

Faith Family News

Faith Lutheran Church *December '15 - January '16*

OUR MISSION ...

To make disciples for
Jesus Christ we

GATHER

in faith for worship,
prayer, study, and
fellowship

EQUIP

the people of God with a
faith that works in real life

SERVE

the world in the name of
Jesus Christ.



As I write this message, it is not yet Thanksgiving and Christmas is already creeping in upon us. I find our consumer driven culture pulls and draws us into the hustle and bustle of the holiday season earlier and earlier

each year. However, all the hustle and bustle, the spectrum of emotions we experience during this busy season, the giving and receiving of presents, the many commitments that must be met, and all that shapes our experience of Christmas will soon be over. Christmas will come to a climax with the celebration of the birth of a baby and the whirlwind will soon be behind us. And, truthfully, at that time many of us will probably find ourselves exhausted and spent. However, is that all there is? Is there anything of lasting significance that we take with us as we begin a new year?

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The God in whom we believe would have us know that, yes, the Christmas story is not just some sweet story that we celebrate on December 25. Christmas has to do with the very meaning of life itself, the very purpose of life. Christmas is about the fullness of what life is meant to be. The story of the baby in a manger reminds us that:

† God's intention for the world is love. From the very beginning, God wanted us to know we are loved and we are to live in that love as we live in relationship to others. God desires us to live compassionate love - love that forgives, love that heals, love that unites and brings people together.

† God's intention for the world is joy. God desires joy for the entire world, a joy that comes from experiencing God's presence in your life and knowing you are forgiven and accepted as you are - a joy that wells up from the depths of your being.

(Continued on page 4)

Worship Schedule

December 2015/January 2016

10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
ACOLYTES	
December	January
6 Juliana Lewis	3 Brielle Bowers
13 Emilee Nussdorfer	10 Molly Hereza
20	17 Owen Kadrofske
24 4 p.m. – Griffin Ransom	24 Haley Towl
24 10 p.m. – Zachary Hereza	31 Lily O'Brien
27 Clayton Wenzel	

ALTAR CARE
 December – Brielle Bowers, Heidi Bowers, Karen Whitmyer
 January – Cecelia Kramer and Carol Towl

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
 The assistants are the acolyte, lay assistant, and reader for the day.

GREETERS	
December	January
6 Ellen & Ken Milne	3 Mike Eschelbach
13 Lowell & Gail Barricklow	10 Jeff & Melinda Schultz
20 Kadin Bowers	17 Jack & Natalie Dingedine
27 Dick Knoll	24 Marla Holle
	31 Rich Weingartner

LAY ASSISTANTS	
December	January
6 Alyssa Magyar	3
13 Christmas pageant	10
20 Rich Weingartner	17
24 4 p.m. – Ken Schoepf	24
24 10 p.m. – Bob Nelson	31
27	

READERS	
December	January
6 David Baker	3
13 Christmas Pageant	10
20 Jim Johnson	17
24 4 p.m. – Nathan Nelson	24
24 10 p.m. – Brenda Kopf	31
27 John McCracken	

USHERS December – Bowers family, Ken & Karen Whitmyer
 January –

NURSERY	
December	January
6 Connie Nelson	3
13 Becky Bills	10
20 Heidi Bowers	17
27 Lori Webb	24
	31

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
 4515 Dobie Road
 Okemos, MI 48864-2203
 Office Hours:
 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Monday-Friday
 Phone: (517) 349-0620
 Fax: (517) 349-5822
www.faithlutheranokemos.org
faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Ministers
 All Members of the Faith Family

Pastor
 Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Director of Christian Education

Melinda Schultz
Director of Music
 Deb Borton-McDonough
Instrumental Worship Leader

Bruce Williams
Church Secretary
 Rita Barry
rbarry@faithlutheranokemos.org

Newsletter Editor
 Rich Weingartner
faith@mathwhiz.org

Mission Partner Congregation
 Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lansing

2015 PARISH OFFICERS

President	Linda Hirt
Vice President	Jim Crum
Secretary	Molly DeHate
Treasurer	Doug Hirt
Financial Secretary	Tom Schrote
Members-at-Large	Diane Flatley
	Jack Dingedine
Past President	Walter Kopf

Committee Chairs

Caring	Ann Mayer
Evangelism/Outreach	Carol Towl
Human Resources	Lee Gerard
Long Range Planning	Jim Crum
Media/Technology	Mark DeHate
Membership Development	

