



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

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www.faithfremont.org

All Saints Sunday

November 2, 2025

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest.” In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today’s gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior’s body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God’s glory.

Prelude: *Meditation on For All the Saints* **Robert M. Thompson**

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

***Opening Hymn:**

For All the Saints

ELW 422

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Greeting**

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

C: **And also with you.**

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

**C: 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.
Amen.**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

The book of Daniel was written in the second century BCE, when the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes was severely persecuting the Jews. Daniel's vision of the four beasts proclaims that human kings will come and go, but the kingdom will ultimately belong to God and to God's people.

R: A reading from Daniel, the seventh chapter.

¹ In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: ² I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³ and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹⁵ As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶ I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: ¹⁷ “As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalms 149

¹ Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song,
God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

² **Let Israel rejoice in their maker;
let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.**

³ Let them praise their maker's name with dancing;
let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.

⁴ **For the LORD takes pleasure in the people
and adorns the poor with victory.**

⁵ Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;
let them sing for joy on their beds.

⁶ **Let the praises of God be in their throat
and a two-edged sword in their hand,**

⁷ to wreak vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
⁸ **to bind their kings in chains**
and their nobles with links of iron,
⁹ to inflict on them the judgment decreed;
this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah!

Second Reading:

Ephesians 1:11-23

After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, the writer of this letter prays that they might understand the wisdom, hope, and power of God that is embodied in Jesus Christ.

R: A reading from Ephesians, first chapter.

¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel**

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus encounters Zacchaeus, a rich man who is also a lost sinner. Moved by Jesus' acceptance of him, Zacchaeus becomes a model of discipleship. In immediate response to being restored to God's people, Zacchaeus ministers to the poor and seeks reconciliation with those whom he has wronged.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 19th chapter.

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

P: ¹ [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Service of Light

P: Cherishing memories that are forever sacred; sustained by a faith that is stronger than death, today we remember these saints who entered their eternal home during this past year:

As each name is read, a candle is lit by the family or acolyte.

Phyllis J. Pollock
Robert L. Siefke
Alan Siefke
Dorothy M. Swedersky
Patsy L. Copley
Carnetta Weber
Edward LaFave
Jim Schwartz
Paul Antesberger

***Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

P: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: God of all that is, delight in the praises of your people and revive the spirit of your church. Move through us with boldness so that we proclaim the gospel of Christ throughout the world. Renew and revive pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of the beginning, give us the courage to advocate for environmental policy that will ensure a viable future for generations to come. Restore desolate places to health and flourishing. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all our days, guide the leaders of governments, nations, municipalities, and all those seeking office. Accompany election officials and volunteers. Dismantle injustice and oppression wherever it is found. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of comfort in troubled times, we pray for those in need of protection and care, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named)*. Trusting that you are constant in mercy, protect those who seek safety and solace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of what is yet to come, encourage and inspire those who give their time, talent, and treasure in service to your church. By their commitment, further the work of ministry in this place and uplift your gospel. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of time and space, we give thanks for the faithful departed: Phyllis, Robert, Alan, Dorothy, Patsy, Carnetta, Edward, Jim, and Paul. Sustain us in hope of our eternal unity in Christ. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(10:30) Sr. Choir: *Rise Up, O Saints of God* **E. Broughton**

Offering *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

P: 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.

By the witness of your saints

you show us the hope of our calling

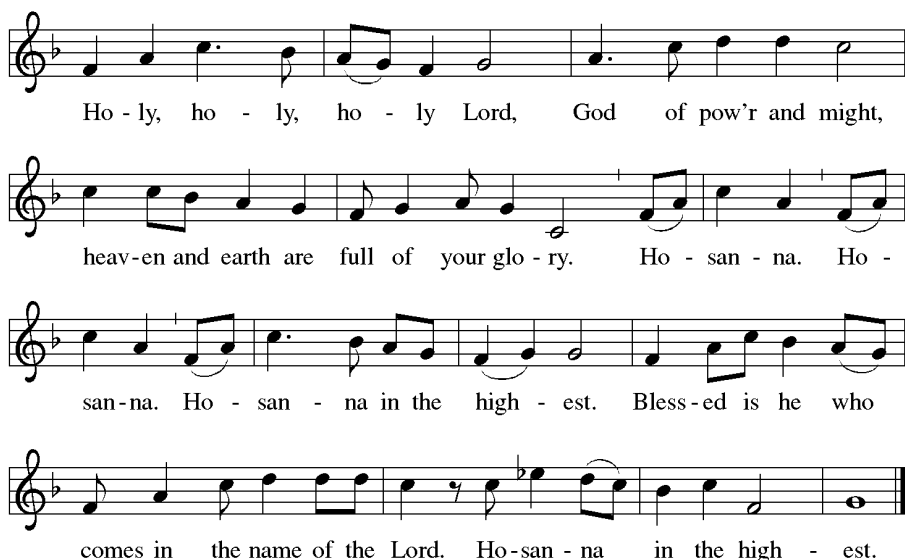
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,

that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.

