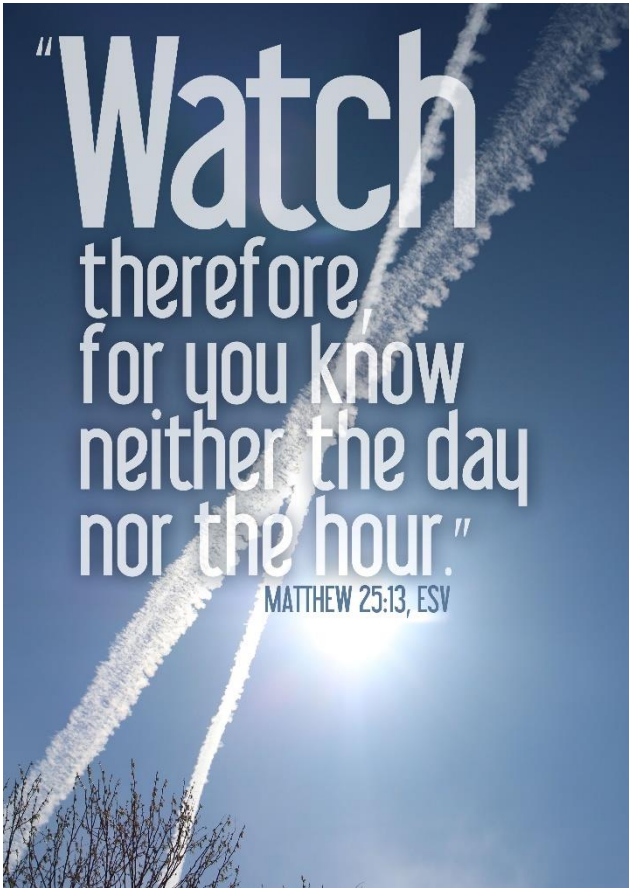


# Welcome to Faith Lutheran

November 12, 2017



Pastor Ellen Schoepf  
[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto: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](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

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

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

## **Beyond the Shut Door**

Perhaps the most striking image in today's gospel is the one at the end of the parable: "And the door was shut." A shut door is often the imagery used to indicate the end of an opportunity. Worshiping communities may come up against various types of shut doors. Some may be found only occasionally, as when everyone seems happily connected and efforts to welcome newcomers are ignored. Other shut doors may be well known and a source of persistent frustration, as when positions of leadership are held by a select few, or when what happens inside the church rarely seems to connect with what is going on in the neighborhood or the world. A shut door is not the image one hopes for when considering congregational health or the mission of the church in the local community.

It is surprising to hear Jesus speaking about a shut door and the kingdom of heaven in the same parable, since he is the one who criticizes the scribes and Pharisees who "lock people out of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 23:13). It is also surprising because the shut door doesn't fit with Jesus' ministry of welcoming, healing, and eating with those whom society shunned. What does seem to fit is the invitation to meet the bridegroom and then go into the wedding banquet. Jesus is always encouraging his followers to join him, to come and see and share in the life he offers. But it is often our fear that shuts the door against Jesus.

Whether shut doors stand for opportunities gone or present obstacles, at the heart of discipleship is the willingness to be moved by instruction. As followers of Jesus we are given the challenge to remain with Jesus. Remaining with Jesus means hearing him tell us not to be afraid. Remaining with Jesus means that we can follow him into the banquet feast without delay.

**Sunday, November 12, 2017**

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

**Introduction to the day**

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ’s coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

*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**

“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”

arr. Paul Baloche

Joyful Noise Choir

---

## GATHERING

---

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

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who calls us into an everlasting hope,  
who guides us to springs of the water of life,  
who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.

**Amen.**

One with the communion of saints in all times and places,  
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

O God, our merciful redeemer,  
**we confess the ways we live only for ourselves.**  
**We fail to see you in our neighbor's face.**  
**We turn our ears from voices that cry out.**  
**We pass by the hungry and the oppressed.**  
**In your great mercy, forgive our sin**  
**and strengthen us for service to all in need;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for you,  
and for ✝ his sake,  
God forgives you all your sin.  
Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad,  
beloved people of God.  
**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*Gather Us In*

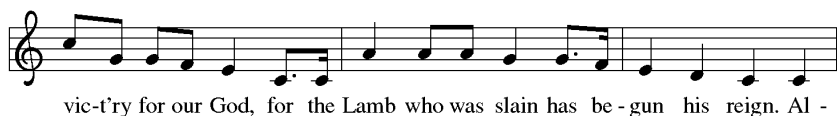
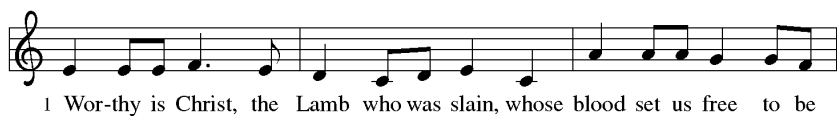
*ELW #532*

### 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*



*Final refrain*



# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

---

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

*In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

A reading from Amos.

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.



<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

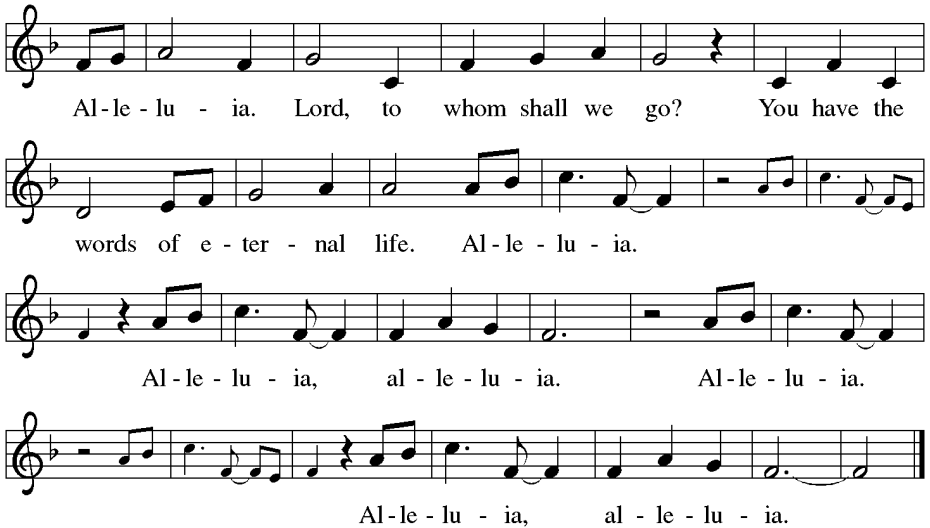
<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 25:1-13

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other

bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
*Let Justice Roll like a River*

**Let Justice Roll like a River**

*Refrain*



Let jus - tice roll like a riv - er, and wash all op -



pres - sion a - way. Come, O God, and take us,



move and shake us; come now, and make us a - new,



that we might live just - ly like you.



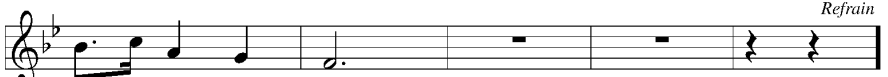
1 "Take from me your ho - ly feasts, all your



of - f'ings and your mu - sic. Let jus - tice



flow like wa - ters, and in - teg - ri - ty like an



ev - er - flow - ing stream."

*Refrain*

Stanzas 2-5

2 How long shall we wait, O God, for the day of your

3 Hear this, all of you who use the poor in your thirst of  
4 "E - ven now, re - turn to me, let your hearts be

5 You have been told the way of life, the way of

mer - cy to dawn, the day we beat our

pow - er and rich - es: the Lord will turn your  
bro - ken and hum - ble, for I am gra - cious,

jus - tice and peace: to act just - ly, to

Refrain

swords in - to plows, when your peace reigns o - ver the earth?

laugh - ter to tears, on the won - drous Day of our God.  
gen - 'rous and kind." Come and seek the mer - cies of God.

love gent - ly, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: Marty Haugen  
Music: LET JUSTICE ROLL. Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

## 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

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray  
with people of every time and place.

*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:*

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O  
God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

---

## MEAL

---

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

## OFFERING

“Keep Your Lamps”

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Thomas  
Chancel Choir

### Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

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.

# 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 G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are: "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

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.**

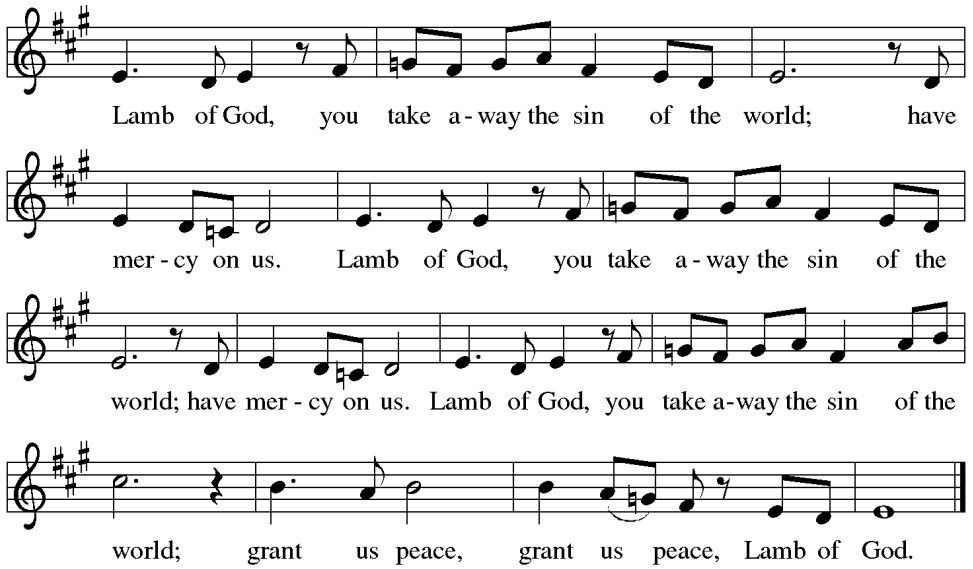
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Hunger no more. Thirst no more.  
Come to the banquet of life.

## **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

*When Long Before Time*

***ELW #861***

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*This Little Light of Mine*

***ELW #677***

*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.  
Sovereign God,  
in this meal you give us a foretaste  
of the great feast to come.  
Keep us faithful to you,  
that we, with all your saints,  
may at length celebrate  
the marriage feast of the Lamb,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

The love of God surround you;  
the grace of ✙ Christ release you;  
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength,  
now and forevermore.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Come, We That Love the Lord*

*ELW #625*

## DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us,  
go in peace to serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Gather us In”

arr. Mark Himmelman

From sundaysandseasons.com.  
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Sisters and brother in Christ, welcome to worship! May your time in the Lord be rich and blessed.

Pastor	Ellen Schoepf	<a href="mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org">prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org</a>
Secretary	Katie Love	<a href="mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org">klove@faithlutheranokemos.org</a>
Director of Christian Education		Katie Love
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

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November 5, 2017 Attendance: 149

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Serving Faith	November 12	November 19
Acolyte	Owen Kadrofske	Isaac Webb
Altar Care	Brenda Kopf & Cecelia Kramer	
		Brenda Kopf & Karen Whitmyer
Communion Assistants	Owen Kadrofske	Isaac Webb
	Ken Schoepf	Bob Shorman
	Melinda Schultz	David Baker
Greeters	Chris & Jean Lewis	Doug & Linda Hirt
Lay Assistants	Ken Schoepf	Bob Shorman
Readers	Melinda Schultz	David Baker
Ushers	Ken Schoepf & Lee Gerard	TBD
Nursery	Melinda & Lauren Schultz	Marquardt's

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Faith Family & Friends

November 12, 2017

Log onto Faith's website [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org) 24/7 for updates

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### DEADLINES

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Sunday worship folder announcements—Tuesday of each week  
Submit to Katie at [klove@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org)

*December Faith Family News newsletter—*

**Please submit by Monday, November, 20**

Submit to Katie at [klove@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org)

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### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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Please lift up in prayer this week:

- ✠ Members—Max Ambs, Lowell Barricklow, Ellen Milne, and Dale Halvorson.
- ✠ Friends and family—  
Harriet, Pat Belonga, Todd Barricklow, Marilyn Belanger, George Bach, 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, 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.
- ✠ Our mission partner congregation—Lansing Redeemer Lutheran Church
- ✠ Those in military service—Jon Schoepf, Lani Yearicks,  
Melody and Adam Wright and Joe Galvin.
- ✠ Samaritans children who seek adoption. Pray for each to be adopted and for Jesus to be their lifelong friends

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### NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

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As Jesus calls us to be one, even as he and the Father are one, please include Pastor Laura Gerstl-Beukema and the congregation of Calvary Lutheran Church of Lansing, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

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**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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<b>Weekly Offering</b>	<b>11/5/17</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of 09/30/2017</b>	
Loose Cash	\$ 111.00	Income	\$204,025
Loose Checks	\$ 635.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$221,382</u>
Youth Auction	\$ 250.00		
World Hunger	\$ 30.00	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$17,357</b>
Past. Disc. Fund Wed. Meal	139.00		
Homeless Angels	\$ 10.00		
Loaves & Fishes	\$ 10.00		
R&M Holle Speaker Ser.	\$ 200.00		
Vision 2020	\$ 1000.00		
Flowers	\$ 25.00		
General Fund	\$ 4945.00		
Subtotal	\$ 7345.00		
Simply Giving	<u>\$ 2101.00</u>		
Total	\$ 9446.00		

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**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

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Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Gus & Mara Lulis in memory of Ariana Mae Lulis.

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**THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS**

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Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Property Clean-Up
- 3:00 p.m. Worship at the Willows
- 6:00 p.m. Teen Night at Doug & Linda Hirt's Home

Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

- 9:30 a.m. Ingham County Play Group
- 7:00 p.m. America Divided Series: Something in the Water

Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

- Noon: Study in Pastor's office

Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Study
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION
- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. 60 +/-
- 5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise
- 5:45 p.m. Meal is Served: Stewardship and Youth

6:30 p.m. Faith Bells  
6:30 p.m. Trinity & Confirmation  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
7:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

11:00 a.m. Worship Service at Dobie Road  
7:00 p.m. RIC Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Book Study at Kim O'Brien's Home

Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m. Youth Group to MSU Hockey Game

Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **TODAY!! Garage & Property Clean Up Day**

Please join us for the annual fall cleanup on Sunday, Nov. 12, immediately following worship.



**STARTS NEXT WEEK**

## **Reverse & Reach Out**

**(see more information further in bulletin)**

**Week 1 & 2- November 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>: - What**

***food would they need for their journey to Bethlehem?*** Place non-perishable FOOD ITEMS in a bag for those living with food insecurity. Talk about the role of food in your own life. Pray for the families in our community who are living with food insecurity. The food collected will be given directly to families in **Meridian Township**.

Possible Items: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Snack Bars, Pop Tarts, Muffin Mix, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Fruit, Boxed Cereals, Oatmeal, Mac & Cheese, Boxed Meals (hamburger helper, soup, boxed crackers, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce). Cash Donations can also be made to help purchase eggs, milk and bread for each family. Thank you for your donation!



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Sunday, November 19 – Guest Preacher

Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. David Sprang, will be joining us for worship on Sunday, November 19. He will be preaching on that Sunday and sharing information about the work of the Synod.

### Thanksgiving Eve Worship followed by Pie Feast

On Wednesday evening, **November 22, at 7:00 PM**, we will be holding a Thanksgiving Service. Join



us as we spend time giving thanks for all that we have been given. And, bring a pie to share. Following the worship service, we will feast on pie!

**Please SIGN-UP on the membership board in the narthex for the type of pie you will bring.**

### CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Therefore, after much thought and conversation, we have decided to cancel the Sunday morning service and only hold our traditional Christmas Eve services, one at 4:00 PM and one at 10:00 PM. Please note that there will be **NO SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE on December 24**. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Ellen or one of the Worship Committee members.



**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 Rob Bell Nooma Series
- 7:30 – 8:00 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 7:30 – 9:00 Chancel Choir

Meals: November 15<sup>th</sup>: Youth/Stewardship

November 22<sup>nd</sup>: Pie Fest/Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 29<sup>th</sup>: Membership Development

December 6<sup>th</sup>: Worship

December 13<sup>th</sup>: OPEN

**Wednesday evening, November 1**, adults will be able to participate in a **new educational opportunity**. Beginning at 7:00 PM on 11/1, we will be offering the educational **NOOMA series by Rob Bell**. Every week participants will view one of Rob Bell's NOOMA series short films, each followed by discussion. These films explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. **NOOMA** is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. In these films, Bell talks about the way in which Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God's work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. We invite you to come for dinner, view the short film and join in the discussion.



Starting November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Reverse & Reach Out

Turn your “*want list*” into someone else’s “*need list*”  
as you focus this Advent season on the journey to Bethlehem.

In a time of uncertainty, Mary and Joseph gathered what they had and traveled to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. What would they eat? Would they be warm? What did they need for themselves & a baby?

### Reverse Advent: A Spiritual Discipline of Reaching Out



1. Gather 5 plain brown paper bags (one for each week of the Reverse Advent)
2. Decide as a family when and how you will practice this spiritual discipline of Reaching Out. You may choose to fill your bag and bring it in all at once or add one item each day during Advent. The choice is yours. (Note: Non-Perishable Food Items will be packed for delivery the week of December 10<sup>th</sup>).
3. At the end of each week (or Sunday morning), bring your filled bag (or monetary contribution) to worship and place it by the manger in the Narthex. Throughout the Advent season, our contributions will continue to fill the Stable with a special dedication Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Following the dedication, the items and money collected will be *distributed to our Mission Partners who are on the front lines in serving the needs of our community.*

Week 1 & 2- November 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>: - **What food would they need for their journey to Bethlehem?** Place non-perishable FOOD ITEMS in a bag for those living with food insecurity. Talk about the role of food in your own life. Pray for the families in our community who are living with food insecurity. The food collected will be given directly to families in **Meridian Township.**

Possible Items: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Snack Bars, Pop Tarts, Muffin Mix, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Fruit, Boxed Cereals, Oatmeal, Mac & Cheese, Boxed Meals (hamburger helper, soup, boxed crackers, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce). Cash Donations can also be made to help purchase eggs, milk and bread for each family. Thank you for your donation!

Week 3 -December 3<sup>rd</sup> - **What did they need for warmth?** Place WARM CLOTHES (hats, gloves, scarves, socks) in a bag for the homeless served by **Loaves & Fishes**. Talk about the clothes you wear to stay warm in the winter. Pray for those who have little or no shelter from the cold.

Week 4-December 10<sup>th</sup> - **How would they care for a baby?** Place BABY ITEMS (bottles, diapers, wipes, etc.) in a bag for the infants and toddlers cared for by **Shared Pregnancy**. Talk about the many ways babies depend on their caregivers for basic needs. