

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD February 2, 2025 10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Presiding Minister	Assistant to Bishop Rev.Chrisy Bright
Pastor	Megan Floyd
Administrative Assistant	Kalea Sanford
Music Director	Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist	Bruce Williams
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 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 Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

PRELUDE

"To Be Your Presence"

arr. Robert A. Hobby

VERSE OF THE DAY

For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory; no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.

PSALM 84:11

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, Who forgives all our sin, Whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

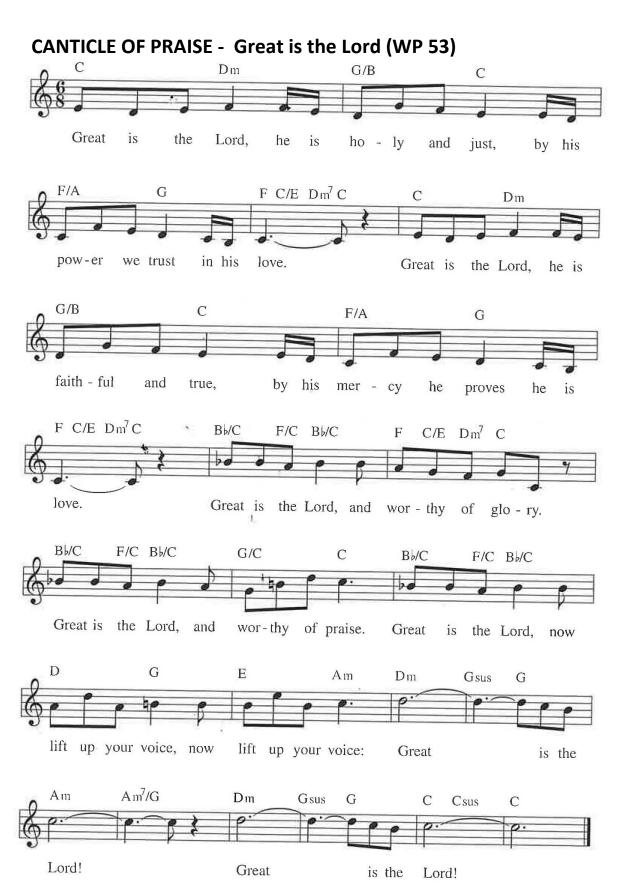
GATHERING HYMN- Love Divine, all Love Excelling (ELW 631)



ONE LICENSE LICENSING PERMISSION REPRINTED/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.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, your only begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly will be seated.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17-3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendants of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 84

- ¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!
- ² My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- ³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

⁴ Happy are they who dwell in your house!

They will always be praising you.

- ⁵ Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- ⁶ Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

- ⁷They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
- 8 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.
- ⁹ Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your anointed.
- ¹⁰ For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

 I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
 - ¹¹ For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory; no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk with integrity.
 - ¹² O LORD of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.

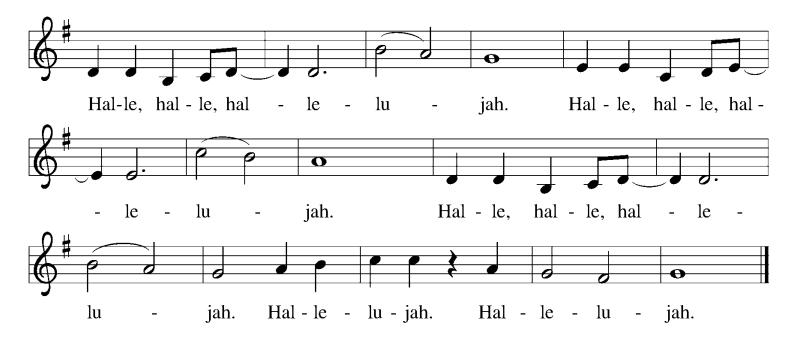
¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

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

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

- ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
- ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 - ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
- ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."
- ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
- ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

The assembly will be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY – Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken (ACS 966)



ONE LICENSE LICENSING PERMISSION REPRINTED/STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-708005

APOSTLES 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.

INSTALLATION OF THE REV. MEGAN FLOYD

Rev. Chrisy Bright conducts the installation

The pastor to be installed and the church council president come before Rev. Bright and the assembly

PRESENTATION

Rev. Chrisy Bright

Having been authorized by the church to install Rev. Megan Floyd, our co-worker in the gospel, as pastor, I now ask for certification of this call.

