

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

September 10, 2017

IF 2 OF YOU
AGREE
ON EARTH
ABOUT ANYTHING YOU
ASK,

IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU

BY MY
FATHER
IN
HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 18:19, NRSV

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
..we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
..we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
..we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ
-



Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26)
We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.

Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ www.faithlutheranokemos.org
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ www.mittensynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ www.elca.org

Facebook

facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship
Sermons

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

Messy Communities, Blessed Communities

Churches are made up of people. That may be their biggest strength and their biggest weakness. When we work together with other people, whether in a business, a family, or a church, things can get complicated quickly. Having people around can lighten our individual load, but it can also add frustrations and headaches. In a group, we have a variety of gifts, resources, and people to support us, but we also must prepare to be challenged by others' ideas, personalities, and failings. For some people, that's enough to want to stay away from church altogether.

Today's gospel presents the messy work of community as the very place where we learn how to follow Christ and be in communion with God. Here Jesus instructs his disciples on how to resolve differences and how to make decisions together. He points to God's commitment to this process—standing behind us in the choices we make and promising always to be present when we gather. Sometimes we can be quick to read things differently, taking our conflicts as a sign of God's absence. But God gives us one another in community as a way to learn what it means to love the way Christ loved us. Through community, we receive grace.

As you prepare for worship, take a moment to pray. Thank God for the community of people around you. For their faults that give you the opportunity to learn how to love. For the gift of their patience when you are the one who needs to be loved. Look for opportunities to strengthen your connection with people in this community you don't know so well, or if you are new to this gathering, ponder what God's call to the blessings of community means for you at this moment in your life.

Sunday, September 10, 2017

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Rally Day

Sunday School Teachers Installation

Introduction to the day

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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

"Gather Us In"

arr. Ron Schmoltze

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
Source of all life,

**we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
✠ God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW #836

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.



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

Refrain



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



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



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

A reading from Romans.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let Us Put On the Clothes of Christ”

Bret Hesla

Song printed on the pink handout with your bulletin

The assembly is seated

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF TEACHERS

A reading from First Corinthians.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*I Cor. 12:4-7*)

Brothers and sisters, you have volunteered your time, your energy, and your gifts to the children, youth and family ministries of this congregation. Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

A reading from Proverbs.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (*Prov. 3:5-6*)

Will you carry out this ministry centered in Christ's call, striving to trust God as your guide and inspiration?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

A reading from Ephesians.

I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (*Eph. 3:16-19*)

Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and honor the gospel with a faithful life?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

⇒

The assembly stands

I now ask you, the people of Faith Lutheran Church:

Will you today renew your commitment to our youngest brothers and sisters, our children and youth who look to you for guidance, support, and examples of righteous living?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

People of Faith: Will you claim these gifted people as those called by God to help carry out our congregation's ministry to children, youth, and families? Will you support them and enthusiastically celebrate the work they do?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for these leaders and the young people they serve, celebrating our children and youth as the ones Jesus blessed and welcomed?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently. Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, who has given you the gifts and the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

On behalf of Faith Lutheran Church, we now commission you for ministry, grateful for your gifts and your willingness to serve.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause

The worship service continues with the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

"The Church Within Us"

(Schneider-Hustad)
Chancel Choir

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and lyrical, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me." The score ends with a double bar line.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: Liturgy of Joy, James M. Capers, b. 1948 Music ©Augsburg Fortress
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
God of life,
you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.
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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of five staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,". The second staff continues with "heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -". The third staff has "san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -". The fourth staff starts with "est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -". The fifth and final staff ends with "san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.".

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Now the Silence

ELW #460

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Bind Us Together

Refrain
F Dm Gm

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

c⁷ F F

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

Dm Gm C F

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

F c⁷ F F c⁷ F

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam - ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.

F c⁷ F F c⁷ F B^b/C *Refrain*

There . . is on - ly one Bod - y; that . . is why we can sing:
You are God's cho - sen de - sire, you are the glo - rious new wine.

Text & Music: Bob Fillman. B. 1946

Text & Music Printed under CCLI license # 720217

The assembly stands

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Earth and All Stars!

ELW #731

DISMISSAL

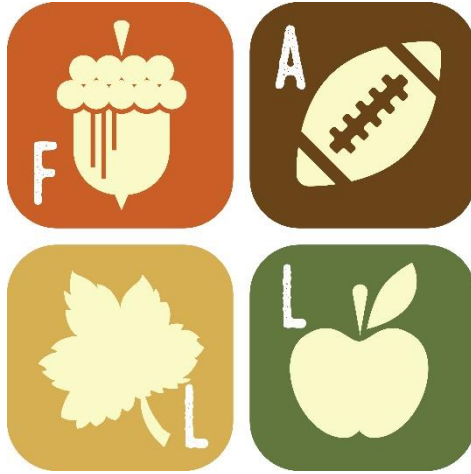
Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Fague in C Major”

Dietrich Buxtehude



Brothers and Sisters, welcome to Faith Church as we embark on a new program year!
Thank you for sharing this day with us.

Pastor	Ellen Schoepf	prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Secretary	Katie Love	kllove@faithlutheranokemos.org
Director of Christian Education		Katie Love
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

September 3, 2017 Attendance: 63

Serving Faith	September 10	September 17
Acolyte		
Altar Care	Gwynne Kadrofske & Melinda Schultz	
Communion Assistants		
	Jim Crum	Mike Eschelbach
	Elaine Harrison	Warren Heilman
Greeters	Mike Eschelbach	Mark & Molly DeHate
Lay Assistants	Jim Crum	Mike Eschelbach
Readers	Elaine Harrison	Warren Heilman
Ushers	Dingledine Family	Dingledine Family
Nursery	Jennifer Coe	Drew & Pam Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

September 10, 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

October Faith Family News newsletter—
Please submit by Monday September 18
Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please lift up in prayer this week:

- ✠ Members—Max Ambs, Lowell Barricklow, Ellen Milne, and Harry Nawrock
- ✠ Friends and family—
Harriet, Pat Belonga, Todd Barricklow, Greg Beckwith, Carol Coyer, Kay Coker, Chris Cotter, Terrie Becker, Allyson, Heather, Erin, Al, Sai, Jeanne Hicks, Eshwar Lingamgunta, Robert Bordt, Jenn Leitch, Brian Johnson, Meredith, Jeanne and Leonard, Susan Heft, John Joseph Lanzetta, Manitta family, Loretta Milne, Bethany Robison, Jean Smith, Scott Seeley, “Little Zee” (3 yr. old daughter of a friend of Brenda Kopf’s), Max Whitmyer 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 friends

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 Andrew Tengwall and the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Savior of Kalamazoo, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering	09/03/17	Year-to-date as of 07/30/2017	
Loose Cash	\$ 41.00	Income	\$143,631.43
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$ 25.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$170,515.15</u>
Capital Repairs	\$6016.80	Net Income	-26,883.72
Tanzania Water Project	\$ 50.00		
World Hunger	\$ 75.00		
General Fund	<u>\$4030.00</u>		
Subtotal	\$10,237.80		
Simply Giving	\$2101.00		
Total	<u>\$12,338.80</u>		

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by ...

Vase 1: Harry Nawrock and the Richardson Family in celebration of Kathy Richardson's birthday.

Vase 2: Walter, Brenda, Becca, Austin, and Ciara in celebration of Katy's 25th birthday.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

- 9:00 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF
- 9:00 a.m. Introductory Meeting on *Falling Upward* in the Library.
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch provided by Church Council & Vision 2020 Campaign Kick-Off
- 3:00 p.m. Worship at the Willows

Monday, September 11th

- 9:30 a.m. Ingham County Play Group
- 7:00 p.m. American Divided Video Series and Panel Discussion

Tuesday, September 12th

- Noon: Study in Pastor's Office

Wednesday, September 13th

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Study
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION
- 5:45 p.m. Meal is Served: Provided by Parish Education
- 6:30 p.m. Faith Bells
- 7:00 p.m. Trinity & Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 14th

11:30 a.m. Caregivers Support Group Meeting

Friday, September 15th

Saturday, September 16th

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please Join Us!

Potluck Luncheon hosted by Council and Membership Development following worship with Council Presentation of Faith's 2020 Vision.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

What are those Laundry Baskets for?? ARROW TREE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you so much for being so generous over the past few months! Arrow Tree apartments are very thankful for your donations. Residents there are very appreciative. Suggested items needed:

SOUP, MAC & CHEESE, CEREAL, OATMEAL, PASTA, PEANUT BUTTER, HEALTHY SNACK BARS, TUNA, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ETC.

Personal need items are also helpful. Toilet paper, toothbrushes/paste, feminine products etc.



NOTECARDS BY SAMARITAS

As we continue to support the work of Samaritas, we are selling notecards. The covers of these notecards display artwork done by refugees who have come to the United States through the work of Samaritas. Notecards are available for \$5.00 per bundle of 6. If you are interested in purchasing a bundle of notecards, please place your \$5 in the box next to the display in the Narthex. If you write a check, please make the check out to **Samaritas**



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Personal Care Kits for LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

With all the natural and man-made disasters around the globe, there is an ongoing need for the "Personal Care Kits" provided by Lutheran World Relief. The Women of Faith Stewardship Group has set a goal of putting together 40 kits during August and September before the October shipping date.



Each Kit will contain these items

- 1 Bath Size Towel in dark color (medium weight is best)
- 1 Adult Toothbrush
- 1 Heavy Duty Comb
- 1 Pair of Nail Clippers
- 1 Pair of Shoelaces
- 2 Bath Size Bars of Ivory Soap

A display board and collection box will be in the Fellowship Area. Thank you for your help in this project. Contact Charlotte Rasmussen if you have any questi

**Delivery Drivers Needed on Sunday,
September 17th. Please sign up in the narthex.**

CARING COMMITTEE NEWS

In one month children in our community will be go back to school. They will need to start their day with a healthy breakfast. You can help make sure that happens by joining the Caring Committee in the annual Back-to-School Breakfast Bag Food Drive. Individuals, families and committees are encouraged to shop for any or all of the following items:

- Oatmeal
- Cold Cereal
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Canned Fruit
- Muffin Mix
- Juice
- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Breakfast Bars
- Instant Breakfast Drinks

Back To School



Place your food donations in the grocery cart between now and September. With cash donations we will purchase milk, bread and eggs. There will also be a sign-up sheet hanging on the Committee Information board.

Thank you Faith Family for your care, concern and desire to help others in our community in HIS name.

Wednesday Night Live!

Starting on Wednesday, September 13,

Faith Lutheran Church is the place to be!

We will be offering a meal for anyone in the congregation who wishes to come to church to eat (meals much like the Lenten suppers). The meal will be served from 5:45 – 7:00. We will be offering activities for all ages! Wednesday will be family night at Faith! The evening schedule will include:

- 5:30 – 6:00 Joyful Noise choir rehearsal
- 5:45 – 7:00 Meal served
- 6:30 – 7:30 Trinity, Confirmation, and *activities for younger children!*
- 6:30 – 7:30 Bell Choir rehearsal
- 7:00 – 8:00 Book study for adults (*Harold Sollenberger will be leading the 1st study based on the book **Falling Upward** by Richard Rohr: Sign up in the narthex*)
- 6:30 – 8:00 Movies of interest for adults and older youth
- 7:30 – 8:00 Additional activities for kids
- 7:30 – 9:00 Chancel Choir

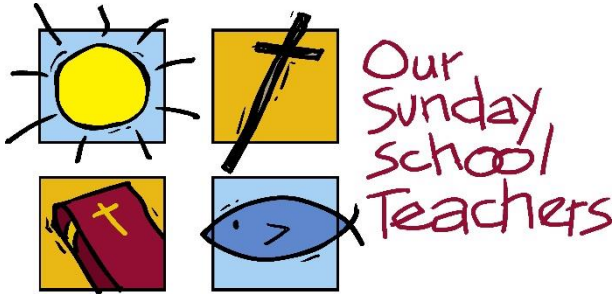
Our **Wednesday Night Meals** will be provided by different committees and groups within the congregation. A freewill offering will be taken at each meal. This money can then be used by the committee to further enhance their ministry work within the life of the congregation.

Please sign up your group or committee in the narthex.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all the amazing teachers who will be leading our young one's this year! We couldn't do it without you!



This week...

Wednesday, September 13th

6:30-7pm: Trinity and Confirmation Parent
& Kids Games/Ice Breakers


Trinity & Confirmation
CLASSES

7:00 p.m.: Confirmation & Trinity Parent and Student Mandatory Meeting.

6:30 p.m.: Preschool thru 3rd grade children are invited to a fun evening of games, activities, signing and Bible stories.

Looking Ahead: September

17th : Sunday School (PK-6th)
20th: Wednesday Night Live
24th: Sunday School (PK-6th)
Teens Study (7-12 grade) at
Katie Love's Home (6-8pm)
27th: Wednesday Night Live

Looking Ahead October:

1st: Sunday School (Pk-6th)
4th: Wednesday Night Live
(T&C College Care Packages)
8th: Sunday School (PK-6th)
Operation Shoe Box Begins
11th: Wednesday Night Live
14th: F.G.H Auction 6-11 p.m.

2017 F.G.H. Auction
(Faith Goes to Houston)



The Youth of Faith are excited to announce that their F.G.H. Auction for their 2018 ELCA National Gathering trip will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 6:00-11:00pm at Spag's in Williamston. The cost of the ticket is \$25 each, and we will be offering hearty hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, and dessert. A cash bar will be available. Tickets will go on sale on September 24th at the church, and will also be available at the door.

We need your help to make this a spectacular success.

*First, we need donations from all of you so that we have many items to auction off. Here are some suggestions: providing a dessert a month for 6 months, Spa gift cards, movie gift cards, lawn services, you pick/I knit, famous potluck recipes, etc. Please take some of the donation forms located on the narthex board to any vendors that you use regularly and ask them to donate. Also, items can be personal services or talents that you can supply. We would really appreciate your support.

*Secondly, please attend the event and BRING your family and friends.

If you have any questions, please contact Melinda Schultz at mrsjas305@sbcglobal.net.

TEEN
GATHERINGS

All 7th – 12th graders are invited for dinner and a short study every 2nd and 4th Sunday at the Love's house. 4548 Seneca Drive (directly behind the church). Our first meeting will be Sunday, September 24th from 6-8 p.m. Be sure to attend the first meeting to help plan our Fall outings!! Stay for the whole time, or stay as long as you can!!



Upcoming Caregiving Meeting

September 14th – An afternoon of sharing and caring

October 12th- An afternoon of sharing and caring

**IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL FOR 60+/-- ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
AT 11:30 A.M.**

That will be the theme for the opening fall program, featuring Gus Lusis who will be with us to tell a captivating story! A member of Faith with his wife, Mara, Gus is a retired Lansing school teacher. During those active years, he engaged children in after-school chess games and has continued to do this as a willing volunteer. This activity is seen not just as a game, but a shaping of character and creative thinking in children. He tells a fascinating story!!

NOW, to emphasize the Back to School theme, you are encouraged to participate in these ways:

- 1) Please bring an item or more for the Breakfast Bags being assembled in the Narthex (to be delivered later. Items listed in the Newsletter. Consider this fulfilled if you have already contributed.)
- 2) Pack your "lunch bag" with your choice for the 11:30 meal. Dessert and beverages will be provided!
- 3) Bring a friend - and renew old friendships.
- 4) Sign the sign-up sheet on the back side of the Faith at Work board in the Narthex to say you are coming on September 20 @ 11:30

We look forward to celebrating Oktoberfest on October 25 with a potluck of German food. John McPhail will be sharing with us photos and experiences from his recent sojourn in "Lutherland" (northern Germany) during this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation. Continue to watch the Worship Resources (bulletin) and subsequent newsletters!

A COMMUNITY FORUM TO DISCUSS ADDICTION

Thursday evening, October 5,
from 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Faith Lutheran Church

On Thursday evening, October 5, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos will be hosting a Community Forum to discuss addiction. Forum participants include Phil Pavona, Executive Vice President of **Families Against Narcotics (FAN)**, and The Honorable Donald Allen, Judge of the 55th District Court and President of FAN.

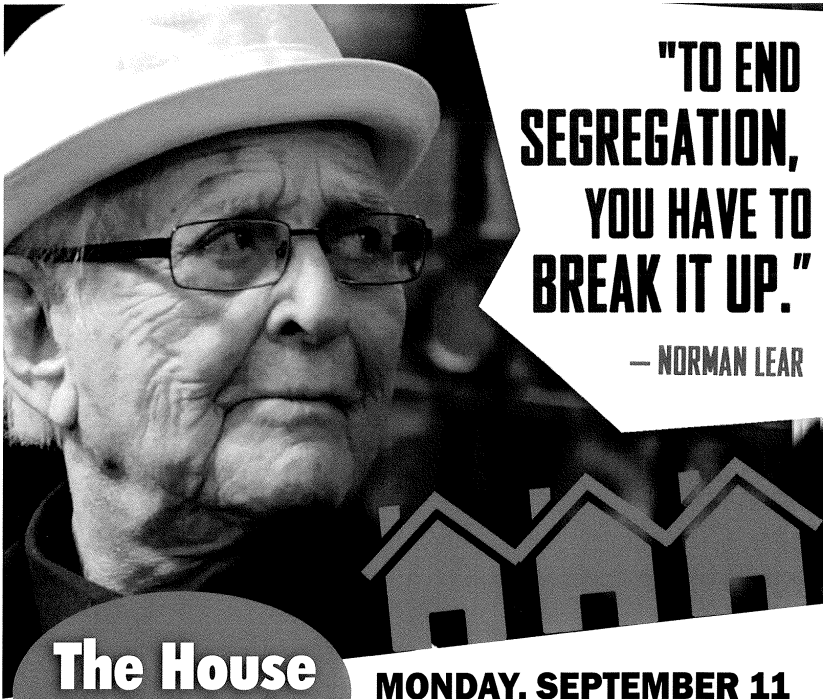


The opioid crisis is growing problem across our country. The FAN Mission and Vision is to raise awareness of the prescription opiate drug abuse epidemic, to reduce the stigma and change the face of addiction, to educate about the dangers of prescription and illegal narcotic use and to support those affected by drug abuse and addiction. FAN works to reduce the stigma attached to addiction and create an open forum for families and professionals to receive valuable insight. The organization educates to raise awareness and save lives by partnering with insurance companies, medical professionals, legislators, the legal community, public safety, schools, families and friends, facilitating change in the way addiction is viewed and treated. They work to make a difference one step and one life at a time.

