

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 1, 2026

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

"Wondrous Love"

arr. Gordon Young

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.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdainning the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs
of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: What Wonderful Love is This (ELW 666)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

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.**

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Continued on next page

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Asst: Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹ The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON



Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Return to the Lord

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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.

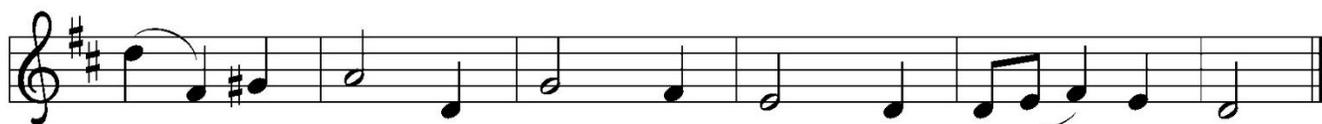
HYMN OF THE DAY: God Loved The World (ELW 323)



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

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

Sing the alternate verse: The Lord is my song...

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Asst: Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

...God of Grace,

All: your mercy is great.

Pastor: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

All: Amen.

Repeat “The Lord is my song.”

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING

“Lenten Meditation”

Jay Althouse

Chancel Choir

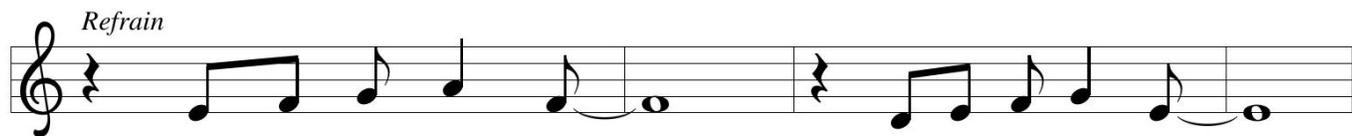
LITURGICAL HAND WASHING

Pastor and assisting ministers sanitize and wash their hands.

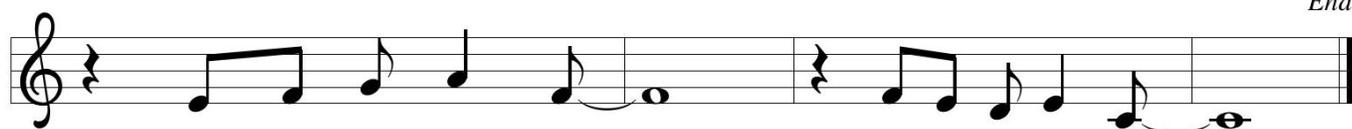
“I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.” – Psalm 26:6

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING RESPONSE: Change My Heart, O God (ELW 801)



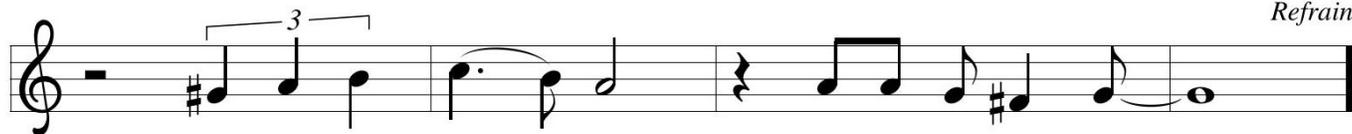
Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
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: Santo, Santo, Santo (ELW 473)

Sing in Spanish, then English



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

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: Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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, Your Only Son (ELW 336)



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me

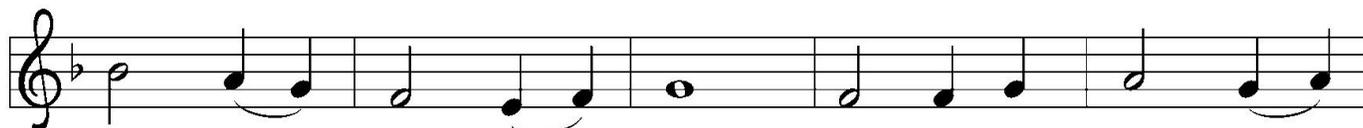


in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

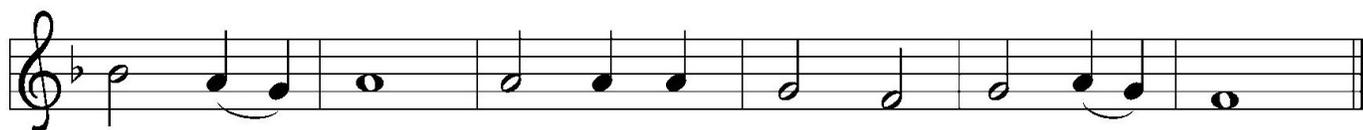
COMMUNION SONG: When I Survey the Wonderful Cross (ELW 803)



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

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: God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

SENDING SONG: Blessed Assurance (ELW 638)



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

DISMISSAL

Asst: Go in peace. Believe the good news!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly may be seated.

POSTLUDE

“Blessed Assurance”

arr. Steve Martin

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1

Worship Service@10am: **Second Sunday in Lent**
Pantry Meeting @11:30am in Library

Monday, March 2

Scouts @7pm in Sunday School/Room

Tuesday, March 3

Bible Study @12pm in Library and on Zoom

Wednesday, March 4

Quilters@9:30am
Girl Scouts @5:30pm in Sunday School/Youth Room
Faith Bells @6:15pm
Evening Prayer Service @7:15pm
Chancel Choir @7:45pm

Thursday, March 5

Capital Clergy Conference Meeting @10am in Fellowship Hall
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group @7pm in Fellowship hall

Sunday, March 8

Worship Service@10am: **Third Sunday in Lent**

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

March 1

Greeter(s): John & Phylis Schleicher
Usher(s): John McCracken/Jane Durga
Coffee Hour: Harold & Jan Sollenberger
Counters: John McCracken/Randy Royalty
Noisy Offering: N/A
Acolyte: Tabitha Richardson
Reader: Brenda Kopf
Lay Assistant: Harold Sollenberger
Altar Care: Jamie Royalty

March 8

Greeter(s): Herek Family
Usher(s): John McCracken
Coffee Hour: Randy & Jamie Royalty
Counters: Randy Royalty/Jack Dingledine
Noisy Offering:
Acolyte: Andrew Herek
Reader: Tabitha Richardson
Lay Assistant: Brenda Kopf
Altar Care: Heidi Bowers



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 **Cheryl**, Joe, Barb, Sue, Troy, Krista, Eric, Beth, Logan, Garrett, Melinda, Rick, Kathy, Grace, and Marj.

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 Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry and Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas, our synod prayer partner Hope Evangelical in Plainwell, their pastor Rev. Nicole Smith 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."



FLC Women of the ELCA Gathering Registration

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCA Triennial Gathering, July 16-19, 2026, Des Moines, Iowa!

Women of the ELCA are gathering in Des Moines this summer under the theme, "I Am Worthy," based on Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." The conference offers four days of inspirational speakers, workshops, Bible Study, and a quilting exhibit... plus fellowship and more.

Pastor Megan is planning to go and wants you to come along! It is a drivable distance (8-hour drive), and we have money for education available to offset the cost through scholarships. Please register to attend through this QR code – this form registers you with Faith Lutheran, not the event itself. Pastor Megan will register our group together once we know who is coming. Our lodging will likely be a large rental house, so we have access to a kitchen and meeting space. We'll drive there on July 15 and return on July 19. Let Pr Megan know if you have more questions!

PANTRY STEERING COMMITTEE

Pantry Steering Committee meetings are open to all who would like to attend; **please join us if you'd like! They're held in the church library, they begin about 15 minutes after the service ends (11:30ish), and they are 60 minutes long.** The next Pantry Steering Committee meeting will be on Sunday, March 1. We'll be clarifying and articulating the micro pantry vision/mission statement and developing a plan related to allocations of pantry funds for this year.

Dates for the rest of the Pantry Steering Committee meetings this year:

- **Sunday May 3**
- **Sunday July 12 (second Sunday of the month due to 4th of July first Sunday)**
- **Sunday Sept. 13 (second Sunday of the month due to Labor Day first Sunday)**
- **Sunday Nov. 1**

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

It's that time of year again! Easter Flower order forms are now out in the Narthex. Deadline is March 22nd. Reach out to Diane Hill for any questions.