

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

September 24, 2017

**“THE
LAST
WILL BE
FIRST,
AND THE
FIRST
LAST.”**

MATTHEW 20:16, ESV



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 24, 2017

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Darrell Neves, Minister

Introduction to the day

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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

"Amazing Grace"

arr. George Shearing

Gathered in Abundance

Every Sunday, Christians around the world gather together for worship. Alarm clocks (or cell phones) ring, faces get washed, clothes are picked out, breakfasts get eaten. Then we hop on a bus, get in a car, ride a bike, or set out by foot. From our many residences, our many lives and schedules and commitments, we gather together into one body to celebrate the abundance of God's grace and to carry that grace out into the world in service of others.

In today's parable we hear of a similar gathering. A landowner calls together more and more people waiting for work in the marketplace to reap an abundant harvest. Despite drawing them in at different times and in different ways, the landowner graciously gives each one a full day's pay. Understandably, the workers who have worked all day recoil at being paid the same as those who came at the end. But the parable points us toward a different way of seeing the situation. God knows the realities of our lives deeply. God knows the place from which God has called us, our unique history, story, hurts, and gifts. Though we are gathered with others, God's grace speaks to each of us directly, uniquely, and fully. We can come into God's presence expecting to receive all that we need for the coming week.

As you prepare for worship, spend time thinking about where you most need God's grace in your life. What are the realities in the week behind you or the week ahead of you that are the hardest to face? Know that where your needs abound, God's grace abounds even more. Extend that generosity around you as well. Look around at the faces of those gathered with you this day. Where have the people around you come from? Where is God calling you to work by passing God's grace onto others?

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

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

ELW #358

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

Refrain



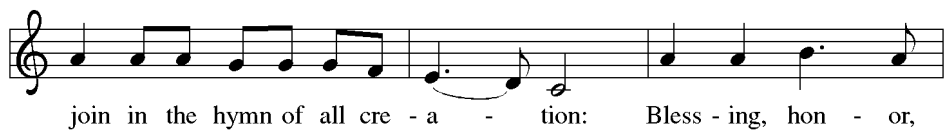
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



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.



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.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not

labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

A reading from Philippians.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

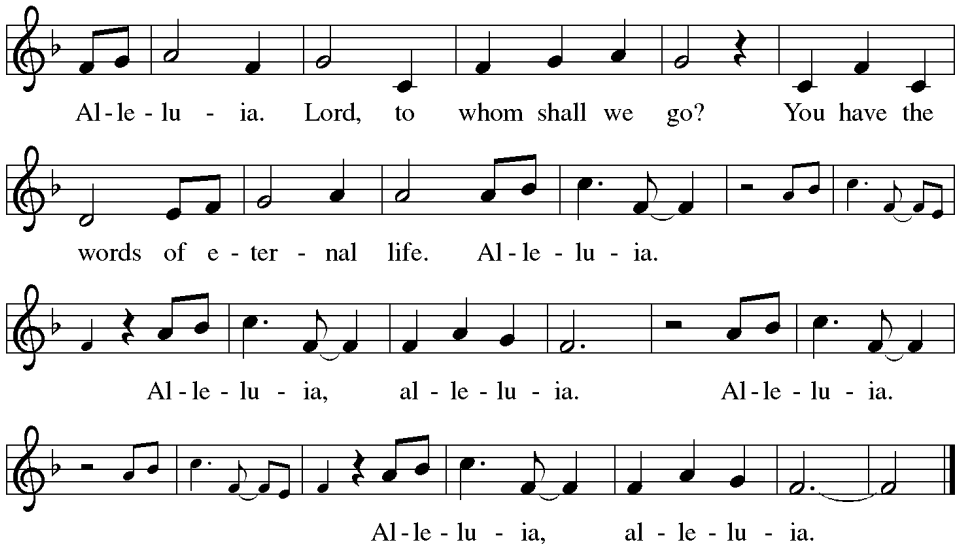
²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



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 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard

said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.

There's no place where earthly sorrows
Are more felt than in God's heaven.
There's no place where earthly failings
Have such kindly judgement giv'n.

2 There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

3 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

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

"One Step He Leads"

Chancel Choir

(Choplin)

Emily Brown, soloist

OFFERING RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

The musical score is written on six staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a consistent rhythm. 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."

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.

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.

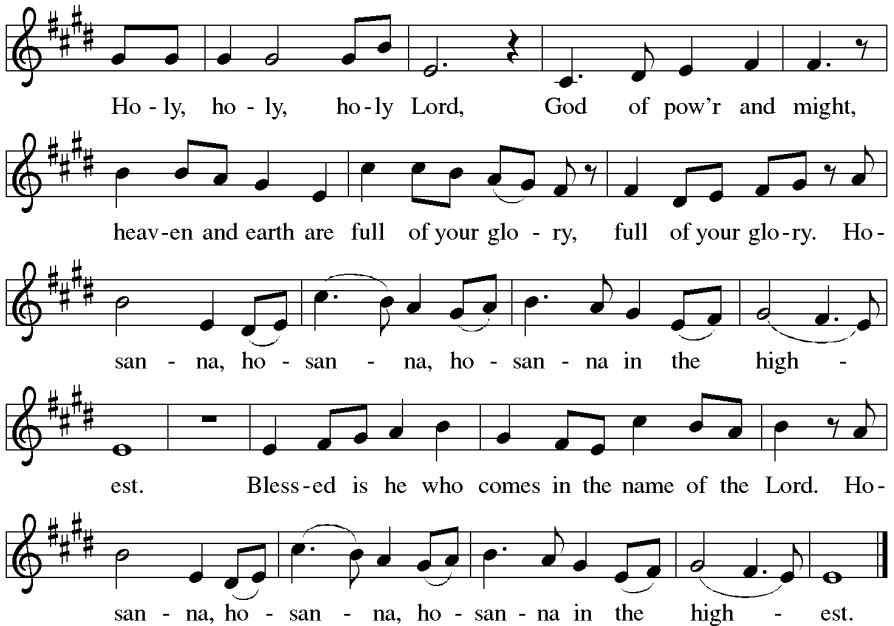
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

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.**

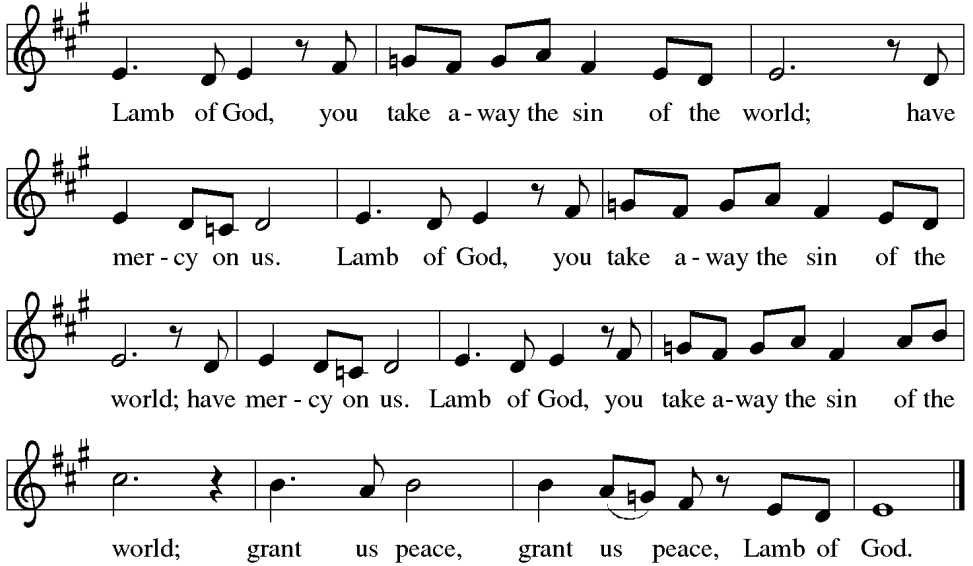
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW #779

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW #768

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

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW #714

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Voluntary"

by John Bennett

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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The psalmist invites us to “seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually” (Psalm 105:4). May you sense the Lord’s presence here and throughout your days. Welcome.

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|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 17, 2017 Attendance: 108

| Serving Faith | September 24 | October 1 |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Acolyte | Brenna Seeley | Owen Kadrofske |
| Altar Care | Gwynne Kadrofske & Melinda Schultz | |
| | Rich Weingartner & Melinda Schultz | |
| Communion Assistants | Brenna Seeley | Owen Kadrofske |
| | Zach Hereza | Doug Hirt |
| | John McCracken | Brenda Kopf |
| Greeters | Jeff & Melinda Schultz | Brian & Michelle Ransom |
| Lay Assistants | Zach Hereza | Doug Hirt |
| Readers | John McCracken | Brenda Kopf |
| Ushers | Dingledine Family | Hirt Family |
| Nursery | Melinda Schultz | Jennifer Coe |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

September 24, 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 25
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 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. 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 Zachary Nelson and the congregation of Bethany Lutheran Church of Kaleva, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering **09/17/17** Year-to-date as of 08/31/2017

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Loose Cash | \$ 25.00 | Income | \$183,883 |
| Loose Checks | \$ 50.00 | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>\$199,882</u> |
| Capital Repairs | \$ 38543.94 | Net Income | -\$15,999 |
| Flowers | \$ 25.00 | | |
| Youth: National Gath. | \$ 119.00 | | |
| Falling Upward Study | \$ 24.00 | | |
| Back to School Bags | \$ 10.00 | | |
| Samaritas Cards | \$ 15.00 | | |
| Tanzania Water Project | \$ 203.40 | | |
| Pastor's Discretion. Fund | \$ 1200.00 | | |
| World Hunger | \$ 20.00 | | |
| General Fund | <u>\$ 2830.00</u> | | |
| Subtotal | \$ 8376.34 | | |
| Simply Giving | <u>\$ 2826.00</u> | | |

Total **\$ 11202.34**

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Keith & Taylor in honor of Beth's birthday.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Evangelism & Outreach Meeting

Monday, September 25th

- 9:30 a.m. Ingham County Play Group
- 7:00 p.m. Green Team Meeting in the Library

Tuesday, September 26th

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

Wednesday, September 27th

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Study
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION
- 5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise
- 5:45 p.m. Meal is Served: Provided by the Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Faith Bells
- 6:30 p.m. Trinity & Confirmation
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 28th
11:00 a.m. Worship at Dobie Road

Friday, September 29th

Saturday, September 30th

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|------------------------------|
| 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.



First Communion Classes

This year we will be offering two opportunities for children to participate in 1st Communion Classes. The first opportunity will take place this October with classes held on two Sundays following worship. For these children, their first communion will be during worship on Sunday, November 5.

The second opportunity will be in January with a series of four consecutive classes on Wednesday evenings, beginning January 10 at 6:30 PM. First communion in worship will then be on Sunday, February 4.

If your child is in 1st grade or older and has not participated in classes, we are inviting you and your child to come to one of these offerings. The classes are designed in such a way that parents participate in the training with their child.

Please let Pastor Ellen know if you wish to have your child participate in one of these class offerings.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BREAKFAST BAGS THANK YOU

THANK YOU from the Caring Committee to everyone who brought in food, donated money for perishables, helped pack the food items and those who delivered the food. We delivered food to 20 families in Meridian Township. We are again grateful to the Great Harvest Bread Company for donating 20 loaves of bread. When you shop at the Great Harvest Bread Company, please tell them how much Faith Lutheran appreciates their support in this important ministry in our community.

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**



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

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 (*Falling Upward with Harold Sollenberger*)
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

***Thank you to all the groups who signed up to provide the
Wednesday Night Meals!***

September 13th: Trinity & Confirmation

September 20th: Church Council

September 27th: Choir

October 4th: Faith Bells

October 11th: Trinity

October 18th: Worship Committee

October 25th: Confirmation

November 1st: Pastor Ellen

November 8th: Evangelism and Green Team

November 15th: OPEN

November 22nd: Pie Fest/Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 29th: Membership Development

December 6th: OPEN

December 13th: OPEN

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



TONIGHT!!