Please join us for a much-needed community conversation on this critical topic.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & STUDIES

AMERICA DIVIDED



**"TO END
SEGREGATION,
YOU HAVE TO
BREAK IT UP."**

— NORMAN LEAR

**The House
Divided**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

FREE SCREENING & DIALOGUE

7-9 PM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS

4515 Dobie Rd, Okemos, MI 48864

Questions: angela@oneloveglobal.org

**AMERICA
DIVIDED**

RadicalMedia

Just This Side of the River EPX



COGL



The Greater Lansing
Clergy Forum

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER
LANSING**

**Action
of Greater Lansing**





Capitol Conference Lutheran Churches

PRESENT

REFORMATION

500

A FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

FEATURING A

*Conference-wide mass choir leading
Hal Hopson's A Festival of Hymns*

FOOD
ART GALLERY
KID'S ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER
29

3:00PM AT
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
549 EAST MOUNT HOPE AVENUE
LANSING

The event is free; donations will be accepted for supper and an offering will be taken up for Samaritas

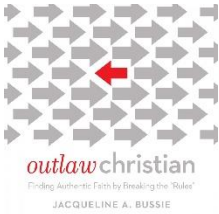


Join us for
Beer & Hymns

Upstairs at
Williamston Pub & Grill

Sunday, October 1st
5:30 PM

This event takes place regularly on the 1st Sunday of every month.



Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the “Rules”

Five Week Book Study Group Opportunity

Here are two terrific opportunities to read and discuss a book by Jacqueline A. Bussie, former professor at Capital University and now, Director of the **Forum on Faith and Life** and professor of religion at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. The book is entitled ***Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the “Rules.”***

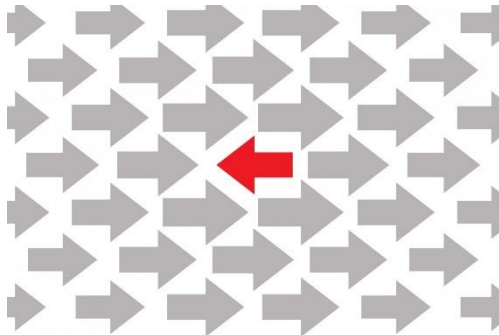
- **One book study will take place at Kim O’Brien’s home on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM.** This group will meet on: 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, & 11/16. Plan to come and maybe bring along a friend. Kim says you are also welcome to bring your kids and they can play in the basement during the conversation.
- **A second opportunity to discuss this book will take place at Coral Gables Restaurant on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM.** This group will include members of various area ELCA churches. If you would like to be part of this conversation, the Coral Gables group will meet on: 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7 & 11/14.

In her book, *Outlaw Christian*, Bussie talks about the unwritten “rules” of modern Christianity. She goes into depth about her experience and these so called “rules” modern Christianity seems to place upon people. She says that a faith governed by these rules is stifling, unsustainable, and dishonest. In her life experience, she was unable to overlook the suffering she saw around her – suffering in her friends, her neighbors and in her own life. She discovered that the only way she could keep her faith in the God she loved was to start breaking the rules, rules like *“Never get mad or argue with God.”* She calls this rule a “life-sucking narrative of the lie you should consider breaking without

shame or secrecy, especially if you are the kind of person who has already broken it a thousand tiny times within the recesses of your mind. Because hope is anger's mother, if you start breaking this law, I promise you will encounter hope along the road and she will never leave your side. Also, airing your authentic tears, concerns, and emotions in the sunlight rather than hiding them or apologizing for their existence will restore your humanity." (p.38)

Bussie draws from Scripture and her real-life experience and her book is a rallying cry to believers who care too much to not only let suffering go unquestioned but also care too much to let doubts go unanswered. Bussie calls for an authentic form of faith that laments, loves, laughs, longs, and lives, but never lies.

There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for both book group opportunities. Please consider being a part of this educational opportunity. And, look for future information regarding Jacqueline Bussie's speaking engagement right here at Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 17, 2018. She will be the featured speaker as we kick off the **Annual Holle Speaker Series**.



*outlaw*christian

Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the "Rules"

JACQUELINE A. BUSSIE

Fall Recycling Event

Saturday, September 30th 9a.m.-2p.m.
Chippawa Middle School



Recycling
Event