

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



## EPIPHANY JANUARY 4, 2026 10:00AM

Pastor	Rev. Megan Floyd
Administrative Assistant	Kalea Sanford
Music Director	Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist	Bruce Williams
Sound Technicians	Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
Church Office Email	<a href="mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org">faith@faithlutheranokemos.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org">www.faithlutheranokemos.org</a>
Facebook Page	<a href="https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos">facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos</a>

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.

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*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.*

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## **PRELUDE**

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

arr. Raymond Haan

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

**All: Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Reconciling God,

**All: we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.  
Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
† Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**All: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN: Arise, Your Light Has Come! (ELW 314)



- 1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
- 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
- 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
- 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

## 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: Angels We have Heard on High (ELW 289)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Asst: Let us pray. 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.

All: **Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*



## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6 (NirV)**

1 “People of Jerusalem, get up.

Shine, because your light has come.

The glory of the Lord will shine on you.

2 Darkness covers the earth.

Thick darkness spreads over the nations.

But I will rise and shine on you.

My glory will appear over you.

3 Nations will come to your light.

Kings will come to the brightness of your new day.

4 “Look up. Look all around you.

All your people are getting together to come back to you.

Your sons will come from far away.

Your daughters will be carried on the hip like little children.

5 Then your face will glow with joy.

Your heart will beat fast because you are so happy.

Wealth from across the ocean will be brought to you.

The riches of the nations will come to you.

6 Herds of young camels will cover your land.

They will come from Midian and Ephah.

They will also come from Sheba.

They’ll carry gold and incense.

And people will shout praises to me.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 (NirV)

<sup>1</sup>God, give the king the ability to judge fairly.

He is your royal son. Help him to do what is right.

<sup>2</sup> **May he rule your people in the right way.**

**May he be fair to those among your people who are hurting.**

<sup>3</sup> May the mountains and the hills produce rich crops,  
because the people will do what is right.

<sup>4</sup> **May the king stand up for those who are hurting.**

**May he save the children of those who are in need.**

**May he crush those who treat others badly.**

<sup>5</sup> May the king rule as long as the sun shines  
and the moon gives its light.

May he rule for all time to come.

<sup>6</sup> **May he be like rain falling on the fields.**

**May he be like showers watering the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> May godly people do well as long as he rules.

May they have more than they need as long as the moon lasts.

<sup>10</sup> **May the kings of Tarshish and of places far away  
bring him gifts.**

**May the kings of Sheba and Seba  
give him presents.**

<sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down to him.

May all nations serve him.

<sup>12</sup> **The king will save needy people who cry out to him.**

**He will save those who are hurting and have no one else to help.**

<sup>13</sup> He will take pity on those who are weak and in need.

He will save them from death.

<sup>14</sup> **He will save them from people who treat others badly.**

**He will save them from people who do mean things to them.**

**Their lives are very special to him.**

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12 (NirV)

<sup>1</sup>I, Paul, am a prisoner because of Christ Jesus. I am in prison because of my work among you who are Gentiles.

<sup>2</sup>I am sure you have heard that God appointed me to share his grace with you. <sup>3</sup>I'm talking about the mystery God showed me. I have already written a little about it. <sup>4</sup>By reading about this mystery, you will be able to understand what I know. You will know about the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>The mystery was not made known to people of other times. But now the Holy Spirit has made this mystery known to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>Here is the mystery. Because of the good news, God's promises are for Gentiles as well as for Jews. Both groups are parts of one body. They share in the promise. It belongs to them because they belong to Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup>I now serve the good news because God gave me his grace. His power is at work in me. <sup>8</sup>I am by far the least important of all the Lord's holy people. But he gave me the grace to preach to the Gentiles about the unlimited riches that Christ gives. <sup>9</sup>God told me to make clear to everyone how the mystery came about. In times past it was kept hidden in the mind of God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>He wanted the rulers and authorities in the heavenly world to come to know his great wisdom. The church would make it known to them. <sup>11</sup>That was God's plan from the beginning. He has fulfilled his plan through Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>Through him and through faith in him we can approach God. We can come to him freely. We can come without fear.

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, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. 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.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> '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.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly may be seated.*

**SERMON**

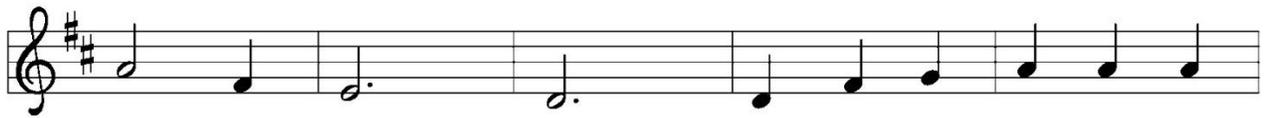
Pastor Megan Floyd

*Please stand as you are able.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

## *Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## **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

**Dona nobis pacem (ELW 753)** *Sung in unison.*

1 *Canon*



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2



Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

3



Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Asst: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

