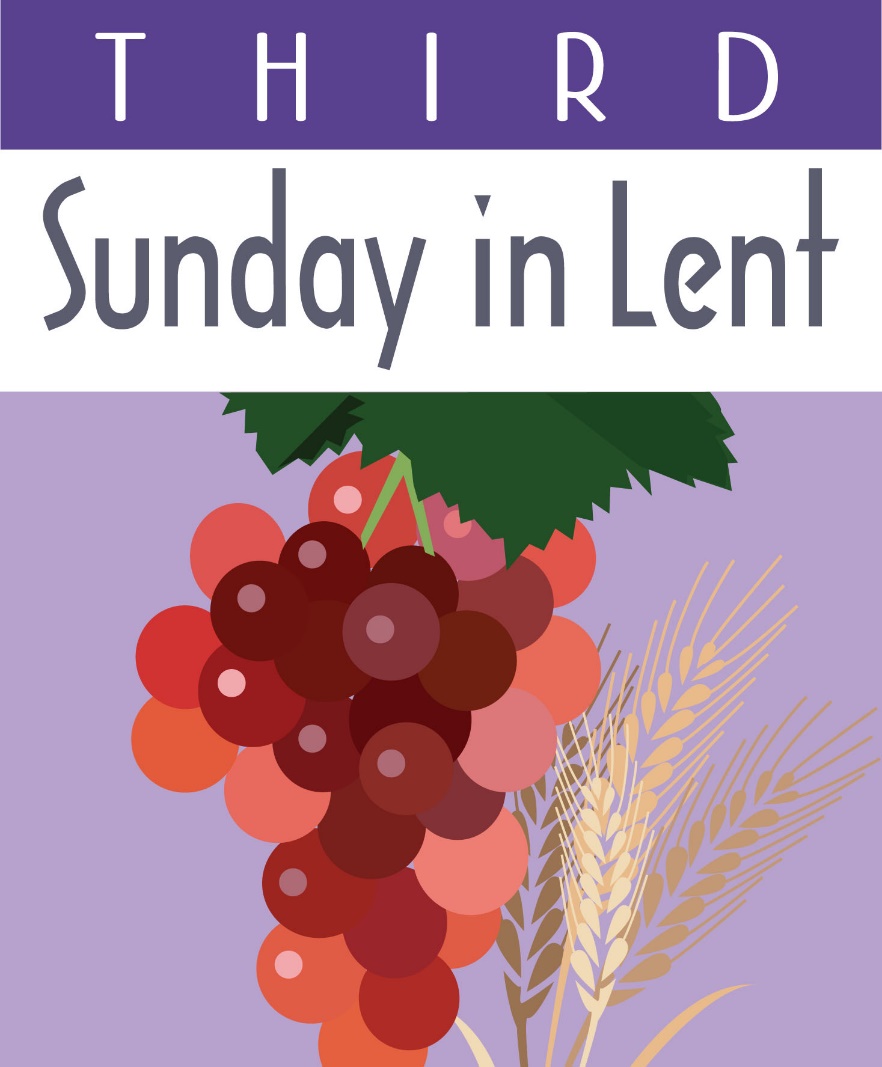
Welcome to

Faith Lutheran

**March 19, 2017**

**Pastor Ellen Schoepf**

[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)

**4515 Dobie Road**

**Okemos, Mi 48864**

**517-349-0620**

**Life-Giving Water**

In Yellowstone National Park in the western United States, thousands gather to witness the geothermal phenomenon “Old Faithful,” a geyser that erupts with predictable frequency. The water coming from the geyser is not life giving, however. It is so scalding and sulfurous that nothing is able to grow in the soil around the geyser.

Today we bear witness to a different “Old Faithful.” It is the faith-filled spring of water gushing up to give life, hope, and loving relationships with God and one another. Indeed, this gushing, living water leads us into an eternal, life-giving relationship. This spring gushes forth with the regularity of baptismal remembrance, our daily dying and rising with Christ. This water gives life. This water saves.

Our question may be much like the Samaritan woman’s: “Where do you get that living water?” (John 4:11). The source of this water is not a well but Christ himself. In baptism Christ gives us the water that both drowns us and raises us into new life. It quenches thirst. It washes weary feet. It sustains us in God’s work of proclaiming good news to the poor, the captive, the disabled, the oppressed, and all who live on the fringes, even our enemies.

This good news transcends boundaries and brings unlikely people into relationship with one another for the sake of the whole world. This news comes from the one sitting by the well, the messiah, the Christ; the one who knows everything we have ever done; the Savior of the world. This Christ stands alongside us, with us, and enters into our lives giving undeserved love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

By our testimony, some may come to believe, but through Christ’s word and relationship, they will be saved through the living water that gushes up to eternal life.

**Sunday, March 19, 2017**

Third Sunday in Lent

**Introduction to the day**

In today’s gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God’s grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God’s mercy and forgiveness.

*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**

Faith Bells “Let Us Break Bread Together” arr. Edwards

*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.*

**Gathering**

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

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of heaven and earth,

you come in close and make us yours.

Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin,

embrace your forgiveness,

and seek the way you set before us in your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*The assembly may kneel or stand.*

Merciful God,

**forgive us.**

**Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.**

**We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.**

*Silence.*

Merciful God,

**We were silent when we should have said something.**

*Silence.*

Merciful God,

**We acted when we knew better.**

*Silence.*

Merciful God,

**We were still when we know we should have moved.**

*Silence.*

**Merciful God,**

**For the wrong we have done,**

**for the good we have failed to do,**

**have mercy on us,**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

People of God, look to the ☩ Son,

given to heal you and set you free

because God loved the world so much.

Take hold of life—eternal life!

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song**

***Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer ELW #618***

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

****

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Word**

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

**First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7**

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put the Lord to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to the Lord. The Lord commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—”Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.*

A reading from Exodus.

1From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” 3But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” 4So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” 5The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11**

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

A reading from Romans.

1Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.  
  6For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*******The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**Gospel: John 4:5-42**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

5[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.6Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.  
  7A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” 8(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) 10Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” 11The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” 13Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” 15The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”  
  16Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” 17The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; 18for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” 19The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” 21Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” 25The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” 26Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”  
  27Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” 28Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” 30They left the city and were on their way to him.  
  31Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” 32But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” 33So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” 34Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 35Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. 36The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”  
  39Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” 40So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. 41And many more believed because of his word. 42They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**children’s message**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the day**

***Waterlife ELW #457***

**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**

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*The presiding minister concludes the*

*prayers, and the assembly responds:*

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**offering**

Chancel Choir “Living Water” (Moore/McDonald)

Tammy Heilman, soloist

**offering response**

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**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**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, 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  Vs. 1**



****

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

****

**Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,

let us pray as Jesus taught 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**

Return to God with all your heart.

Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

**Communion Song**

**congregational song**

***Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty ELW #777***

****congregational song**

*The assembly stands*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Prayer after Communion**

Compassionate God,

you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:

may our fasting be hunger for justice,

our alms, a making of peace,

and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;

through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,

and claimed us as children of the light,

strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and give you ☩ peace.

**Amen.**

**sending song**

***Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross ELW #335***

**Dismissal**

Marked with the cross of Christ,

go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**postlude**

"Toccata Terza" Girolamo Frescobaldi

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“O Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!” (Psalms 95:1, NRSV)

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

March 12, 2017 Attendance: 113

Serving Faith March 19 March 26

Acolyte Adelle Dingledine Anja Guenther

Altar Care Michelle Ransom & Pam Williams

Communion Assistants Adelle Dingledine Anja Guenther

Zachary Hereza John McPhail

John McCraken Nathan Nelson

Greeters Mark & Molly DeHate Dick & Sally Knoll

Lay Assistants Zachary Hereza John McPhail

Readers John McCraken Nathan Nelson

Ushers Bill & Pam Williams

Nursery Lori Webb Jennifer & Maia Guenther

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FaithFamily&Friends3

**March 19, 2017**

*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

***April Faith Family News newsletter*⎯**

**Please submit by Monday March 20**

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, Harold Sollenberger and Ken Whitmyer.

🕆 Friends and family—

Harriet,Pat Belonga, Todd Barriklow, Greg Beckwith, Carol Coyer, Chris Cotter, 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, Bethany Robison, and the White family. Please keep Rich Weingartners mother, Sally Weingartner and his sister Lani Yearicks in your prayers.

🕆 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 John Schleicher, Interim, and the congregation of University Lutheran Church of East Lansing, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Weekly Offering 03/12/17**  Year-to-date as of 01/31/2017

N/A Income $28,328.54

Expenses $24,028.33

Net Income **4,300.21**

**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS ­­­­**

Today’s altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Janice, John and James Taschner in celebration of Virginia’s 90th birthday.

\*\*Two flower dedication spots are available next Sunday, March 26th please sign up in the narthex hallway\*\*

THIS WEEK’S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

\*\*Easter Flower Order forms are available at the end of the worship folder. Due Date: Sunday April 2nd. \*\*



**Today**

**Noisy Offering for Tanzania Water Project**

9:00 a.m. Adult & Children’s Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Youth Fundraiser: March Madness Meal

6-10 p.m. Loaves and Fishes



Monday, March 20th

**April Newsletter Deadline**

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 21st

Worship folder announcements deadline

Noon: Study in Pastor Ellen’s office

Wednesday, March 22nd

7:30 a.m. Men’s Study

9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION

5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

6:00 p.m. Dinner Begins

6:15 p.m. Faith Bells

6:30 p.m. T & C

7:15 p.m. Worship Service

7:45 p.m. Choir Good Friday Practice

7:45 p.m. Parish Ed Meeting \*\* Date Change \*\*

8:10 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, March 23rd

7:00 p.m. Viewing of American Documentary *13th*

Friday, March 24th

Confirmation Retreat

Saturday, March 25th

Confirmation Retreat

8:00-4:00 p.m. Synod Sponsored Event: Why Lutherans are Political

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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**REVERSE OFFERING FOR THE EASTER FOOD DRIVE**

Following today’s worship service you will be receiving an Easter egg from the ushers. Inside the egg will be a jelly bean treat along with a reminder note about the Easter food drive. This year our food drive ends during Spring Break for many of the area schools. **The last Sunday** **to bring food in will be April 2nd**. We will deliver the food baskets on Palm Sunday.

Thank you for continuing to support Faith’s mission and service to reach out to help others in our community.

Faith’s Caring Committee

****

WAYS TO HELP

****

**EASTER BASKET FOOD DRIVE**

My children, we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring.

1 John 3:18

The Caring Committee is sponsoring the annual Easter Basket Food Drive. Meridian Township Human Resources Dept. provides us with the names of 20 families that need a little extra help. Faith members are blessed to be able to help by providing any/or all the items listed below.

Cereal Peanut Butter

Muffin Mix Boxed Desserts

Juice Easter Candy

Boxed Potatoes Easter Egg Coloring Kits

Tuna Mac & Cheese

Canned Fruits and Vegetables

Cash donations help with the purchase of the hams, eggs, and milk for the families. **The delivery date is Sunday, APRIL 9**. Please see the sign-up sheet on the information board in the narthex.

Thank you for your support, care for others and prayers as we do HIS work in the community.

WAYS TO HELP

**What are those Laundry Baskets for??**

**ARROW TREE FOOD PANTRY**

The Caring Committee is launching a community outreach program to help support the Arrow Tree Apartment complex across the street from Faith Lutheran Church. Pastor Ellen and Katie Love have been in contact with the apartment complex manager, Janice, and she has expressed the need for non-perishable food items for some of the residents.

We will be collecting food items in baskets in the lower main church entry, as an ongoing project. Members can drop food items at any time in the baskets. Janice from Arrow Tree will come over and pick up the food items, or Pastor Ellen and Katie will deliver them. Janice will be responsible for distributing the food items on an as needed basis to residents and will store the extra items. Pastor Ellen and Katie will be in contact with Janice as needed.

Suggested items needed: SOUP, MAC & CHEESE, CEREAL, OATMEAL, PASTAS, PEANUT BUTTER, HEALTHY SNACK BARS, TUNA, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ETC.

Thank you members of Faith Lutheran for your continued help and support as we reach out to help those in need.

**Let us stop saying we love people; let us really love them and show it by our actions**

**1 John 3:18**

UPCOMING MEETINGS & STUDIES

**CAREGIVERS SUPPORT Group Meeting**

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

Thursday, April 13th: Allie Phillips – Self Empowerment Coach and master energy therapist. The place where energy laws and healing come together for people and pets.

Thursday, May 11th: Kristin Creighton, Fahrenheit Massage will speak on Self-Care tips for the Caregiver and Free Chair Massage.

**Stay Connected!**

Want to know what is happening at Faith Lutheran? Stay connected online:

Website - [faithlutheranokemos.org](http://faithlutheranokemos.org/)

Facebook - [facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](http://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

**Your Faith Journey Podcast**

* iOS - <http://bit.ly/faithios>
* Android - <http://bit.ly/faithandroid>

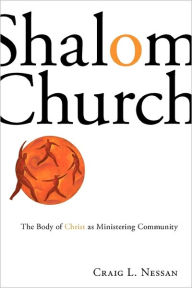
You also will find the audio available on the Faith Lutheran Website under worship:

Sermons - <http://faithlutheranokemos.org/sermons/>

Special Music - <http://faithlutheranokemos.org/category/special-music/>

**Bring the World to Your Home and Heart**

The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), founded in 1947, offers high school students from around the world the opportunity to live and study in the United States. Would you consider opening your home to a student? It is a great way for families to learn about another culture, share their lives and culture, and make forever connections. For more information contact Pam Williams at 517-927-7703.

***Shalom Church* Book Study**

Beginning on Tuesday, April 18, we are collaborating with members of St. Paul Lutheran Church to host a Book Study group that will take place at Old Chicago at 6:30 PM. This nine-week book study group will be reading *Shalom Church* by Dr. Craig L. Nessan. Nessan’s work addresses the church’s deepest identity, shape, and contemporary imperatives in Christ and the tradition of discipling that stems from Jesus’ life, work, death, and resurrection. In this work, Nessan adds contextual analysis and describes the four chief ecclesial imperatives that mark Christ’s presence in the world today: peacemaking, justice-making, care for creation, and engagement with the other. He then unfolds the real-life implications of this paradigm of Christian community for the local church structure, strategies for partnering, public witness, and interreligious engagement. His work describes what the body of Christ should look like today.

Dr. Nessan will also be the keynote speaker at a Synod Publicly Engaged Church event on June 17 entitled *Lutherans Always Reforming*. This event will take place at University Lutheran in East Lansing and all are welcome to attend.

If you are interested in participating in the ***Shalom Church* Book Study**, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We need to know how many books to order and how people will participate.



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*\*\*\*TODAY\*\*\*\*\*Youth Fundraiser, March Madness Meal, March 19th, 11:30-12:30**Please join us for a fantastic meal in celebration of March Madness. Whether or not you are a fan of basketball, the foods offered during a sporting event are as good as they come. We will have BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, mac n’ cheese, quesadillas, BBQ meatballs, coleslaw and more!! Goodwill offering appreciated.

**Confirmation Retreat, March 24th-26th**This retreat will be held **March 24th** in Harbor Springs, Michigan. We will be leaving the church on **Friday at as close to 5:00pm as possible** and will be returning to the church around **6:00pm** **on Sunday**. We will stop for dinner on the way to the retreat and a snack on the way back. This is a wonderful fellowship opportunity for the confirmands, as well as an opportunity to continue their lessons in a different environment. All confirmation students should attend a retreat during their two year cycle. The cost of the retreat, which includes meals, lodging, transportation, and activity fees, is $75.00. Scholarship money is available if needed, just let Melinda know. Checks should be payable to Faith Lutheran.  
I realize that some of our confirmands may have other commitments this weekend. Please let me know as soon as possible if you will not be able to attend the retreat.

**Thrivent Action Teams are needed again!!!**  
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: Quiche Meal or 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 March**   
19th - **March Madness Meal**, 11:30-1:00pm  
24th-26th Confirmation Retreat, 5:00pm-6:00pm  
**Important Dates in April  
2nd & 9th** **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, SPRING BREAK**  
14th-15th Confirmation Lock-In, 6:00pm-10:00am  
16th Easter Breakfast, 9:00am  
**16th**  **Children sing during the service.**  
16th Easter Egg Hunt, 11:15am  
21st – 22nd Youth Lock-in, 6:00pm-10:00am  
**22nd** **Final Confirmation Review, 1:00-5:00**  
23rd – 30th Compassion Sunday  
**26th** **Last Trinity & Confirmation**  
30th Youth Fundraising, Quiche Meal, 11:30-12:30pm

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**Sunday, April 9th: Palm Sunday**

No Sunday School

Worship 10:00 am

**Thursday, April 13th: Maundy Thursday**

Worship 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 14th: Good Friday**

Worship at St. Katherine’s

Episcopal Church 11:30 a.m.

Worship with St. Paul Lutheran at Faith 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 16th: Easter Sunday**

No Sunday School

Worship 8:00 a.m.

Brunch 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt 11:15 a.m.

**COMMUNITY FORUM**

WHAT: Community Forum – Race and the School to Prison Pipeline.

WHEN: Thursday evening, March 30, from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

WHERE: Faith Lutheran Church

4515 Dobie Rd.

Okemos, MI

Discussion panel participants include:

**The Honorable Donald L. Allen, Jr**. – Chief Judge, 55th Judicial Court

**Angela Waters Austin** – President and CEO of One Love Global, Inc.

**LaShawn Erby** – Author, Social Justice Warrior, Community Organizer

**Nathaniel Lake, Jr.** – Elder within The Turning Point of Lansing

**Rev. Kenneth Ponds** – Retired ELCA Chaplain (Starr Commonwealth, Albion)

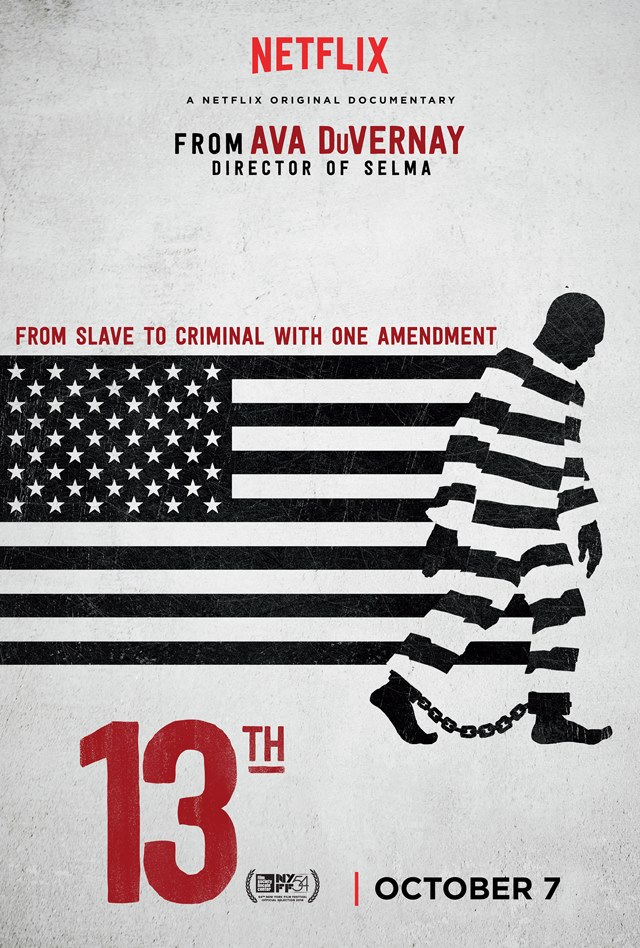
**Moderator – Milton L. Scales** – President of M.L. Scales & Associates, LLC

As we prepare for the Community Forum, Faith Lutheran Church is also sponsoring a showing of the acclaimed documentary:

13th

on Thursday evening, March 23, at 7:00 PM

13th is a 2016 American documentary by director Ava DuVernay. Centered on race in the United States criminal justice system, the film is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which outlawed slavery. DuVernay's documentary opens with the idea that 25 percent of the people in the world who are incarcerated are incarcerated in the U.S. and argues that slavery is being effectively perpetuated in the U.S. through mass incarceration. The showing of this film will also take place at Faith Lutheran Church. All are welcome to attend.



***CORNERSTONE* DOCUMENTARY TO SCREEN AT FAITH LUTHERAN ON TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2017 7:00 p.m.**

*CORNERSTONE*, an inspiring documentary film by award-winning director Debi Lang, touches on Twesigye Jackson Kaguri’s moving personal story, which inspired the creation of Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project, a motivated, comprehensive, community-based organization that utilizes a unique holistic approach to not only combat hunger, illness and poverty, but also to educate children, create financial independence, and empower girls and women.

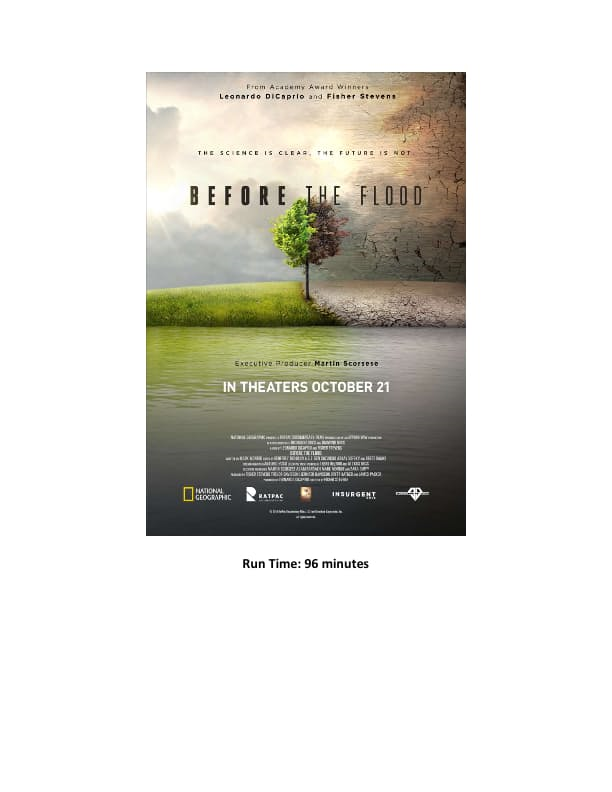
Kaguri’s work has earned him the respect of humanitarians worldwide including the United Nations. He received the **2015 Waislitz Global Citizen Award**, was named a **2012 CNN Hero** is recognized in **Time Magazine’s Power of One** series, is a **Tedx Talks** speaker and has authored four books including the widely popular “**A School For My Village**”.

Spreading awareness of the impact that still exist from the AIDS pandemic through *CORNERSTONE* will motivate viewers to become part of the movement that Nyaka AIDS Orphans Projects has created to empower the grannies who support the orphans in rural villages of Southwestern Uganda.”

The *CORNERSTONE* screening will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 at Faith Lutheran Church Located on 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos, MI 48864. Admission is free and donations are encouraged with proceeds directed to Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project.

The event will include a meet and greet with Twesigye Jackson Kaguri. A reception and refreshments featuring Ugandan coffee and Nyaka crafts bazaar will follow the screening.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/221940064877963/>

The Green Team will be presenting a showing of the documentary, *Before the Flood*, at Okemos Public Library (4321 Okemos Rd.) on **Sunday afternoon, April 30, beginning at 2:30 PM.**

*Before the Flood*, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, traveling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change firsthand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction. He also discovers a calculated disinformation campaign orchestrated by powerful special interests working to confuse the public about the urgency of the growing climate crisis. With unprecedented access to thought leaders around the world, DiCaprio searches for hope in a rising tide of catastrophic news.

**Following the showing of this documentary, the Rev. Dr. John Schleicher will be leading a conversation and discussion about the movie. Pastor Schleicher is the President of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light.**

**This event is free and the public is invited. Please email Pastor Ellen at** prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org **with any questions.**

**\*\*Fun Fact: One of the producers of *Before the Flood* is Class of 2000 Okemos Graduate, Trevor Davidoski. \*\***

<https://www.facebook.com/events/172008216649497/>

**SYNOD SPONSORED EVENTS**

**Synod Sponsored Event**

On Saturday, March 25, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod is hosting an event here at Faith Lutheran Church. The event is entitled **"Why Are Lutherans Political?" A Day of Conversation with Dr. James M. Childs, Jr.**

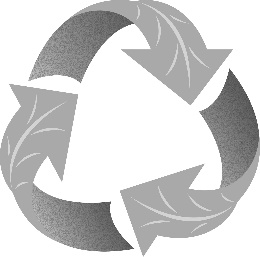
In our Nation today, the relationship between faith and politics is a highly-charged topic of discussion. Dr. James Childs, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics ad Trinity Lutheran Seminary, will guide us in exploration of this topic through presentations and conversation. This event will be held Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9:30am to 3:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos. All are welcome!  
You may register for this event by contacting Ann at the Synod Office (321-5066). Lunch will be provided for a modest fee.

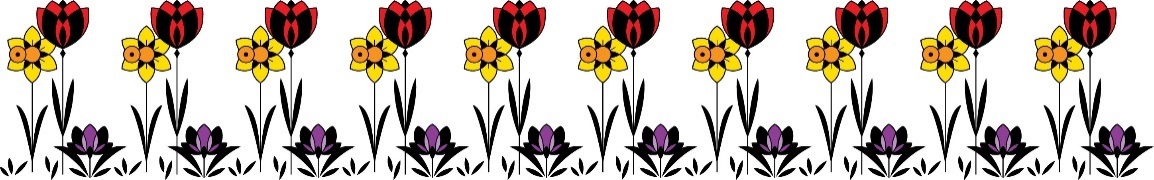
**IN OUR COMMUNITY**



Shared Pregnancy Women's Center is hosting its annual Lifesavers Celebration and Fundraiser on Thursday, April 27th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Grand Ledge Opera House.  Admission is free!  There will be a silent auction throughout the evening, children's crafts, face painting, ice cream sundaes, and a short program at 7:15 p.m. featuring a client testimony and awards presentation.  Join the fun and help support Shared Pregnancy so we can continue helping moms, babies, and families in the Lansing area.  Go to our facebook page for auction updates and all the details.

**FROM THE GREEN TEAM**

Just a reminder:  The Boxes in the Foyer of both West Church Doors can be used to recycle department store shopping bags, vegetable bags, dry cleaning bags, mailing bags, as well as grocery store bags.  Essentially any plastic bag that is clean and dry can be placed in the big cardboard boxes for recycling.  If you have questions, please call Cecelia Kramer [517-349-3297](tel:%28517%29%20349-3297)



**2017 EASTER FLOWER DEDICATION**

**Order deadline: April 2**

I would like to order the following flower(s) to

be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday:

QUANTITY FLOWER(S) ORDER TOTAL

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil(s) $10 ea. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip(s)\* $10 ea. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Color selection for tulips: Purple Pink Yellow Red

Please PRINT your dedication(s) below:

Name person(s) dedicating:

In memory of:

In honor of:

In celebration of:

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church

Place this dedication form in Connie Nelson’s church mailbox

*Please pick up your flower(s)*

*after the late worship service Easter Sunday*