

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 19, 2025

10:00 AM

Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Organist/Pianist
Sound Technicians
Church Office Email
Website
Facebook Page

Rev. Megan Floyd
Kalea Sanford
Debra Borton-McDonough
Bruce Williams
Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
www.faithlutheranokemos.org
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.

For safety reasons, please do not allow your children to wander unsupervised past the coat racks or downstairs during the church service. Our nursery is open but not staffed. You are welcome to use it, but please do not leave your children unattended.

PRELUDE

“The Gift of Love”

arr. Hal Hopson

Faith Bells

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Most merciful God,

All: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

All: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – The Church’s One Foundation (ELW 654)



1 The church’s one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ’ry na - tion, yet one o’er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms. . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav’n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: “How long?”
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav’n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



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

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE – He Is Exalted (WP 55)



He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high; I will praise him.



He is ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and I will praise his



name. Je - sus is Lord, for - ev - er his truth shall



reign; hea - ven and earth re - joice in his ho - ly



name. He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on high.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Asst: Let us pray. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching.

³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON



Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

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

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

GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

Jesse Barr, *Living Water Ministries*

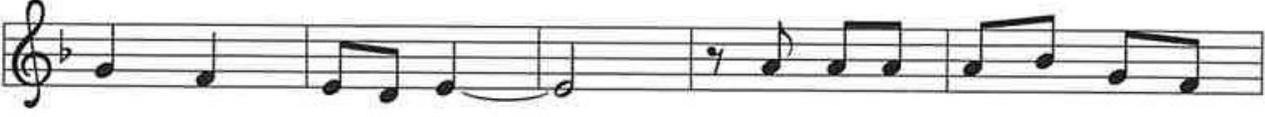
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY – There is a Longing in Our Hearts (ACS 1078)

Refrain – All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

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

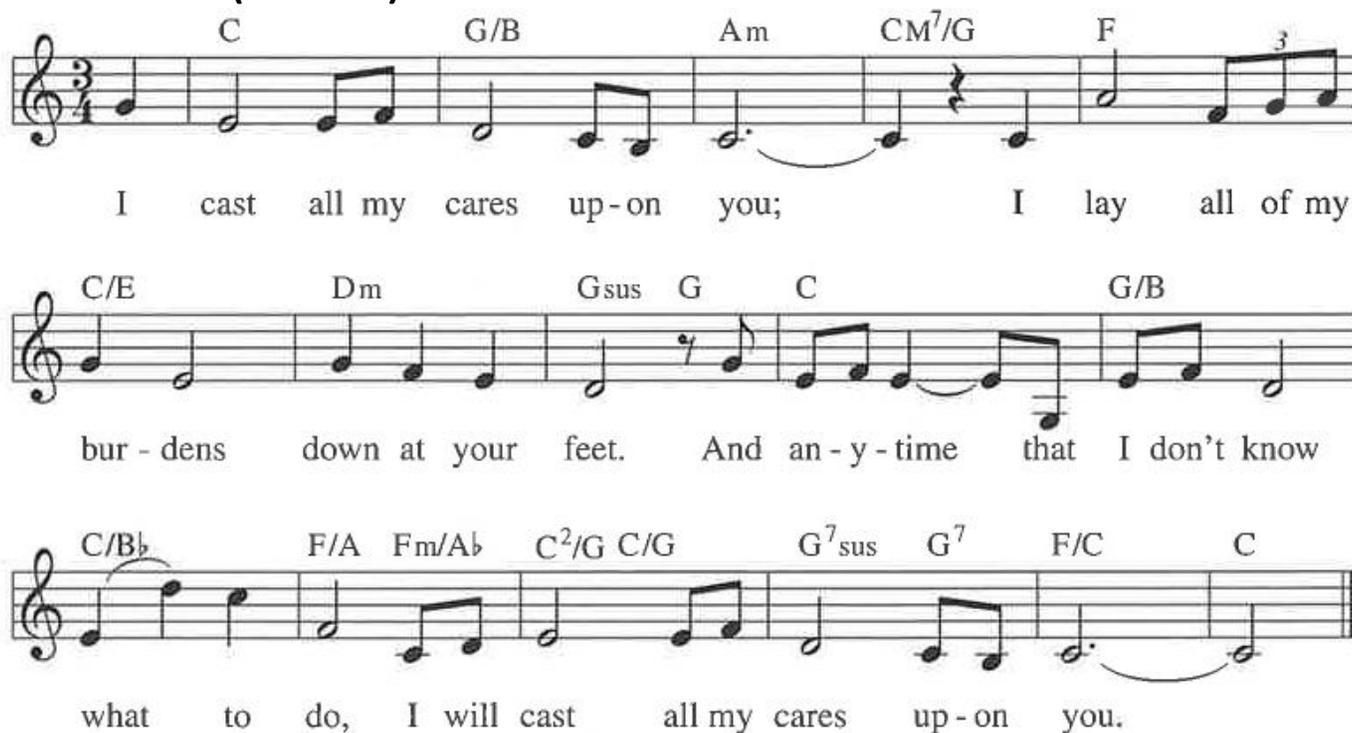
APOSTLES CREED

Pastor: Joining the saints from every time and place, let us confess our faith.