Matt Schnizlein Congregation Council Vice- President

After prayerful deliberation, we, of Faith Lutheran Church, have called Rev. Megan Floyd to serve as a minister of word and sacrament in the position of pastor of Faith Lutheran Church.

I present Rev. Megan Floyd and this letter certifying the call.

The assembly may be seated

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

Rev. Chrisy Bright

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

Rev. Bright questions Rev. Floyd

Pastor Megan, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church?

Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

People of God, will you receive Pastor Megan as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard Pastor Megan as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for Pastor Megan? Will you help and honor Pastor Megan in carrying out this ministry? In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Rev. Bright addresses Rev. Floyd

Pastor Megan, the office of Pastor is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Rev. Floyd kneels as Rev. Bright proclaims God's blessing:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Rev. Floyd stands

Korine Wawrzynski – Member of Mutual Ministry Committee (from the font)

You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

Matt Schnizlein – Member of RIC Committee (from the pulpit)

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

Diane Hill – Chair of Worship and Music Committee (from the altar)

You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

Rev. Bright addresses the assembly

People of God, I present to you Pastor Megan Floyd, your Pastor.

Let us welcome Pastor Megan in the name of Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

"One Step He Leads"

Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir

LITURGICAL HAND WASHING

Pastor and assisting ministers sanitize and wash their hands

I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. – Psalm 26:6-7

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

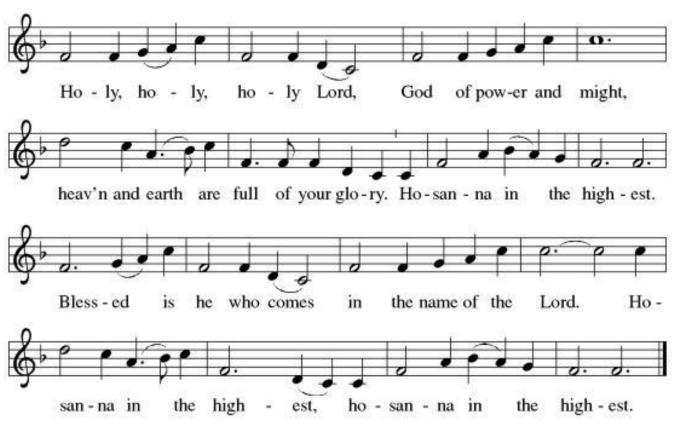
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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.

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 kin[g]dom 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 kin[g]dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

All are invited to come to the table to receive what the Lord offers. If, however, you would prefer not to receive communion, you may come to the table for a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG – Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet (WP 144)



the

to

you

I

will love

end.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

"There Is A Balm in Gilead"

arr. Joseph M. Martin

Please stand as you are able.

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

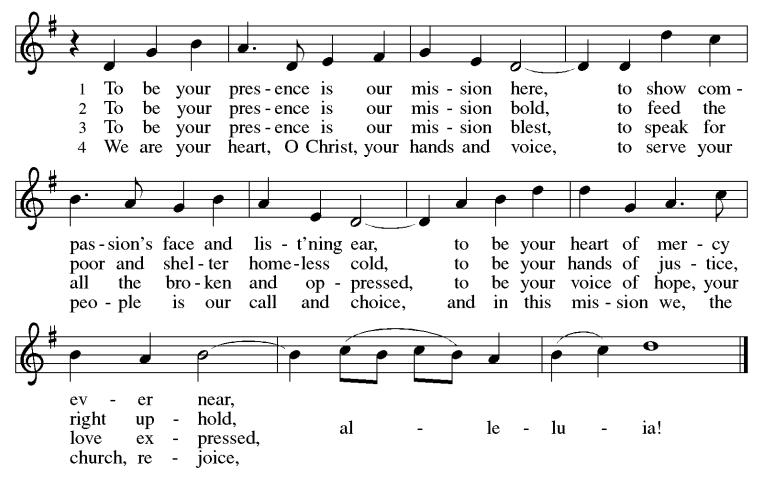
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

BLESSING

Amen.