...God of grace,

All: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: **Amen.**

*Repeat "Dona nobis pacem," sung as a round.*

## PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

**OFFERING**

“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Anne Krentz-Organ

Handbell Quartet

**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*

*Please stand as you are able.*

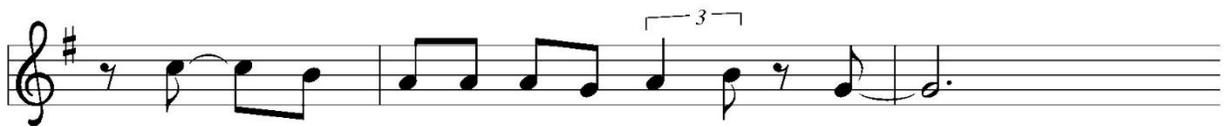
**OFFERING RESPONSE: We are Marching in the Light of God (ELW 866)**



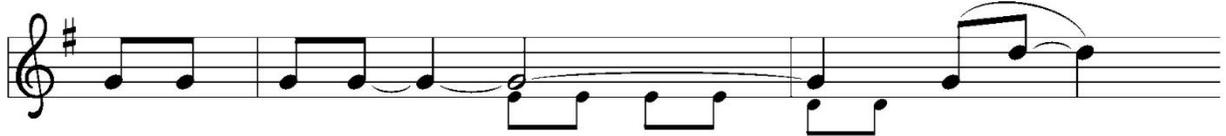
*Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -*  
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



*nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*  
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



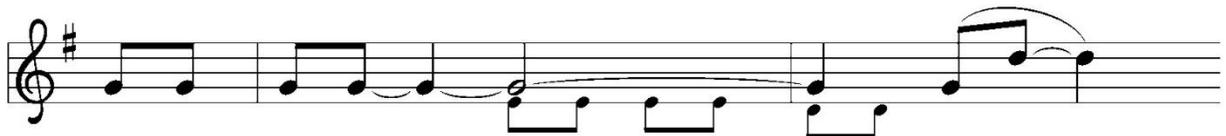
*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO*  
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO*  
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Asst: God of glory,  
great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow.  
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
through Christ our Savior.

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, al-mighty 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. 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 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: Praying now in whatever language or translation is the language of your heart, we pray as children of God:

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: God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

*The assembly may be seated.*

*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 still 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. Drop your empty cup in one of the baskets on the stands.*

*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.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION SONG: In the Bleak Midwinter (ELW 294)

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

*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: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.  
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.

All: **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Pastor: The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

All: **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG: Jesus, the Light of the World (ACS 914)



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;

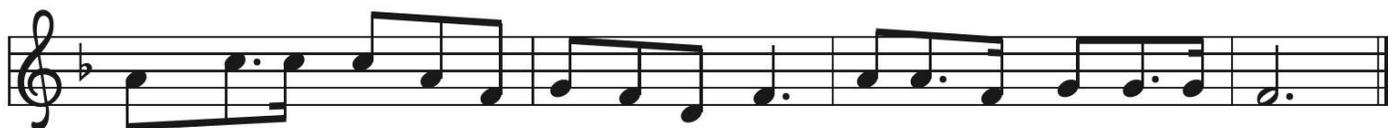


“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

### *Refrain*



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

## DISMISSAL

Asst: Glory to God in the highest!

**All: And peace to God's people on earth!**

Asst: Go in joy and embody God's redeeming grace.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Break Forth into Joy”

Christmas Oratori, J.S. Bach, arr. Van Denman Thompson

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# CHURCH CALENDAR

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## Sunday, January 4

Worship Service@10am: **Epiphany**

## Monday, January 5

Scouts @7pm in Sunday School/Room

## Tuesday, January 6

Bible Study @12pm – Hybrid

## Wednesday, January 7

Quilters@9:30am

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

Faith Bell Choir @6:30pm

Chancel Choir@7:30pm

## Sunday, January 11

Worship Service@10am: **Baptism of Our Lord Sunday**

### FAITH VOLUNTEERS

#### **January 4**

Greeter(s): Harold Sollenberger, Jan Mace

Usher(s): Brenda Kopf/Randy Royalty

Coffee Hour:

Counters:

Noisy Offering: N/A

Acolyte: Charlie Herek

Reader: Henry Brown

Lay Assistant: Paul Hereza

Altar Care: Elaine Harris

#### **January 11**

Greeter(s): Paula Pulter

Usher(s): Jon McCracken/Ken Milne

Coffee Hour:

Counters:

Noisy Offering: Matt Schnizlein

Acolyte: Charlie Herek

Reader: Andy Boyan

Lay Assistant: Harold Sollenberger

Altar Care: Tammy Heilman



*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 Sue, Troy, Krista, Eric, Beth, Logan, Garrett, Melinda, Rick, Kathy, Denise, Jennifer, CaLisa, Kim, Grace, Marj, and Kate.

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 Immanuel Lutheran in Mt. Pleasant, their pastor, Rev. Dana Hendershot 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."