All: **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

Cares Chorus (W&P 27)



I cast all my cares up-on you; I lay all of my
bur - dens down at your feet. And an - y - time that I don't know
what to do, I will cast all my cares up - on you.

Asst: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

...God of grace,

All: **Receive our prayer.**

Pastor: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Repeat "Cares Chorus"

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING

"I Lift Up Mine Eyes"

Alan Pote

Chancel Choir
Gwynne Kadrofske, flute

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*



OFFERING RESPONSE – We are an Offering (ELW 692)

The musical score is written on six staves of music. Each staff has a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) on the first, third, and sixth staves. The lyrics are: "We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing."

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst: Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

Pastor: 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 (ELW 191)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



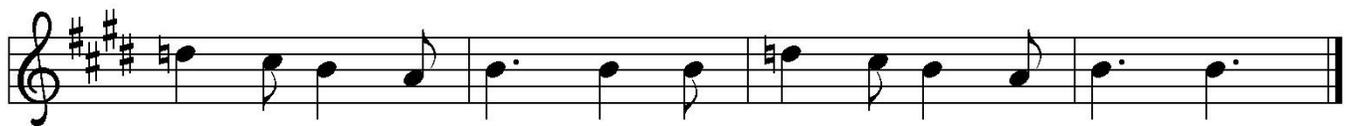
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: 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

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

All: **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

Pastor: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy!

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.

Gluten free wafers are available upon request when you come to receive communion at the altar rail.

Our trays have wine (darker liquid) in the outer part of the tray, and grape juice (lighter liquid) in the center. Please choose whichever you prefer.

If it would be easier for you to have communion brought to you, please let an usher know and we will be happy to serve you at your seat.

If you have any further questions, please ask an usher.

The assembly may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD (WOV 621)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG – Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW 773)



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Please stand as you are able.

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

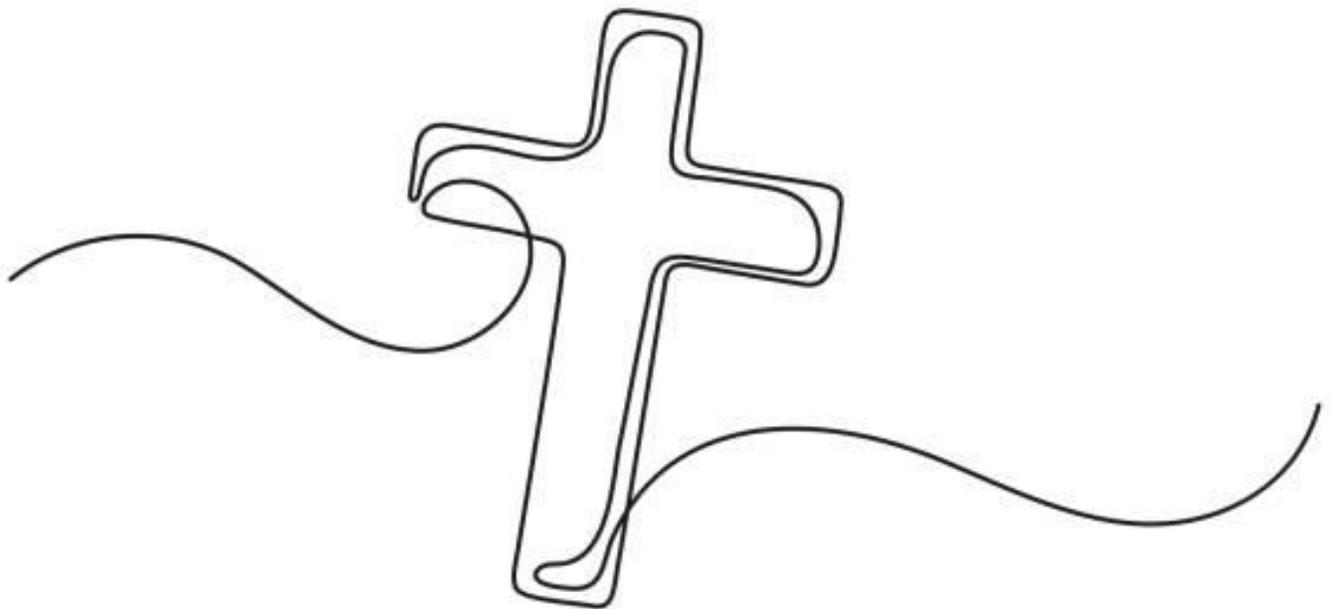
Asst: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: **Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor: May the God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

All: **Amen.**



SENDING SONG – Bennydiction (Nathan Schleicher)

Bennydiction is a song that Nathan Schleicher wrote for Living Water Ministries, and it is a camp favorite!

It is a Call-and-Response song, so jump in on the bolded lines.

BENNYDICTION

Sending forth God's love . . . **Sending forth God's love**
As we leave this place . . . **As we leave this place**
From all comforts here . . . **From all comforts here**
We are sent with grace . . . **We are sent with grace**

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you
May God look upon you with favor, and give you peace

Sending forth God's love . . . **Sending forth God's love**
As we leave this place . . . **As we leave this place**
From all comforts here . . . **From all comforts here**
We are sent with grace . . . **We are sent with grace**

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you
May God look upon you with favor, and give you peace

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you
May God look upon you with favor, and give you peace

So go in peace . . . **Thanks be to God**
So go in peace . . . **To love and serve the Lord**
So go in peace . . . **Alleluia, Amen**
So go in peace

DISMISSAL

Asst: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

arr. Calvin Taylor

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, October 19

Worship Service @10:00am: **19th Sunday after Pentecost**
HS Youth Group @5pm

Monday, October 20

Scouts @5:30pm in Sunday School/Youth Room
Forest Hills Meeting @6pm in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 21

Bible Study @12pm in Library
Girl Scouts @5:30pm

Wednesday, October 22

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

Thursday, October 23

A time of prayer @11:45am in the Sanctuary (or wherever you are)

Saturday, October 25

CAMTA @12pm in Sanctuary

Sunday, October 26

Reformation Sunday
Worship Service@10:00am: **20th Sunday after Pentecost**
Quarterly Meeting after Worship

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

October 19

Greeter(s): Mike Eschelbach
Usher(s): Doug & Linda Hirt
Coffee Hour: Randy and Jamie Royalty
Counters: Kathy Mace/Matt Schnizlein
Noisy Offering:
Acolyte:
Reader: Kara Floyd
Lay Assistant: Bob Nelson
Altar Care: Jamie Royalty

October 26

Greeter(s): Rich Weingartner
Usher(s): Elaine & Jon Harrison
Coffee Hour:
Counters: Kathy Mace/Kay Hillberg
Noisy Offering: Matt Schnizlein
Acolyte:
Reader: Megan Nyquist
Lay Assistant: Harold Sollenberger
Altar Care: Brenda Kopf



We invite you to hold these people in your prayers each day this week.

We pray for all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and overall health and wellness, especially **Kathy, Stella, Kari Lyn**, Danielle, Grace, Julie, Marj, Kate, and Marla.

We pray for all those in military service, especially those connected to our community: Alex, Braxton, Joey, Jon, Landon, Hannah, Joe, Reuben, Lane, and Aiden.

We pray for the larger church, especially our synod prayer partner, Advent Lutheran in Lake Ann, their pastor, Rev. Roseann Anderson, and our companion synods in Papua New Guinea and Honduras.

****New additions to our prayers are listed in bold; names will remain on the printed list for six weeks. Please contact the church office or Pastor Megan to add or reinstate names to the prayer list.***

Prayer Partners Letter

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT AUCTION FOR A BEAUTIFUL QUILT! – Bidding ends today at noon!

Funds raised will be used for the supplies we need to make more quilts for Lutheran World Relief and local shelters. If anyone is interested in joining the quilting group, you'd be most welcome! We meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am down in the church basement, work for a couple hours, and then have coffee together. No experience needed!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

We are collaborating with University Lutheran to form a community High School Youth Group that will meet in the evenings on the first Sunday of the month at ULC, and on the third Sunday of the month at Faith. We'll share a meal and build community through various activities. **Our next meeting is Sunday, October 19 @5pm @Faith.**

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE

Your Faith-ful Finance Committee wants to put forward the best 2026 Budget Proposal possible! To do that, we would greatly appreciate knowing your plans for sharing in the ministry here at Faith. Please return your pledge card to the offering plate or complete the online pledge form by clicking this link: [Online Pledge](#). *Pledges are due by our quarterly meeting on Sunday, October 26th!*

REFORMATION SUNDAY – October 26th

We'll celebrate the ongoing reformation of the Church by handing out Bibles to our youth. Join us to joyfully receive God's word.

QUARTERLY MEETING – October 26th, after worship

We walk this Faith journey together... and our quarterly meetings are the perfect opportunity for your congregational leadership to share with you what's new. Please plan to stay after worship and participate in this important time together.

FAITH FORMATION: Pre-K through Middle School (Confirmation):

We will meet on the third Wednesday evening each month for a community meal, followed by a VBS-style rotation for our younger students and confirmation programming for our middle schoolers. **Our next Faith Formation night is Wednesday, November 19 @5:45pm.**

PIE FEST

The Membership Development Committee is hosting a Pie Fest in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 23rd. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex!