Welcome to

Faith Lutheran Church

**December 25, 2016**

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**4515 Dobie Road**

**Okemos, MI 48864**

**517-349-0620**

**Pastor Ellen Schoepf**

**prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org**

Sunday, December 25, 2016

First Sunday of Christmas

Service of Lessons and Carols

*If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.*

*The ushers also have large print copies of today’s worship folder available.*

*If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during*

*any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.*

*There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish*

*to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.*

*Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

Prayer Requests

PRELUDE

*The pre-service music signals the beginning of the worship service. Silence during the*

*pre-service music enables worshipers to prepare for worship through quiet meditation.*

"In the Bleak Midwinter" Phillip Keveren

*The assembly stands*

**Gathering song**

***Once in Royal David’s City ELW #269***

**Dialogue**

Jesus, the bright morning star, shines light in the world.

**By day and night, he shines for all to see.**

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty,

**that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

**so that all who believe in him may**

**not perish by have eternal life.**

Jesus is the light of the world.

**Jesus is the light of our lives.**

Sing to God a new song!

**A song of hope, joy and peace around the world.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in the darkness-a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord.

**Amen**

*The assembly is seated*

**Lessons and carols**

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

A reading from Genesis.

1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. 14And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. 17God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

**Carol**

***Of the Father’s Love Begotten ELW #295***

*Vs. 1 & 2*

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
 from you shall come forth for me  
 one who is to rule in Israel,  
 whose origin is from of old,  
 from ancient days.  
 3Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
 then the rest of his kindred shall return  
 to the people of Israel.  
 4And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
 to the ends of the earth;  
 5and he shall be the one of peace.  
 If the Assyrians come into our land  
 and tread upon our soil,  
 we will raise against them seven shepherds  
 and eight installed as rulers.

**Carol**

***Hark, the Glad Sound! ELW #239***

*Vs. 1 & 4*

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

A reading from Luke.

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 38Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Carol**

***The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came ELW #265***

*Vs. 1,2,4*

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

A reading from Matthew.

18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
 23"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
 and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Carol: Emmanuel (sing twice)

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Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

A reading from Luke.

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
 14"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"  
15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Carol**

***Angels We Have Heard on High ELW #289***

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

A reading from Matthew.

1In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:  
 6'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.'"  
7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then 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." 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On 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.

**Carol**

***What Child Is This ELW #296***

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

A reading from John.

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.  
10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.  
14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Carol**

***Love Has Come ELW #292***

*The assembly stands*

**Responsive prayer**

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

In his light, draw all to the manger,

**to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

In his light, draw all to the manger,

**to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

In his light, draw all to the manger,

**to sing for joy with the angels.**

In the brightness of his life,

**cast away the darkness of injustice,**

**poverty and hunger in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way,

**In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.**

Oh God, Landscaper of Peace, you root us in love and tend to us like a tree by the water. Turn over the soil of our indifference and week out the roots of violence and greed. In this season of joy and light, may our actions yield healing in a warring world, abundance in a hungry world, and comfort in a world of illness and hurt. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who calls us to a harvest of eternal peace.

**Amen**

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another*

*with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:*

**Peace be with you.**

*The assembly is seated*

**OfferinG**

Deb Borton-McDonough, soloist "Some Children See Him”

(Burt)

*The assembly stands*

**OfferinG prayer**

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the tree of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**Preface**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**

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**Great Thanksgiving**

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**

Let us pray with confidence

in the words our Savior gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**invitation to Communion**

God fills the hungry with good things.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***The assembly is seated***

**Communion**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen

WE WELCOME ALL GUESTS worshiping with us today and invite all baptized Christians to come to the Lord’s table. Children who have not yet received First Communion instruction are invited to come forward with their families to receive a blessing. There will be one chalice (cup) of wine, as well trays of individual cups. In the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine.

*Communion song:*

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**Congreational Song**

***The First Noel ELW #300***

*The assembly stands*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ’s very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing**

May the Word that Mary brought to birth

carry you into new and abundant life.

**Amen.**

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms

enfold you with love and strength.

**Amen.**

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song

bring harmony to our world.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**closing song**

***Go Tell It on the Mountain ELW #290***

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

"Masters in this Hall" Lloyd Larsen

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“How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n. So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.

**Winter Break Schedule**

There are No Adult or Children Sunday School Classes scheduled for December 25 and January 1st. Children’s Classes will resume at 9:00am on Sunday, January 8th.

Pastor Ellen Schoepf prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Secretary Katie Love klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

Director of Christian Education Melinda Schultz

Director of Music Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams

December 18, 2016 Attendance : 128

Serving Faith December 25 January 1

Acolyte

Altar Care Whitmyer Family Carol Towl and Cecelia Kramer

Communion Assistants

Diane Wilke Diane Wilke

Greeters Brendan Guenther Chris & Jean Lewis

Lay Assistants Diane Wilke Diane Wilke

Readers Diane Wilke Diane Wilke

Ushers Ken & Karen Whitmyer and Family

Nursery Jennifer Coe Heidi Bowers

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FaithFamily&Friends3

**December 25th, 2016**

*Log onto Faith’s website www.faithlutheranokemos.org 24/7 for updates*

**DEADLINES**

Sunday worship folder announcements⎯Tuesday of each week

Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

***February Faith Family News newsletter*⎯**

**Please submit by Monday January 16**

Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Please lift up in prayer this week:

🕆 Members—Max Ambs, Lowell Barricklow, Ellen Milne, Harry Nawrock

and the Barry family.

🕆 Friends and family—

Pat Belonga, Chris Cotter, Lil Jennings, Terrie Becker, Allie, Heather,

Al, Lilly, Sai Eshwar Lingamgunta, Jenn Leitch, Jeanne and Leonard, Tom

Brown, Susan Heft, Pat Hillberg & Family, Dennis Cobler, John Joseph

Lanzetta and Bethany Robison. Please pray for Erika Engel, her brother David

and mother Edwina Engel upon the death of Erika’s brother Jerry.

🕆 Our mission partner congregation⎯Lansing Redeemer Lutheran Church

🕆 Those in military service⎯Jon Schoepf, Lani Yearicks,

Melody and Adam Wright and Joe Galvin.

🕆 Samaritas children who seek adoption— Giovanni, Jessica, LeeAnn and

Valerie. Pray for each to be adopted and for Jesus to be their lifelong friend.

**NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER**

As Jesus calls us to be one, even as he and the Father are one, please include Pastor Andreas Teich and the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church of Bay City, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Lee & Linda Gerard in celebration of Christmas & Virginia, Luke, Cameron, Kerry, Carter, and Dave’s Birthday’s.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Weekly Offering 12/11/16**  Year-to-date as of 11/30/2016

Loose Cash $ 50.50 Income $264,588.69

Shirley Jirele Memorial $ 35.00 Expenses 274,587.10

World Hunger $ 25.00 Net Income (-9998.41)

Flowers $ 90.00

Youth-Swarming $ 50.00

General Fund $ 2490.00

Total $ 2740.50

**Weekly Offering 12/18/16**

Loose Cash $ 37.00

Loose Checks $230.00

Sunday School $25.82

Youth Bake Sal $155.05

2017 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex.

Bags $5.00

Music $300.00

Pastor/Staff Gifts $1770.00

Flowers $70.00

General Fund $5200.00

Subtotal $7792.87

Simply Giving $2826.00

Total $10,618.87

THIS WEEK’S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

**Today Merry Christmas**

10:00 a.m. Worship: Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 26th

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27th

Worship folder announcements deadline

No Lectionary study in Pastor Ellen’s office today

Wednesday, December 28th

7:30 a.m. Men’s Study

9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION

Thursday, December 29th

Friday, December 30th

Saturday, December 31st



The church offices will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & STUDIES

**Annual Meeting- Sunday, January 22nd**

This year’s annual meeting will take place Sunday, January 22nd following the worship service. Committee annual reports are due to the church office by Monday, January 9th. RIC will be hosting a lunch following the meeting.

**SOGI Lunch and Learn  
January 22 - After the Annual Meeting**What does sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) mean? Is there more than just straight and gay? What does the Q really stand for in LGBTQ? Is everything black and white or is there more to it? The RIC team invites you to join us to explore these questions and more.

The lunch and learn will be held after the annual meeting on January 22.  We'll meet in the fellowship hall and have a light lunch of soups, breads, desserts, and beverages.  While we enjoy lunch we'll learn together about the SOGI spectrum and have an open discussion so we can all be more understanding of our LGBTQ siblings in Christ.  
  
Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we can plan for how many people are coming. We will also offer child care if you want to attend while someone else watches your children. Please indicate on the form if you'll be using the child care.

As the RIC team continues to plan and prepare a possible welcome statement that welcomes all of God's children regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, political leanings, etc. we encourage you to attend the RIC events and the events offered by the racism planning team. If you have any questions or feedback about the RIC process and our plans, please reach out to Pastor Ellen or Rich Weingartner, chair of the RIC team.

 **60 +/- Popcorn & a Movie**

Are you looking for ways to warm up your Michigan January? Join your friends from Sixty Plus or Minus for popcorn and a movie on **Wednesday,** **January 18, 2017, at 1 p.m.**! We will be watching the award-winning film “The Impossible,” the story of a tourist family in Thailand caught in the destruction and chaotic aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. A Christmas vacation in a tropical paradise turned into the worst of nightmares.

**CAREGIVERS SUPPORT Group Meeting**

Join us at 11:30am for a light lunch and discussion. All are Welcome!

Thursday, January 12th: Angie Cantlon form CareLinc Medical Equipment will speak on how the Durable Medical Equipment World works. There is more offered then just a wheelchair and a walker!

Thursday, February 9th : Michelle Traill – Crosser from Caring Transitions will be speaking about downsizing.

Thursday, March 9th: Mike Harrison, Life & Business Coach. From Spectator to Spectacular: Living the Life YOU Want.

**Book Study: Shalom Church**

This book study is being rescheduled to the Spring.

**Thursday Evening Worship Service**

The Worship Committee has decided to experiment by adding a second worship service to our weekly schedule.  This service will NOT take place on Sundays.  It WILL take place on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM.  This service will be more intimate, less formal, and more contemplative.  The first gathering of this alternative worship service take place on Thursday evening, January 12.  Join us if you are able.  Please speak to Pastor Ellen if you have any questions.

**Adult Sunday School**

Class will resume on Sunday, February 5th at 9:00am in the library. We will be studying Walter Brueggemann’s book “Embracing the Prophets”

Walter, arguably America’s leading Old Testament scholar and theologian, takes us on a wild ride through the poetic prophecy of Hebrew Scripture, identifying cultural contexts, putting a framework to Israel’s history, and, most significantly -and at times challengingly! - drawing connections between Israel’s sociological, economic and spiritual status and that of America today.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & STUDIES

**Water In Tanzania** - Tula Ngasala is one of our members and she is working on her Environmental Engineering degree at MSU.  During this time, she has also been working on developing water projects in her home country of Tanzania.  Working with Engineers Without Borders and WEES (another non-profit organization), she was able to construct a much needed well at her father's home congregation in Tanzania.  This well serves people in the surrounding community.  Now she is developing and working on a water project in another part of her home country.  On **Sunday, January 8**, during the morning worship service, Tula will be sharing information about these water projects and the way her faith informs her work.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

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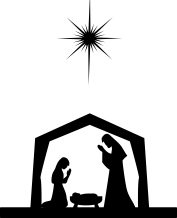
**Help Decorate the Sharing Tree**

**Not with Ornaments and Tinsel....**

**.....but with baby items!!!**

Visit the Sharing Tree in the coffee fellowship area and select a paper “ornament” or two. On each ornament a specific layette item is indicated.  Take the ornament home, so it can be a reminder of what to purchase. *(Only new baby items, please.)*  Bring your unwrapped, layette items and tuck them into the Sharing Tree branches.  Your gifts will be given to Shared Pregnancy of Lansing, an organization that offers emotional and spiritual support to new moms.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**



***Wishing your family a Blessed Christmas!!***

**Important Dates in January and February**4th - Trinity & Confirmation Resumes, 6:00-8:00pm

4th - 1st Communion Classes begin, 6:00-8:00pm

8th - Youth Group Outing, TBD

13th-14th Confirmation Lock-in, 6:00pm – 10:00am

**15th -** **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

22nd - Confirmation Review, 1:00-4:00pm

29th - Children sing during service.

**Feb. 5th - 1st Communion Sunday**

**19th - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

24th-26th Youth Weekend, 5:00pm – 3:00pm

28th - Shrove Supper, 5:30-7:00pm

The 2017 Flower Chart is up. There are several openings for January. Sign up on the bulletin board.

**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2017**

Do you need a New Year’s resolution that will grow your faith and knowledge of the Bible? **Join us as we read through the entire Bible in 2017**. Readings for the entire month will be posted in the Newsletter. Daily readings will be printed in the worship bulletin and on the website calendar.

**PICK UP a reading guide in the narthex**





To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .

. . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,

study and fellowship

. . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith

that works in real life

. . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