Welcome to

Faith Lutheran

**Sunday, March 26th 2017**

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**Now I See**

Blindness means different things to different people, but it means something to everyone. While only some people experience physical blindness, everyone has moments in which we struggle to discover a truth or to see a bigger picture, as well as moments of realization or revelation or sudden remembrance—moments when we say, “Now I see.” Often such a moment shows that we were blind in some way. The moment of new sight might be a move of repentance, a stumbling out of naïveté, or an awakening to the needs of the world around us and the radical way God loves that world.

When Jesus meets the man born blind in John 9, he initiates all sorts of new vision. He treats the man’s physical condition. He declares that the man’s lifelong state does not have to do with how good or evil he or his parents are. Gradually the man also sees who Jesus is; he progresses from labeling Jesus “the man called Jesus” to declaring, “He is a prophet,” to worshiping the Son of Man. In this gospel reading we see Jesus challenge the assumptions the religious authorities hold about how to follow God and even what “sin” means.

The story of the man born blind invites us to open ourselves to the moments that make us say, “Now I see.” These moments include the realization of our wrong actions and our sinful inaction, what we have done and left undone; but they also include the rethinking of our categories, the reconsideration of how God is asking us to minister, the new affirmation of our baptism, and further listening to God’s promises and God’s call. The God who cannot be confined to categories or pathways comes to us today to challenge our blindness and open for us an ever-new way of salvation.

**Sunday, March 26, 2017**

4 Lent

**Introduction to the day**

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

*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**

Temple Talk RIC Team

“Were You There?” (arr. Valley and Berry)

Joyful Noise, with Gwynne Kadrofske, flute

*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**

***Be Thou My Vision ELW #793***

**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.**

**Kyrie**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father 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: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord’s chosen successor to Saul.*

A reading from 1 Samuel.

1The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” 2Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” 4Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” 5He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.  
  6When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” 7But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” 8Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” 9Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” 10Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” 11Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” 12He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” 13Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Joyful Noise Choir “He’s My Best Friend” (Hernandez)

**Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

A reading from Ephesians.

8Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—9for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; 13but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,   
 “Sleeper, awake!  
  Rise from the dead,  
 and Christ will shine on you.”

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

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**Gospel: John 9:1-41**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. 4We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, 7saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” 9Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” 10But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” 12They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”  
  13They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” 16Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. 17So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”  
  18The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” 22His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”  
  24So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” 25He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” 26They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” 28Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” 30The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” 34They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.  
  35Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” 37Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” 38He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. 39Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” 40Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” 41Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Children’s message**

**Sermon**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**Hymn of the Day**

***What God Ordains is Good Indeed ELW #776***

**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 “Lonesome Valley” (Martin)

**offering response**

**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**

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**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**

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**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.

Amen.

**Communion Song**

**congregational song**

***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ELW #815***

**congregational song**

***Christ the Life of All the Living ELW #339***

*The assembly stands*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

***Amazing Grace ELW #779***

**Dismissal**

Marked with the cross of Christ,

go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**postlude**

“What God Ordains is Good Indeed" arr. Johann Ludwig Krebs

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Brothers and sisters, welcome to worship as we are wrapped in the embrace of our loving Creator!

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 19, 2017 Attendance: 120

Serving Faith March 26 April 2

Acolyte Anja Guenther

Altar Care Michelle Ransom & Pam Williams

Gretchen Bills & Gail Barricklow Communion Assistants Anja Guenther

John McPhail Ken Schoepf

Nathan Nelson Heidi Nussdorfer

Greeters Dick & Sally Knoll Ken & Karen Whitmyer

Lay Assistants John McPhail Ken Schoepf

Readers Nathan Nelson Heidi Nussdorfer

Ushers Bill & Pam Williams Walter & Brenda Kopf

Nursery Jennifer & Maia Guenther Alexis Hereza

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FaithFamily&Friends3

**March 26, 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

***May Faith Family News newsletter*⎯**

**Please submit by Monday April 17**

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 Matthew Carpenter and the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church of East Tawas, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Weekly Offering 03/12/17**  Year-to-date as of 02/28/2017

Loose Cash $ 66.00 Income $45,183.54 Loose Checks $ 25.00 Expenses $47,663.11

Flowers $ 70.00 Net Income  **-2479.57**

World Hunger $ 10.00

Lenten Service $ 12.00

General Fund $ 4347.00

**Subtotal $ 4530.00**

**Weekly Offering 03/19/17**

Loose Cash $ 42.00

Loose Checks $ 30.00

Youth $ 50.00

Caring Committee $ 50.00

Lois Sollenberger Mem. $ 475.00

Mildred Thorn Mem. $ 535.00

Walter Keilholtz Mem. $ 1000.00

Tanzania Water Project $ 569.50

Flowers $ 80.00

Lenten Service $ 61.00

General Fund $ 2265.00

**Subtotal $ 5157.50**

Simply Giving $ 2826.00

**Total $ 7983.50**

**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS ­­­­**

Today’s altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Faith Lutheran Church.

THIS WEEK’S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

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

**Name Tag Sunday \*\* Please wear your nametag!\*\***

9:00 a.m. Children’s Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, March 27th

2:00 p.m. Women’s Study

7:00 p.m. Green Team Meeting

Tuesday, March 28th

Worship folder announcements deadline

Noon: Study in Pastor Ellen’s office

6:30 p.m. Evangelism and Outreach Meeting in Library

Wednesday, March 29th

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

8:10 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, March 30th

6:00 p.m. Community Forum-Race and the School to Prison Pipeline

Friday, March 31st

Saturday, April 1st

COMING UP...

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**Easter Breakfast**

**Sunday April 16th @ 9 a.m.**

**Hosted by the Membership Development Committee.**

**We will provide beverages, please sign up for a dish to pass on the Membership board in The Narthex**

SAVE THE DATE

****The Property Team has scheduled our Spring Clean-up for **Sunday, April 23** after worship service.  We hope to do some trimming, mulching and planting.  Gloves, shovels, pruners, trimmers, extension cords, wheelbarrow, etc. would be good to bring with you.  To help celebrate Earth Day which is Saturday, April 22, the Green Team will be participating in the Spring Clean-up effort. For all those who are staying to help, a light lunch will be served following worship. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we know how much food to prepare for all who will be helping to clean up our church yard. Thanks for your help.

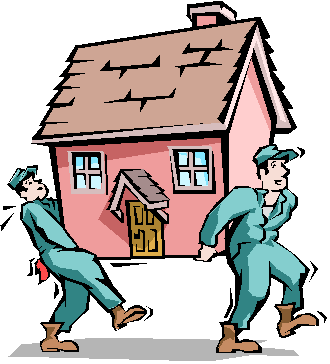
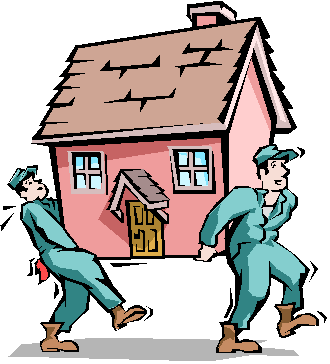
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**Save the Date!**

Friday, June 16, 2017 Faith Family Fun night at the Lugnuts game!

Seniors eat FREE on June 16th and after the game enjoy a beautiful fireworks display!

Sign up deadline is Sunday, May 21st. Please see Michelle Ransom with any questions.

***Sixty Plus or Minus:***

***Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 11:30 a.m.***

***Pot Luck Lunch and Program***

***Michelle Traill-Crosser, Caring Transitions of Lansing***

***“Senior Relocation, Downsizing and On-Line Estate Sales”***

Are you thinking of downsizing and moving to smaller, simpler living quarters? Where do you start with the planning?? What resources are available to help you with this daunting project?

Joins us in Faith’s lower level fellowship hall for a potluck lunch, followed by this important learning experience!

WAYS TO HELP

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**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>

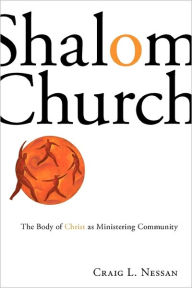
You also will find the audio available on the Faith Lutheran Website under worship:

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**

**Thanks!! Youth Fundraiser, March Madness Meal**We offered a ton of food and we had an excellent crowd, both participants and volunteers, for this fundraising meal. After costs we were able to net $331.77 for our Youth Group. Thank you for your support and your contributions.

**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.

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**Vacation Bible School** will be held on June 19th – 23rd from 9:00-12:00. VBS Sunday will be on  
June 25th. We are looking for volunteers to help out with the various stations and with the groups. This year’s theme is **“Maker Fun Factory”!** Please let Melinda know if you are able to assist during this fun week.

**Important Dates in April  
2nd & 9th** **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, SPRING BREAK**  
14th-15th Confirmation Lock-In, 6:00pm-10:00am  
**15th**  **Final Confirmation Review, 1:00-4:00**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  
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 Noon

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

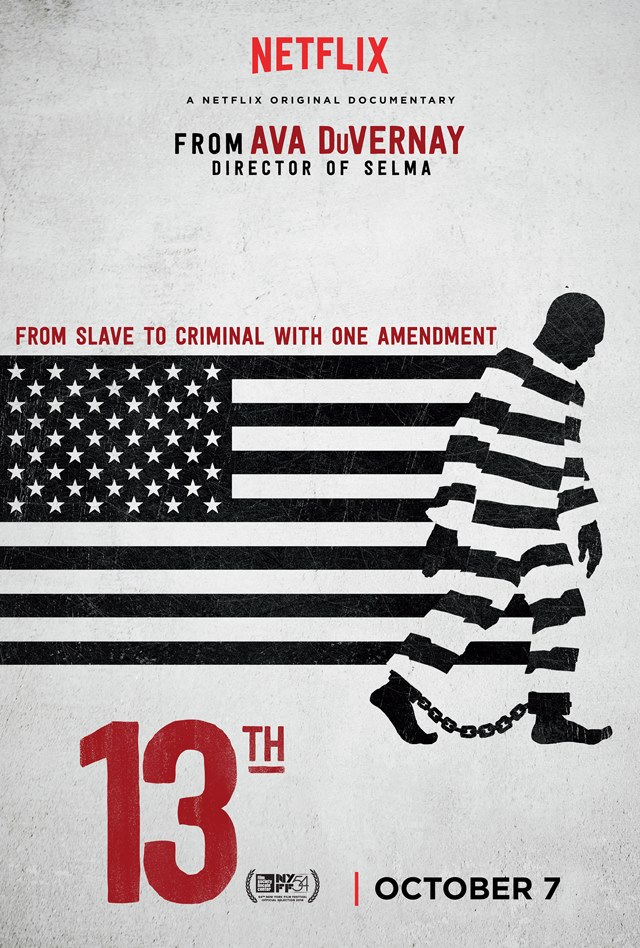
**Angela Waters Austin** – President and CEO of One Love Global, Inc.

**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



***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.

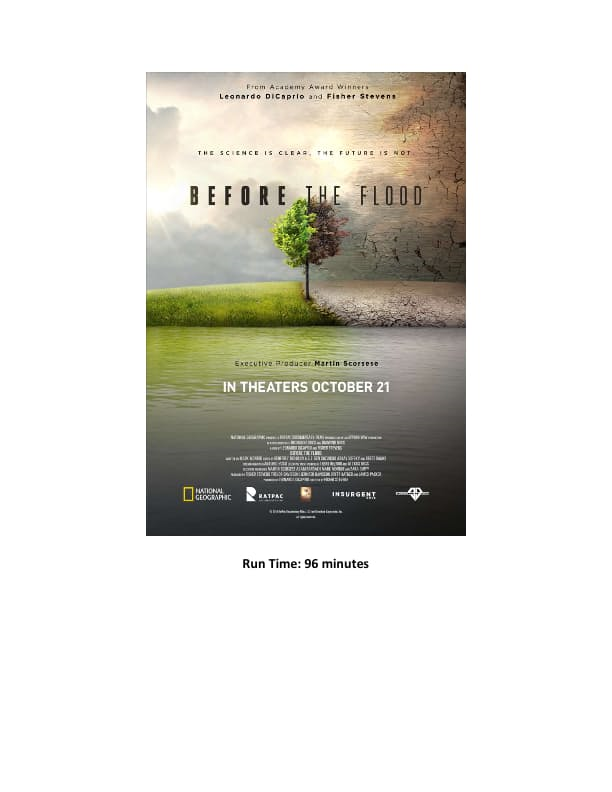
Kaguri’s work has earned him the respect of humanitarians worldwide including the United Nations. He received the **2015 Waislitz Global Citizen Award**, was named a **2012 CNN Hero** is recognized in **Time Magazine’s Power of One** series, is a **Tedx Talks** speaker and has authored four books including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

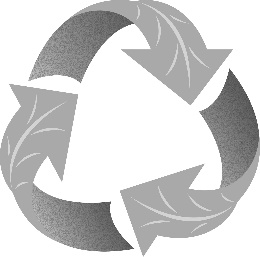
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**IN OUR COMMUNITY**

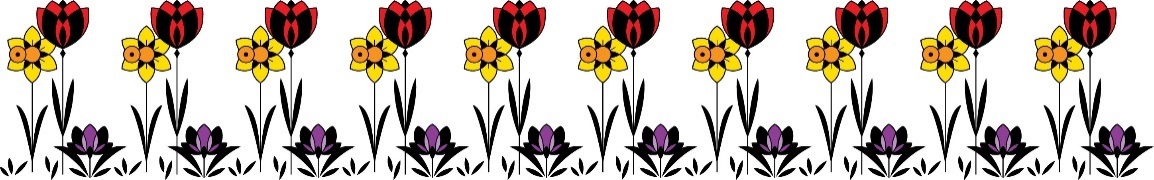


Shared Pregnancy Women's Center is hosting its annual Lifesavers Celebration and Fundraiser on Thursday, April 27th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Grand Ledge Opera House.  Admission is free!  There will be a silent auction throughout the evening, children's crafts, face painting, ice cream sundaes, and 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*