



EPIPHANY
January 5, 2025
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
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Sound Technicians Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
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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

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

PRELUDE

“Wexford Carol” and “Hear the Glad Tidings”

arr. Olive Nelson Russell

VERSE OF THE DAY

[Read in Unison]

Let the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts be pleasing to you, God, our rock and our redeemer.

Psalm 19:14 Common English Bible

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
✝ forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG – AS WITH GLADNESS (ELW 302)



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

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

♩ = 112



1. Lord, the light of Your love is shin - ing,
 2. Lord, I come to Your awe - some pres - ence,
 3. As we gaze on Your king - ly bright - ness,



in the midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing;
 from the shad - ows in - to Your rad - i - ance;
 so our fac - es dis - play Your like - ness;



Je - sus, Light of the world, shine up - on us, set us free by the
 By the blood I may en - ter Your bright - ness, search me, try me, con -
 Ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our



truth You now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.
 sune all my dark - ness. Shine on me, shine on me.
 lives tell Your sto - ry. Shine on me, shine on me.

13 A E/A A D A Bm Bm/A Esus E

Shine, Je - sus, shine, _____ fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;

17 A E/A A D A Bm Bm/A G Esus E

Blaze Spir - it, blaze, _____ set our hearts on fire.

21 A E/A A D A Bm Bm/A

Flow, riv - er, flow, _____ flood the na - tions with

24 Esus E A E/A A D A

grace and mer - cy; Send forth Your word, _____ Lord, and

27 Bm E7 A D/A E/A D/A Last time
A D/A A

let there be light.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING ISAIAH 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

PSALM OF THE DAY: 72:1-7, 10-14

All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

- ⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
- ¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
- ¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
- ¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the

mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

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

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – WE THREE KINGS (WOV 646)

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
 2 Born a king on Beth-le-hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
 3 Frank-in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri -

far, field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low-ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 nigh; prayer and prais-ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor-ship-ing God Most High.
 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 fice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty

bright; west-ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

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

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

"We Three Kings"

arr. Ann Buys

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“The First Noel”

“The First Noel”

arr. Bill Wolaver

arr. Alan Simon

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

Strengthened by this goodness,

send us forth to announce your peace,

comfort the afflicted,

and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of love,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,

lavish you with grace,

illumine your path,

and increase your joy,

today and always.

Amen.

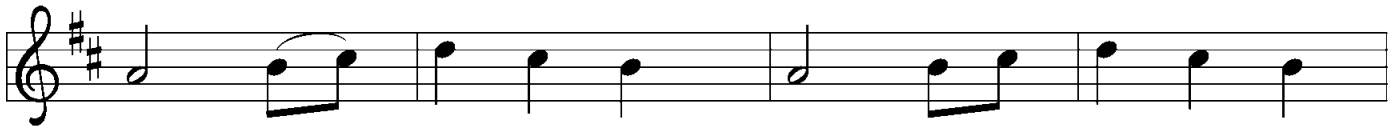
SENDING SONG – THE FIRST NOEL (ELW 300)



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

arr. Bill Wolaver

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FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 5

- No Sunday School
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **Epiphany**

Monday, January 6

- Boy Scouts @7pm in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 8

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

Saturday, January 11

- CAMTA Workshop @12pm in Sanctuary

Sunday, January 12

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: Baptism of our Lord, Lectionary 1

PRAYER PARTNERS

We are also participating in this activity and would love for you to add your signature. The letter is located on the table under the bulletin board entitled Prayer Partners.

For safety reasons, please do not allow your children to wander unsupervised past the coat racks or downstairs during the church service.

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

January 5

Greeter(s): Lois Neves

Reader: Jon Harrison

Lay Assistant: Ryan Thompson

Ushers: Jon & Elaine Harrison

Altar Care: Tammy Heilman

Sunday School: No Class

Coffee Hour: Harold & Jan Sollenberger

Counters: Matt Schnizlein/John McCracken

Acolyte:

January 12

Greeter(s): John & Ramona Backman

Reader: Linda Hirt

Lay Assistant: Doug Hirt

Ushers: Randy Royalty/John Backman

Altar Care: Tammy Heilman

Sunday School: Brenda Kopf/Heidi Bowers

Coffee Hour: Angie & Rich - Pantry

Counters: Ramona Backman/Jamie Royalty

Acolyte:
