

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

September 17, 2017



...how often should
I forgive?
"Not **SEVEN** times,
but, I tell you,
**SEVENTY-
SEVEN**
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, 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>

Sunday, September 17, 2017

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Erick Johnson, Visiting Minister

Introduction to the day

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

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

Chorale St. Antoni
Faith Bells

(Joseph Haydn)

A World without Scarcity

We can easily remember the times in our lives when someone has been generous to us—whether by giving us a second chance financially or by pouring their time and energy into helping us succeed. Even the smallest moment of generosity can become a memory of great significance to us, one that brings joy and hope. Yet on a daily basis it can be easy to forget such moments of generosity when the world around us is filled with messages of scarcity. We are told that there is not enough—not enough money, jobs, resources, time, or even love—to go around.

Peter's question in today's gospel about how many times he ought to forgive someone is grounded in this kind of thinking. Faced with Peter's fear of scarcity, Jesus' response reveals his own confidence that there is always more love and more forgiveness to give. Jesus' words to Peter are grounded in his faith in an infinitely loving God whose mercy knows no limits. This kind of generosity is reflected in Jesus' parable when the king forgives a debt that would have been impossible to pay back. The king's action in the parable calls us to respond to the needs we see around us for forgiveness, for assistance, or for the use of our gifts with a generosity that comes from God.

When we gather as a Christian community for worship, we proclaim God's generous outpouring of love on us throughout history and our own lives. We come to hear Jesus respond to the narratives of scarcity around us with a narrative of abundance and generous giving—the narrative of his own life. When our time together ends, we are sent out to continue writing that story into the world around us through the generosity God has inspired in us.

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

O Day of Rest and Gladness

ELW #521

Please use the hymnal beside your seat.

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



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



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.



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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, 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: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

A reading from Romans.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

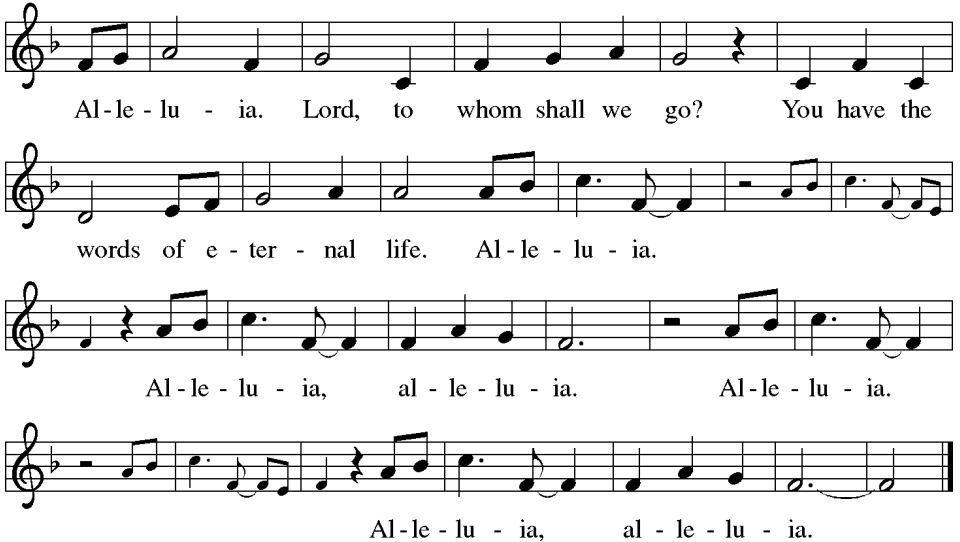
¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before

him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

Last time to coda ☩



where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.



3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be



un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

D.C. (stanza 4) al coda



loved as to love with all my soul.



ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

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

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

"When We Are Living"

(arr. Hopson)

Chancel Choir

Jon DeVries and Carter Haugen, trumpet

Rich Weingartner, tambourine

OFFERING RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

The musical score is written on six staves of music in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music concludes 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.

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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 concludes with "san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and a double bar line at the end.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food 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 given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

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

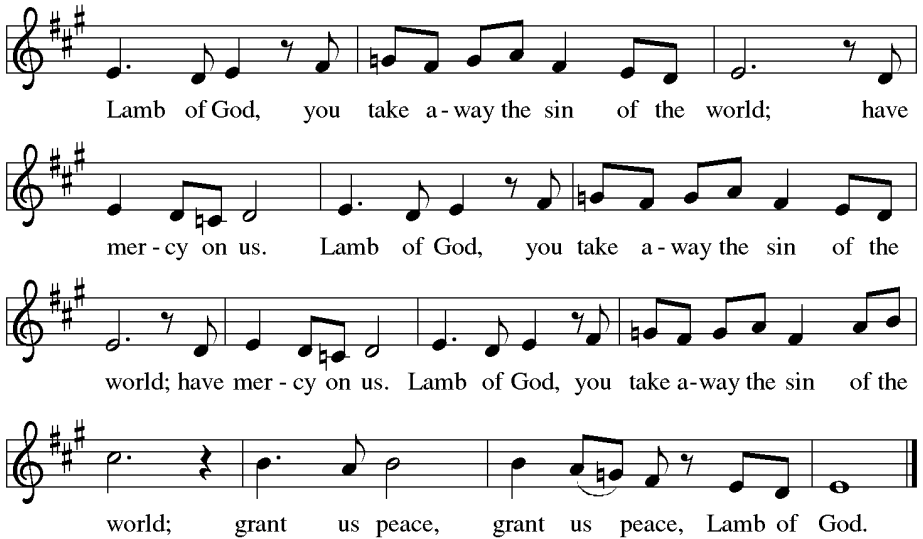
Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

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

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW #359

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

There is a Redeemer



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my king for - ev - er, in that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and



send - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

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

Praise to You, O God of Mercy

ELW #208

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Dialogue"

Louis Marchand



Grace to you and peace from God our Faith and the Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome to worship!

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

September 10, 2017 Attendance: 108

Serving Faith	September 17	September 24
Acolyte		Brenna Seeley
Altar Care	Gwynne Kadrofske & Melinda Schultz	
Communion Assistants		Brenna Seeley
	Mike Eschelbach	Zach Hereza
	Diane Wilke	Linda Hirt
Greeters	Mark & Molly DeHate	Jeff & Melinda Schultz
Lay Assistants	Mike Eschelbach	Zach Hereza
Readers	Diane Wilke	Linda Hirt
Ushers	Ken & Karen Whitmyer	Dingledine Family
Nursery	Drew & Pam Williams	Melinda Schultz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

September 17, 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, Tammy Heilman, Susan Heft, John Joseph Lanzetta, Johnathon Manitta family, Loretta Milne, Bethany Robison, Jean Smith, Scott Seeley, “Little Zee” (3 yr. old daughter of a friend of Brenda Kopf’s), Virginia Tashner, Max Whitmyer and the White family. Please keep Rich Weingartner’s 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.
- † Samaritan children who seek adoption. 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 Ken Johnson and the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering	09/10/17	Year-to-date as of 07/30/2017	
Loose Cash	\$ 19.00	Income	\$143,631.43
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$ 597.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$170,515.15</u>
Lois Sollenberger Mem.	\$ 100.00	Net Income	-26,883.72
Facility Rental	\$ 50.00		
Loose Checks	\$ 30.00		
Falling Upward Study	\$ 12.00		
Youth			
Bottle	\$ 19.90		
Nat. Gathering	\$ 600.00		
Education	\$ 200.00		
General Fund	<u>\$ 2280.00</u>		
Subtotal	\$ 3907.90		
 Total	 \$ 3907.90		

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Doug and Kay Showers in memory of Lora Anne Showers.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship: *Tanzania Water Offering*
11:30 a.m. Mutual Ministry Meeting in the Library
 Back to School Breakfast Bag Delivery
6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes

Monday, September 18th

- 9:30 a.m. Ingham County Play Group
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 19th

No Study this week: Pastor Ellen is out of town.

Wednesday, September 20th

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Study
9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION
11:30 a.m. 60 +/-
5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise
5:45 p.m. Meal is Served: Provided by Church Council
6:30 p.m. Faith Bells
7:00 p.m. Trinity & Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 21st

Friday, September 22nd

Saturday, September 23rd

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Pastor Ellen will be gone Friday, September 15 through Saturday, September 30th. Pastor Darrell Neves will be on call for any needs that may arise. Contact Darrell at 517-331-1404 or the church office at 517-349-0620.

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 questions.

Wednesday Night Live!

Every Wednesday! Meal Starts at 5:45 p.m.

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

This week...

Wednesday, September 20th

6:30-7:30: Trinity and Confirmation

6:30-7:30: Activities for younger children.

7:30-8:00 p.m. Additional Activities for Kids



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), Teens Study (7-12 grade) at Katie Love's Home (6-8pm).

11th: Wednesday Night Live

14th: F.G.H Auction 6-11 p.m.

15th: Sunday School (Pk-6th)

18th: Wednesday Night Live

22nd: Sunday School (PK-6th), Teens Study (7-12 grade) at Katie Love's Home (6-8pm).

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

October 12th: An afternoon of sharing and caring

November 9th: Getting Through the Holidays (Grief Support Focus) with Kris Abbey, Chaplin/Spiritual Coordinator for Hospice of Lansing.

December 14th: 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 Lusia 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!!

Sign up in the narthex.

A COMMUNITY FORUM TO DISCUSS ADDICTION



Families Against Narcotics

Your *connection* for information, resources, and support.

**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.



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

**Please sign up (in the narthex) for
the FREE Lunch by October 15th**

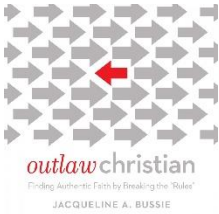


Join us for
Beer & Hymns

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.”***

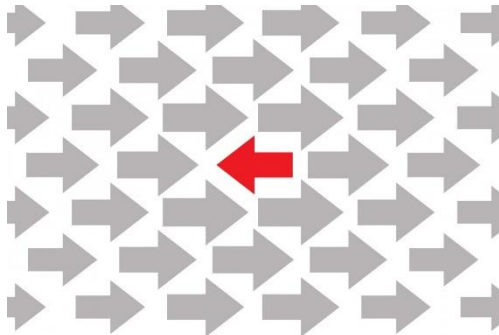
- **One book study will take place at Kim O’Brien’s home on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM.** This group will meet on: 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, & 11/16. Plan to come and maybe bring along a friend. Kim says you are also welcome to bring your kids and they can play in the basement during the conversation.
- **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.

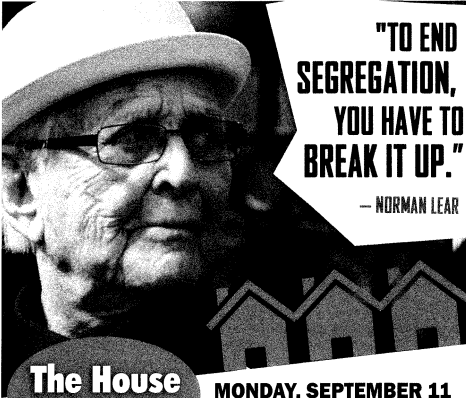
There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for both book group opportunities. Please consider being a part of this educational opportunity. And, look for future information regarding Jacqueline Bussie's speaking engagement right here at Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 17, 2018. She will be the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



*outlaw*christian

Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the "Rules"

JACQUELINE A. BUSSIE



**"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**

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COGL



Fall Recycling Event

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



**Recycling
Event**