

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **November 16, 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

“Glad Adoration”

Cathy DeRousse; arr. Kevin McChesney
Faith Bells

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

All: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Deacon: Faithful God,

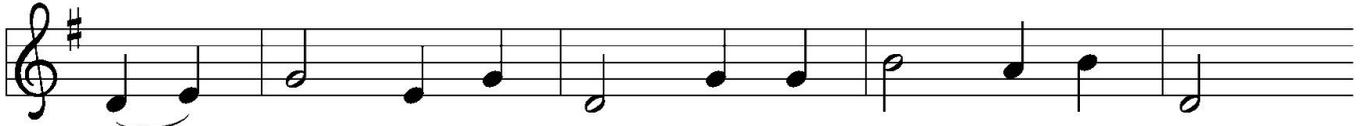
**All: you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths.
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom
of your faithful promises.
We ignore our neighbors.
We exploit the earth.
We reject your abundance,
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.
Repair our relationships,
restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts,
and bring us to new life.**

All: Amen.

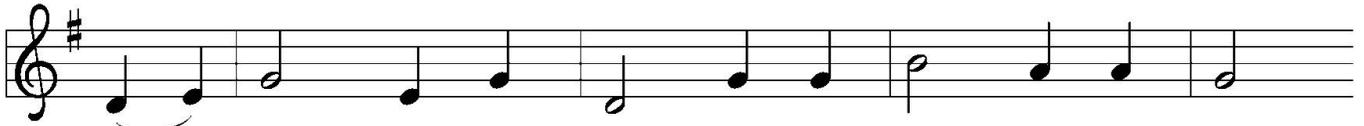
Deacon: Hear the good news:
God the Faithful One loves you,
† in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – How Firm a Foundation (ELW 796)



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

GREETING

Deacon: 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)

F F/A Bb Bb/D C/E

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

F F/A Bb C/Bb Bb/C C

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

Dsus D/C Gm Dm/F C/E C F Am

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

Bb F/A Gm Dm/F C/E C F Am

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

Bb F/A Gm Bb/F EbM7 Bb/C F Bb/F F

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Asst: Let us pray. O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING Malachi 4:1-2a

Malachi, whose name means “my messenger,” warns that “the day is coming.” On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the “sun of righteousness” will shine on those who honor God.

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98

¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

² **O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵ Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the
earth.**

⁹ The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

This portion of the letter provides encouragement for the church at Thessalonica during a time of confusion and opposition, as some allowed their concern over Jesus' imminent return to divert them from the central teachings of the gospel.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON



Please stand as you are able.

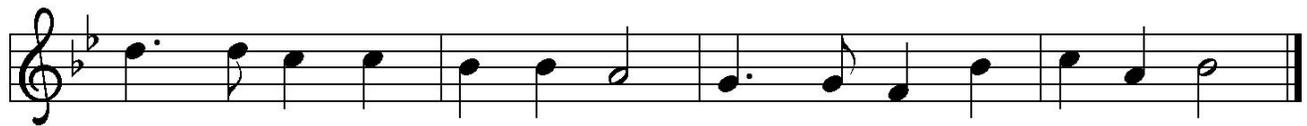
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL Luke 21:5-19

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

Deacon Kim O’Brien

Please stand as you are able.



HYMN OF THE DAY – My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (ELW 596)



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

APOSTLES CREED

Deacon: 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)

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of three staves. The lyrics are: "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." The guitar chords are: C, G/B, Am, CM7/G, F, C/E, Dm, Gsus, G, C, G/B, C/Bb, F/A, Fm/Ab, C2/G, C/G, G7sus, G7, F/C, C.

Asst: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

...God of grace,

All: **Your mercy is great.**

Deacon: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Repeat "Cares Chorus"

PEACE

Deacon: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING

"Sing of the Lord's Goodness"

Ernest Sands and John Carter

Chancel Choir

Bruce Williams and Megan Nyquist, piano

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING RESPONSE – We are an Offering (ELW 692)

The musical score is written on six staves of music. It begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' above the notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst: God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Deacon: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

All: **we give you thanks and praise.**

Deacon: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

All: **we give you thanks and praise.**

Deacon: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

All: **we give you thanks and praise.**

Deacon: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and fill our hearts with the fragrance of your extravagant love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

All: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: 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.**

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

Deacon: May the love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
The holy Trinity bless you ✝
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG – Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

DISMISSAL

Asst: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

The assembly may be seated.

POSTLUDE

“Foundation”

arr. Wilbur Held

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 16

Worship Service @10:00am: **23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Monday, November 17

Scouts @5:30pm in Sunday School/Youth Room

Tuesday, November 18

Bible Study @12pm - Hybrid

Wednesday, November 19

Quilters @9:30am

FLC Staff Meeting @10:15am

Lunch Bunch @11:45am in Fellowship Hall

Girls Scouts @5:30pm in Sunday School/Youth Room

Faith Formation @5:45pm

Faith Bell Choir @6:30pm

Faith Chancel Choir @7:30pm

Thursday, November 20

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

Sunday, November 23

Worship Service @10:00am: **Christ the King**

Pie Fest following the service in Fellowship Hall

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

November 16

Greeter(s): Doug & Linda Hirt
Usher(s): Doug & Linda Hirt
Coffee Hour: Kathy Richardson
Counters: Kathy Mace & Doug Hirt
Noisy Offering:
Acolyte:
Reader: Ray Herek Jr.
Lay Assistant: Brenda Kopf
Altar Care: Tammy Heilman

November 23

Greeter(s): Harold & Jan Sollenberger
Usher(s): John McCracken/Ken Milne
Coffee Hour: Pie Fest in Fellowship Hall
Counters: John McCracken
Noisy Offering: Matt Schnizlein
Acolyte:
Reader: Ryan Thompson
Lay Assistant: Ray Herek
Altar Care: Elaine Harrison



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 **Katy**, Paul, Denise, Jennifer, Calisa, Kim, Kathy, Kari Lyn, Danielle, Grace, 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, Victory Lutheran in Ludington, their pastor, Rev. Domingo Shriver, 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

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**. We hope to see you there!

POINSETTIA ORDERS

It's that time of year again! The cost is \$23/plant.

Checks should be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church and placed in the offering plate or returned to the office. **The last day to order your plant(s) is Sunday, November 30th**. Order forms can be found in the Narthex.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

We are collaborating with University Lutheran to form a community High School Youth Group. They 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, December 7 @5pm @ ULC.**