	Jean Lewis and Michelle Ransom
Mission Endow.	Brendan Guenther
Mutual Ministry	John McPhail
Parish Education	
	Heidi Bowers and Nina Schrote
Property	Mark Marquardt
Stewardship	Mary Ann Scheuerman
Worship & Music	Diane Wilke
Youth	

Schedule of Recurring Events

SUNDAYS

Every	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School (Sep-May)
Every	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP
1 st	11:30 a.m.	Worship Committee meeting (Jan-Jun, Aug [last Sun.] and Oct-Dec)
2 nd	11:30 a.m.	Parish Education Committee meeting
2 nd	3:00 p.m.	Worship service at The Willows at Okemos
3 rd	11:30 a.m.	Mutual Ministry Committee Listening Post
Last	11:30 a.m.	Social Justice Group

MONDAYS

3 rd	7:00 p.m.	Church Council meeting Monthly Newsletter deadline
4 th	2:00 p.m.	Women's study group

TUESDAYS

Every		Worship folder announcements deadline
Every	12:00 p.m.	Lunch lectionary study group
2 nd	6:30 p.m.	Pub lectionary study (Okemos Buddies)
3 rd	6:30 p.m.	Evangelism/Outreach Committee
4 th	6:30 p.m.	Pub lectionary study (Okemos Buddies)

WEDNESDAYS

Every	7:30 a.m.	Men's lectionary study group
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting and LSSM ACTION
3 rd	11:30 a.m.	Sixty Plus/Minus

September to May

Every	5:30 p.m.	Joyful Noise Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Trinity and Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Faith Bells
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

THURSDAYS

2 nd	11:30 a.m.	Caregiver Support Group
3 rd	7:00 p.m.	Mutual Ministry Committee

Prayers for Health and Healing

- † Members of the congregation:
Max Ambs, Lowell Barricklow,
Dale Halvorson, Susan Heft,
Bob Marklewitz, Ellen Milne,
and Harry Nawrock

- † Friends and family: Pat
Belonga; Chris Cotter; Tim
Drummond; Dick and Lil
Jennings; Christine, Izzy and
Danny Loewen; Annaliese,
Heather, Bill, Al, and Ron.

Prayers of Intercession

- † Our mission partner
congregation: Lansing
Redeemer Lutheran Church

- † Those in military service: John
Schoepf, Adam and Melody
Wright, and Lani Yearicks.

- † Lutheran Social Services of
Michigan children who seek
adoption: *December*: James,
Devon, Gregory, Antoinette.
January: Ross, Alex, Marquis,
Fred.

*Please contact the church office at
faith@faithlutheranokmeos.org or
349-0620 to update the prayer list.*

The website for **Prayer Ventures** is
<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures> Prayer Ventures is a
guide to daily prayer for the
ministries of the church produced by
ELCA Communication Services on
behalf of the whole church.
You can download Prayer Ventures
from the Web or **copies are
available at church on the table
near the elevator.**

The Faith Family

Advent Luncheon December 13, 2015 Following the Sunday School Pageant

Mark your calendar for a Faith Favorite! Immediately following the Sunday School Pageant on December 13 we will gather for great food and fellowship. Membership Development will provide the main dish and beverages. Parish Education will serve a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" cake. All you have to do is sign up in the fellowship area and bring a dish to share.

(Continued from page 1)

† God's intention is peace. God desires peace in this world as we live together in community. God desires peace within our families, peace within our communities, and peace within the greater world - a peace that binds people together.

From the beginning of time, this has been God's desire for the world. This is what Christmas teaches us and this is what we take into 2016. As we begin a new year and experience life together within this Faith community, I pray that we live the meaning of Christmas every day of the year.

Have a very blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

– In Christ, Pastor Ellen

Faith Event Highlights for December/January

Sunday	December 6	12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Sixty Plus/Minus Christmas Luncheon Capital City Ringers Handbell Concert
Sunday	December 13	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship and Sunday School Christmas Pageant Advent potluck luncheon
Monday	December 21	7:00 p.m.	Church Council meeting
Thursday	December 24	4:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
Friday	December 25		Church office closed
Friday	January 1		Church office closed
Sunday	January 17	3:00 p.m.	Service of Christian Unity
Monday	January 18	7:00 p.m.	Church Council meeting February Newsletter deadline
Saturday	January 30	10:00 a.m.	Anti-Racism Forum
Sunday	January 31	11:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Annual congregational meeting Open Hearts/Open Church task force meeting & potluck

See the calendar in the newsletter or online at www.faithlutheranokemos.org for all the events!

Service of Christian Unity

On **Sunday afternoon, January 17, at 3:00 p.m.** we will be hosting a Service of Christian Unity at Faith Lutheran Church. Members of The Church of Elohim will be joining us for this event. Pastor Derrick Knox and Pastor Linda Gardner serve The Church of Elohim. Linda was one of the panel members who participated in our fall Forum on Race, Ethnicity & Culture. This January worship service promises to be a very meaningful and enriching event. Please plan to join us and participate.

Open Hearts, Open Church Task Force

On **Sunday evening, January 31, at 5:00 p.m.**, members of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod's **Open Hearts, Open Church Task Force** will join us for an educational event. Members of this task force are going to various churches throughout the Synod to provide guidance, support, and companionship as we journey together with regard to full inclusion of all sexual orientations and gender identities. All who are interested are invited to join us for this conversation. The event includes food! If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet in the Narthex so we know how much food to prepare.

Easy Ways to Fight Human Trafficking

On **Sunday morning, February 21, following our morning worship service** Clarissa Grimes will be joining us to discuss issues of human trafficking. This is a growing problem in our community, in Michigan, and throughout the world. Come to learn and become aware. Awareness is essential to enacting the personal and systemic changes that will free victims of human trafficking.

Stuff the Stockings Food Drive

The Faith Lutheran Caring Committee was asked by the Meridian Township Human Services Director if we could provide support to families during the Christmas/Winter school break. There is a need for food items during this two week break from school because children are at home during this time and do not get their breakfasts and/or lunches at school.

Please look for the grocery cart in the narthex and fill it with the following food items:

Peanut butter	Jelly
Snack bars	Pop Tarts
Muffin mix	Pancake mix
Syrup	Canned fruits
Boxed cereals	Oatmeal
Macaroni & cheese	Soup
Boxed crackers	Rice
Pasta	Spaghetti sauce
Boxed meals (e.g. Hamburger Helper)	

With your cash donations we will purchase one dozen eggs, one gallon of milk, and a loaf of bread to be included with the food donations.

Thank you, Faith Family, for helping those in the community that have a need. **Food collection for this project ends on December 13** and our delivery date is Sunday, December 20.

Thank you,
– Faith Caring Committee

Parish Education News

Christmas: We're on the Air Pageant

Here's a chance to hear about the birth of Jesus from the people who were there when it happened. In the program, you'll hear all the children in the Christmas musical report on the story as it happens! Join us for the service on December 13 and the potluck immediately following.

Hope to see everyone's family for our celebration of the birth of Jesus!

Marriage Retreat

There will be a Marriage Retreat on March 11 - 13 in Grand Rapids. Interested members of Faith Lutheran Church will be joining with members of First Lutheran Church in Muskegon for this Marriage Retreat in the Grand Rapids area. Any interested couples are invited to attend this event. More information to come!

Thank You for Your Support

Our fundraisers have earned the following toward our Mission Trip to West Virginia:

Chili Chowdown - \$225.31
No Calorie Bake Sale - \$212.00

The Youth truly appreciate the financial and spiritual encouragement they receive from the congregation.

Blessing Bag Monetary Donations

The Youth are collecting money and will then be making the Blessing Bags. The collection box is on the counter across from the Faith@Work display panel. The Blessing Bags are compact bags with necessities that really help homeless individuals with some of their basic needs. Some items in the bag are socks, some food and water, and a toothbrush. The bags will be available in the Church Office for people to take with them so they may hand them out to any homeless individuals that they may encounter during their daily travels.

Thrivent Action Teams Needed

Please apply to help your youth group in a one-time fundraiser, service activity, or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Here are some suggestions for your Thrivent Action Teams: Blessing Bags, Winter Mission Project, Shrove Supper, and Faith Vacation Bible School. Use this link to get started: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/> Please see Melinda to get specific details or if you have any questions.

Important Dates in December

13 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant and Potluck
16 Trinity & Confirmation Fun Night

Important Dates in January

8-10 YOUTH GROUP RETREAT
10 4 - 7 p.m. Confirmation Review

13, 20, 27, February 3

6 - 8 p.m. 1st Communion classes
(Students and Parents)

22-24 CONFIRMATION WINTER RETREAT

31 1st Communion Patens painted in Sunday School Class

December 2015

Faith Lutheran Church Monthly Planner

Go to faithlutheranokemos.org for current calendar updates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Advent 1 New member Sunday World Hunger offering 9:00 AM Adult Study Group: The Bible Makes Sense 10:00 AM WORSHIP	30	1 December stewardship focus: Stewardship of self 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	2 7:30 AM Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION 5:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 6:00 PM Trinity and Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	3	4	5 5:00 PM Santa's Little Helpers
6 Advent 2 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Usher meeting 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:30 AM Pageant Dress Rehearsal 11:30 AM Technology Committee meeting 11:30 AM Worship Committee meeting 12:00 PM Sixty Plus/Minus Christmas Luncheon 3:30 PM Youth Group at Suburban Ice 7:00 PM Capital City Ringers Handbell Concert	7	8 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 6:30 PM Pub lectionary study group	9 7:30 AM Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION 5:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 6:00 PM Trinity and Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir in the music room	10 11:30 AM Caregiver Support Group	11	12
13 Advent 3 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP/Christmas Pageant 11:00 AM Advent potluck luncheon	14 2:00 PM Women's study group	15 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 6:30 PM Evangelism/Outreach Committee meeting	16 7:30 AM Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION 5:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 6:00 PM Trinity and Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	17 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry Committee meeting	18	19
20 Advent 4 9:00 AM NO Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:30 AM Mutual Ministry Listening Post 3:00 PM The Willows at Okemos carol sing 6:00 PM Loaves and Fishes Ministries	21 7:00 PM Church Council meeting	22 Winter begins 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 6:30 PM Pub lectionary study group	23 7:30 AM Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	24 The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve 4:00 PM WORSHIP 10:00 PM WORSHIP	25 Church office closed The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day	26
27 Christmas 1 World Hunger offering 9:00 AM NO Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP	28	29	30 7:30 AM Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION	31 New Year's Eve	1 Church office closed Name of Jesus New Year's Day	2

Report all meetings and events to the church office at 349-0620 or email faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

January 2016

Faith Lutheran Church Monthly Planner

Go to faithlutheranokemos.org for current calendar updates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Christmas 1 World Hunger offering 9:00 AM NO Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP	28	29	30 Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION	31 New Year's Eve	1 Church office closed Name of Jesus New Year's Day	2
3 Christmas 2 9:00 AM NO Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:30 AM Worship Committee meeting	4	5 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	6 Epiphany of Our Lord 7:30 AM Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION 5:30 PM Joyful Noise 6:00 PM Trinity and Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	7	8	9
10 Baptism of Our Lord Sunday School winter service project begins 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:30 AM Parish Education Committee meeting 3:00 PM The Willows at Okemos worship service	11 7:00 PM Sixtieth Anniversary Committee meeting	12 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 6:30 PM Pub lectionary study group	13 Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION 5:30 PM Joyful Noise 6:00 PM Trinity and Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:00 PM First Communion Class 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	14 11:30 AM Caregiver Support Group	15	16
17 Epiphany 2 9:00 AM NO Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:30 AM Mutual Ministry Listening Post 3:00 PM Service of Christian Unity	18 Confession of Peter February newsletter deadline 7:00 PM Church Council meeting	19 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 6:30 PM Evangelism Committee meeting	20 Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION 5:30 PM Joyful Noise 6:00 PM Trinity and Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:00 PM First Communion Class 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	21 Mutual Ministry Committee	22 Confirmation Retreat begins Time TBD	23
24 Epiphany 3 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP	25 Conversion of Paul 2:00 PM Women's study group	26 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 6:30 PM Pub lectionary study group	27 Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION 5:30 PM Joyful Noise 6:00 PM Trinity and Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:00 PM First Communion Class 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	28	29	30 10:00 AM Anti-Racism Forum
31 Epiphany 4 First Communion patens World Hunger offering 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:30 AM Annual congregational meeting 5:00 PM Open Hearts, Open Church task force meeting and potluck	1	2	3 Men's lectionary study group 9:30 AM Quilting and LSSM ACTION 5:30 PM Joyful Noise 6:00 PM Trinity and Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:00 PM First Communion Class 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	4	5	6

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December Special Days

DECEMBER	MARRIAGE	BAPTISM	BIRTHDAY
1		WILKE, DIANE	HALM, LAUREN
			MAISNER, LuANN
2			KARTUB, LINDA
3			
4			KOPF, REBECCA
5			
6		FASSEZKE, SHELLEY	
7			
8		MILNE, KEN	
9			
10			
11			
12			
13		WILLIAMS, DREW	
14			KRAMER, CECELIA.
15	OESTERLE, MATT & JENNA		WRIGHT, MARTIN
16			HALM, TOM
17			MARKLEWITZ, BOB
			MARQUARDT, MAKAYLA
18			
19			HEFT, EMMA
			SCHROTE, TOM
20			
21		AVEN, DORIS	
		HEFT, SERA	
22		TOWL, NICHOLAS	
23			RUSH, DOROTHY
24			KEILHOLTZ, WALTER
25			SANDEL, CARTER
26		LEWIS, JULIANA	OESTERLE, MATT
		TOWL, CHRIS	
27			
28			
29		LUOMA, MARK	
		MILNE, IAN	
		SCHULTZ, LAUREN	
30			
31		MILNE, ERIN	
		DATE UNKNOWN	
		CRUM, PEGGY	
		FLATLEY, DIANE	
		McCRACKEN, JOHN	
		STEINBART, DORY	
		DINGLEDINE, NATALIE	
		SCHULTZ, MELINDA	

January Special Days

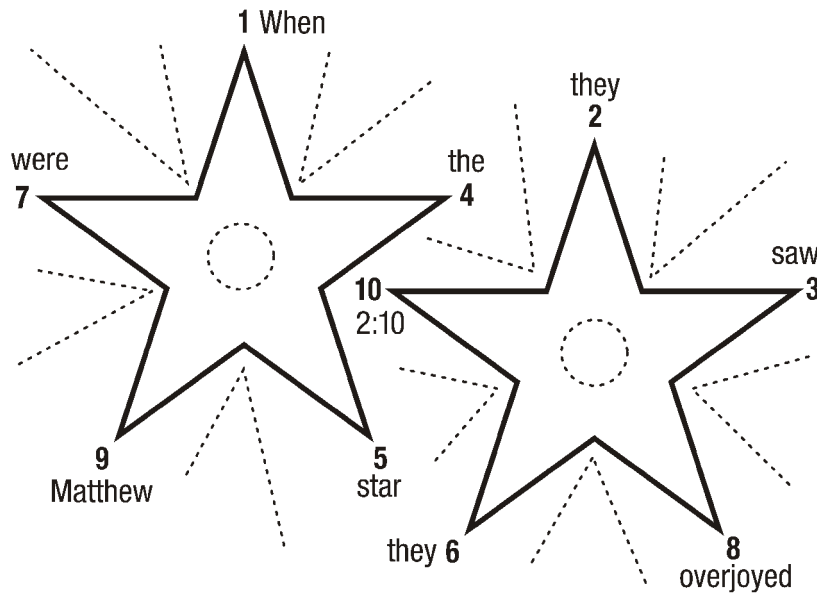
JANUARY	MARRIAGE	BAPTISM	BIRTHDAY
1			
2			
3			FAGAN, PAT SCHOLLE, ROBERT RANSOM, SAMI
4			McCRACKEN, KELLY MAYER, DENNIS
5			
6		BIETAU, NAOMI	WAWRZYNSKI, KORINE
7			
8			TOWL, CHRIS
9			
10			
11			
12			HARTWICK, ED
13			
14			KNOLL, DICK
15			GOULD, MIKAELA GOVORCHIN, ELLEN
17			
18		BORTON, JOHN	
19			
20			COTTER, THOMAS
21			
23		KADROFSKE, CALVIN	BOWERS, KADIN
24		KOPF, REBECCA	
25		NEVES, DARRELL	
26		NUSSDORFER, RYAN	
27			FASSEZKE, BRIANNA
28			
29			
30			
31			
		DATE UNKNOWN	



The star of Christmas

When Jesus was born, a star led the wise men to him.

Directions: Place the words in order, by their numbers, on the blanks below to complete Matthew 2:10, NIV.



“ _____
 _____,
 _____.”
 _____, NIV

Answer: "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matthew 2:10, NIV

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Make a mobile to remind you of Jesus' birth.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Thin blue ribbon
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Yellow craft foam
- Marker



What you do:

1. With the paper plate up-side down, punch evenly spaced holes along the rim. Gently fold the plate and punch a hole in the center.
2. Cut pieces of ribbon, thread them through the holes as desired and tie the ribbons securely.
3. Trace several small stars and one larger star on the foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.

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(517) 349-0620

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

**December 2015/
January 2016**



Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24, 2015

4:00 p.m. – Family Worship

10:00 p.m. – Candlelight Worship