And so, with all the saints,

with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

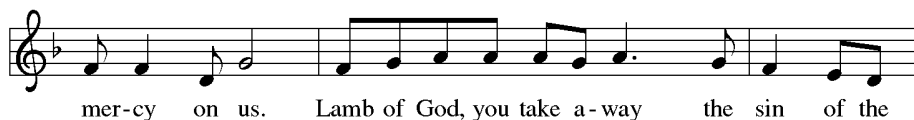
C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: There is a place for you at the table of God.

Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.



Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymn:

ELW 439 *Soon and Very Soon*

ELW 437 *On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand*

***Post Communion Blessing**

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

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven
that gives life to the world.
Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who
hunger and thirst,
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude:** *I Am Bound for the Promised Land* Buckner Gamby

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WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH this All Saints' Sunday.
Together with the faithful of every time and place, let us worship God.

CHERISHING MEMORIES that are forever sacred; sustained by a faith that is stronger than death, today we remember these saints who entered the Lord's rest during this past year:

Phyllis J. Pollock	December 21, 2024
Robert L. Siefke	January 5, 2025
Alan Siefke	October 22, 2025
Dorothy M. Swedersky	February 15, 2025
Patsy L. Copley	March 22, 2025
Carnetta Weber	April 7, 2025
Edward LaFave	June 12, 2025
Jim Schwartz	June 26, 2025
Paul Antesberger	September 25, 2025

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2026 – We are asking for two people to be our representatives at the Synod Assembly next year on Saturday, May 30, 2026. It will be from 9 am to 6 pm. Please see Dave Kocsis or Pastor Tim if interested.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – The order form is on the insert for you to order your Christmas Poinsettias. We have added a new color of Marble this year. The cost is \$11.00 each and the deadline is November 30th.

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH of our **Faith Lutheran Church Projects Capital Campaign**, a bold step toward protecting our facility with a new roof for the next 25+ years, transforming our fellowship entry way into a more accessible and welcoming one, and revamping our sanctuary sound system to enhance and improve our worship experience.

And here's the exciting part, a generous donor believes in this mission so strongly that they're willing to match the first \$20,000 raised! That means your support right now will go twice as far. Our initial goal is to raise \$20,000 by the end of 2025, and when we reach that goal, because of our generous donor, we'll have raised \$40,000!

To contribute to this, simply note on your offering or gift that it is for the **Faith Lutheran Projects Campaign**.

SIBERIAN SOLSTICE – St. Paul UCC, 165 Toussaint Street, Oak Harbor invites you to join them on Saturday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. for a musical celebration of Christmas presented by Siberian Solstice. This amazing group from northwest Ohio performs an exciting contemporary set of Christmas music as originally performed by the nationally acclaimed group Trans-Siberian Orchestra. The music format of traditional Christmas music and other classical pieces with electronic keyboards, drums and guitars can be enjoyed by all age groups. This year through music, video and narration the story of THE ANGEL'S GIFT will be told. No tickets are needed. It is a free will donation. A group of us from Faith Lutheran Church will be attending this concert and you are invited to join us! We will meet at 4:45 p.m. at the church and proceed to Arby's in Fremont for supper at 5 p.m. **PLEASE, WON'T YOU JOIN US?**

SACRED HEART'S ANNUAL FALL CRAFT SHOW will be held Friday, November 7th, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, November 8th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. You may want to stop in and check it out! Enjoy!



FLC Women's Thank Offering Sunday will be **November 9th, 2025.**

We welcome Cheryl Paeth to share the message and a representative will be here from Flag City Honor Flight to receive our proceeds from the Souper Soup Cookoff and Silent Auction. We will also recognize our Veterans at this Service. **Please pick up your Thank Offering envelopes in the Narthex.** Also, a basket for additional donations will be available on this Sunday to benefit the Flag City Honor Flight.

TOLEDO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State Street, Fremont is once again hosting the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. This year's concert will be held on **Thursday, December 18th, at 7 p.m.** in the church Sanctuary. We hope you will be a sponsor for this event. The cost of bringing the Toledo Symphony to Fremont is \$13,000.00. Please help underwrite this fine musical program with your generous contribution. The sponsor categories are listed on the letter found on the Women's Bulletin Board in the coat room area. Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church, earmarked for the Toledo Symphony, and mailed to 705 W. State St., Fremont, OH 43420. Tickets will be mailed 3 weeks prior to the concert. **Deadline for underwriting contributions is December 5th.** Sponsor Reserved Seating tickets are NOT transferable to General Admission seating. We thank you for your consideration. The Symphony Committee.

THE WOMEN OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, ROCKY RIDGE, would like to invite the ladies of your congregation to their **28th Annual Advent Brunch on Saturday, December 6, 2025,** beginning at

9:30 a.m. Brunch and fellowship will be enjoyed after the program.

Reservation forms for the Advent Brunch are available in your church office and **are due by November 23, 2025.** The cost for the brunch is \$10. You may reserve your ticket by mailing the form, plus payment to: Ann Schimming, 12351 W. State Route 105, Oak Harbor, OH 43449. Proceeds will benefit the Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center's TNT Mentoring program. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS IN TIMES OF WAR – A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Tuesday, December 9th, beginning at 7 p.m. we will hear about Christmas in the Trenches from Mike Gilbert. This presentation invites us to reflect on how Christmas has been observed during times of conflict – not a retreat from suffering, but as a bold declaration of faith. This reflection will remind us that the true meaning of Christmas – God’s love breaking into a broken world – has never been more powerful than when celebrated in the shadow of war. We will also have our December General Meeting of the women this night beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Please plan to join us. Light refreshments will be provided.

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Joan Bolen, Patty Carrigan, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Laurie Krynock, Bill Leutenegger, Mike Masella, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Gary Overmyer, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Becky Sterling, Janet Tressler, Linda Woessner. Matt Michael, Jackie Mowry,

Eric Paul, Teri Titkemeier, John Triplett, John, Heather, The World for Peace.

For the Family of: Paul Antesberger, Dorothy Hartford (Ruth Gerber’s Sister)

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Karly Paeth/Paeth Family Dave & Marilyn Ring

Lector: Lillian Harder Brielle Weiker

Acolyte: Lillian Harder Braelyn Weiker

Communion: G. Tooman/K. Paeth C. Trick & R. Brown

Counters: Ann Waggoner* & Anne Gerner

Fellowship Time Host: Adult II Sunday School Class

Altar Guild: Bonnie Overmyer & Deb Fahle

Ushers:

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer **Pianist:** Becky Fox

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Bob & Nancy Krumnow Ruth Gerber

Lector: Noah Seibert Evan McBride

Acolyte: Eric McBride

Communion: J. Neill/ A. Gazdecki R. Koch & L. Krynock

Counters: Dave Kocsis* & Judi Neill

Fellowship Time Host: Schneider

Altar Guild: Bonnie Overmyer & Deb Fahle

Ushers: (8:00) Karly Paeth

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Nov. 2 to Nov. 9

Sunday ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

Nov. 2-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

Monday

Nov. 3-----8 a.m. Prayer & Conversation at Raevia's
10 a.m. Valley View – Worship & Holy Communion
7 p.m. FLCW Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Dartball – Home vs. Oak Harbor

Tuesday ELECTION DAY

Nov. 4-----

Wednesday

Nov. 5----- 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir
7:15 p.m. Sr. Choir
7:15 p.m. Praise Choir
8:05 p.m. Cantata Practice

Thursday

Nov. 6-----9-3 p.m. Fellowship & Sew Day
3 p.m. Christ Care

Friday

Nov. 7-----11 a.m. Funeral for Paul Antesberger

Saturday

Nov. 8-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care

Sunday **FLCW THANK OFFERING SUNDAY**

Nov. 9-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

SUNDAY, OCT. 26, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 178 – OFFERING: \$4,505.17

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 2, 2025
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

A Great Reward

It's a dramatic scene: that moment in a movie when a large family comes together for the reading of the last will and testament. Usually, a lawyer sits facing the assembly with a pile of papers. The family members sit on the edge of their seats in anticipation. As the camera pans around the room, we can imagine their thoughts: "What will I get?" "Which one of us will keep the mansion?" "How much will my inheritance be?"

This typical scene of "reading the will" gets flipped upside down on All Saints Sunday. Yes, All Saints Sunday is about the reality of death and what happens next. But on this day, instead of looking at a lawyer, we look to Jesus. We give thanks for the inheritance Jesus has already made possible for us through his death on the cross and his resurrection to eternal life.

Our inheritance from Jesus isn't only hope for the future. It's the fuel that helps us live today. When we are poor, we can trust that one day, God will give us his kingdom. When we are hungry, we can trust that God will fill us. Jesus' words assure us that he is with us now and that our reward is great in heaven. In him, God has conquered sin and death. Our inheritance as children of God is secure.

Jesus' words are a comfort to us. His promise about our inheritance fills us with hope, especially when we hear the names of those who have died in the past year read aloud on All Saints Sunday. Even as we grieve their loss, we trust that their reward is great in heaven. Because of God's reconciling love for all creation, the inheritance of eternal life belongs to us and to the saints who have gone before us.