

COMMUNION INSTRUMENTAL

“My Lord, What a Morning ”

arr. Richard Billingham

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✝ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG –THE KING SHALL COME (ELW 260)



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Comfort, Comfort, Now My People”

arr. Gerald Near

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 1

- Worship Service @10am: **First Sunday of Advent**

Monday, December 2

- Boy Scouts @ 7pm in Sunday School/Youth Room

Tuesday, December 3

- Bible Study @12pm in Library – Hybrid
- Girls Scouts @5:30pm in Sunday School/Youth Room

Wednesday, December 4

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

Thursday, December 5

- Alzheimer's Care Support Group @7pm in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 8

- Sunday School @9am in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Worship Service @10am: **Second Sunday of Advent**
- Meet and Greet in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship
- CAMTA in Sanctuary @1pm



FAITH VOLUNTEERS

December 1

Greeter(s): Ramona & John Backman
Reader: John McCracken
Lay Assistant: Brenda Kopf
Ushers: Jon & Elaine Harrison
Altar Care: Cecelia Kramer
S/S: No Class/Thanksgiving Break
Coffee Hour: Hereza Family
Counters: Jack Dingledine & Randy Royalty
Acolyte: Abigail Steinke

December 8

Greeter(s): Harold & Jan Sollenberger
Reader: Brenda Kopf
Lay Assistant: Megan Floyd
Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt
Altar Care: Tammy Heilman
S/S: Brenda Kopf/?
Coffee Hour: Meet & Greet
Doug Hirt/Harold Sollenberger/Matt Schnizlein
Acolyte: Maddie Webb

EVENTS

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Order forms can be found in the Narthex, or one can be emailed to you. Please contact Kalea at faith@faithlutheranokemos.org for more information or return your order form to the church office no later than **Sunday, December 1st**.



MEET & GREET

The Call Committee has recommended Megan Floyd to serve as our Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church. **She will be preaching at Faith on December 8th. Coffee hour will be held in the Fellowship Hall following worship for a meet and greet with the congregation.** There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help provide treats or snacks or help in the kitchen that day. See Tammy if you have any questions.

A congregational meeting will be scheduled on Sunday, December 15, following the worship service, for a vote on whether to call Megan Floyd. She comes to us with a wealth of experience; she has served as a children, youth and family minister for 13 years and is passionate about the Gospel and sharing God's all-inclusive love.

LanSING OUT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

LanSINGout is a voluntary community chorus providing the opportunity for LGBTQ+ persons and their allies. See <https://www.lansingout.com>, for more information. The concert will be held on December 13, at 7:30pm in Lansing.

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 give your payment to Diane Hill **by December 1st**. You can either pay in cash or write a check to Williamston Theatre.