SENDING SONG – To Be Your Presence (ELW 546)



ONE LICENSE LICENSING PERMISSION REPRINTED/STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-708005

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Heavenly Sunlight"

arr. Mark Hayes

Copyright Information

Acknowledgments: Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All Rights Reserved. CCLI: Streaming License #CSPL141616 Size B. CCLI Church Copyright License #720217 Size B. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS00803. 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, February 2

- Sunday School @9am in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: Presentation of Our Lord
- Installation of Pastor Megan
- Potluck immediately following service in Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 3

• Boy Scouts @7pm in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 5

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

Thursday, February 6

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

Saturday, February 8

• Youth Event @6:30 in Sunday School/Youth Room

Sunday, February 9

- Sunday School @9am in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: 5th Sunday after Epiphany
- Bowling Event in East Lansing @12pm

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

February 2 February 9

Greeter(s): Mike Eschelbach Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer

Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner

Ushers: Gwynne & Mark Kadrofske

Altar Care: Rich Weingartner Sunday School: John McCracken

Coffee Hour: Potluck

Counters: Matt Schnizlein/Tammy Heilman

Acolyte: Isaak Nyquist

Greeter(s): Doug & Linda Hirt Reader: Ryan Thompson

Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach

Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt Altar Care: Rich Weingartner Sunday School: John McCracken

Coffee Hour: Potluck

Counters: Ramona Backman/Jamie Royalty

Acolyte: Charlie Herek

The flowers on the altar are provided by Harold and Jan Sollenberger.

They are in memory of Lois, Carol and Olie.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOWLING

Join us for a fun day of bowling! Membership Development is hosting an event **at Pins and Pints on Sunday, Feb. 9**th **from 12 pm - 2 pm.** The cost is \$17 and needs to be *paid to the church by February 2nd* please note on your check or envelope "Bowling Event". This will include 2 hours of bowling, pizza, and pop.

YOUTH CORNER – SPECIAL EVENT

A welcome party for Jamile and Calvin, two Living Water Ministries camp counselors and mentors from CHARGE, will be at FLC on **Saturday, February 8, 6:30 pm.** We will have dinner, beverages, and snacks, along with games (foosball, air hockey, ping pong, board games) and a bonfire with S'mores! Jamile and Calvin will stay overnight with a host family on Saturday and join everyone for service Sunday morning and may stay for our bowling event on Sunday! **All youth are invited!!**

STANDING WITH OUR SIX YOUNG MEN

Please plan to stay after worship **on Sunday, February 16** for a potluck and the viewing of a powerful panel discussion on Immigration, Congregations, and Ministry in 2025. Signup sheets for the Potluck are on the table in the narthex.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Interested in community service? An opportunity is available at the City Rescue Mission of Lansing on the fourth Thursday evening (6:20pm - 7:45 pm) of each month. Jamie and Randy Royalty volunteer at this time and would love to have FLC youth join them (and they can provide rides to the Mission if needed). Contact Jamie or Randy for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NO CLASS DATES

February 16 (Presidents Day Break) March 23 (Spring Break) March 30 (Spring Break) April 20 (Easter Sunday)

EUCHRE NIGHT

If you are a Euchre player, mark **Saturday, March 8**th on your calendar for our next tournament. A sign-up sheet and more details will be coming soon.

UPCOMING LUNCH BUNCH DATES

Cecilia Kramer, Janet Boyer, and Deb Borton will be hosting on **February 19th** and the quilters will be hosting on **March 19th**. If you would like to host a Lunch Bunch please reach out to Tammy.

ADOPT A PRODUCT

Are you curious about our FLC Micro-Pantry Project? You would like to help but don't know where to start? Here is your opportunity! Products are needed daily by the Box Brigade to stock our two Pantry locations. Pick a tag from our display in the Narthex for your preferred level of commitment. Several levels are available based on your time, energy, or ability. Items may be purchased at local area stores and dropped off at the church Pantry Cupboard.

Alternatively, you can provide a check payable to FLC with "Pantry Products" on the memo line for your selected product covering a week, month, or annual purchase price. The Pantry Savvy Shoppers will handle the rest.

The Micro-Pantry Project is one of the most direct ways that FLC has to reach out to the community. As an Adopt-a-Product sponsor, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are directly contributing to its success as a resource for basic food products for local families in need. For additional information contact Cecelia Kramer at 517-349-3297.