All 7th – 12th graders are invited for dinner and a short study from 6-8 p.m. **TONIGHT (9/24)** at the Love's house. 4548 Seneca Drive (directly behind the church). Come for the whole time or stay as long as you can!

This week...

Wednesday, September 27th

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 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).

25th: T & C Halloween Fun Night

27th: Youth Group Activity (Haunted House, Time TBD)



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

SAVE THE DATE

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 Volunteers to make this a spectacular success. There are many different ways to assist:

1. Item Donations – We need these 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.
2. Monetary Donations – If you do not feel comfortable asking vendors to supply items, we would truly appreciate a cash donation to help defray the event costs so that all the auction proceeds go to the Youth.
3. Solicitation at local establishments or calling vendors we have already contacted to follow-up with their progress.

4. Decorations – Helping prepare baskets for the auction and also decorating the facility for the event.

5. Attendance - Please attend the event and BRING your family and friends. (Adults Only)

If you have any questions, please contact Melinda Schultz at mrsjas305@sbcglobal.net or put the completed donation forms, located in the Narthex, in the Schultz Family mailbox.

Items Already Generously Donated

Three (3) Thomas Kincaide prints – Paula Johnson

Hand Stitched and Sewn Quilt –

Quilt Guild, Rasmussen Family

Harbor Springs Vacation Home

Weekend – Schultz Family

A weekend of Child/Dog/House

Sitting (whatever you need) – Melinda Schultz

Reserved Christmas Pageant seating – Parish

Education

An evening of background piano music for a private party – Ellen Schoepf

Homemade pies (dates to be arranged) – Mike

Eschelbach

Hand Knit Blanket – Mabel Anglin



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 MEETINGS & STUDIES

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



Join us for
Beer & Hymns

Upstairs at
Williamston Pub & Grill
Next Meeting
Sunday, October 1st
5:30 PM

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

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.



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

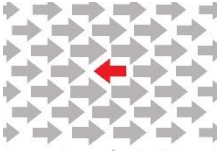
OCTOBER

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**



*outlaw*christian
Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the "Rules"
JACQUELINE A. BUSSIE

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."***

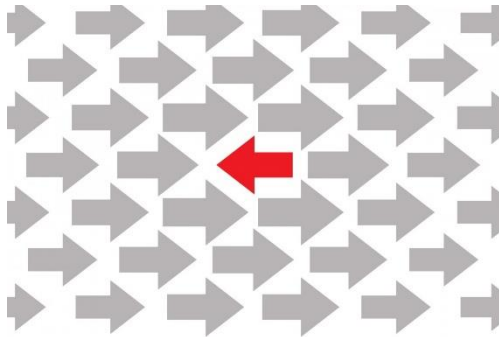
- **One book study will take place at Kim O'Brien's home on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM.** This group will meet on: 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, & 11/16. Plan to come and maybe bring along a friend. Kim says you are also welcome to bring your kids and they can play in the basement during the conversation.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

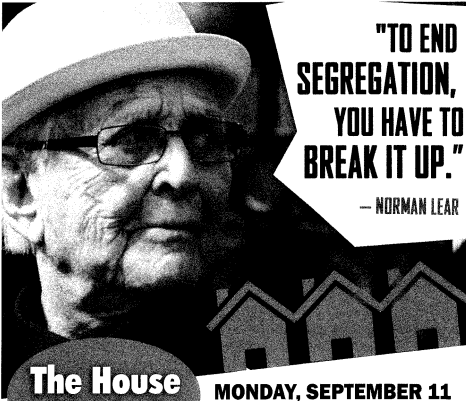
You are invited to a movie screening of National Geographic's *From the Ashes* at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 5th, after the 10 am service. About one-third of Michigan's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. *From the Ashes* puts a human face on the issues tied to the "war on

coal." The movie covers topics such as the future of the energy sector, risks to people's health and livelihood, and the environment. Please join us in a close examination and dialogue of the complicated issues tied to coal production from multiple perspectives.



Fall Recycling Event

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



**"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**

Produced by
Radical Media
Just
ep X

COGL



DATE CHANGE!

Now Showing "The House
Divided" on Monday
October 9th at 7 p.m.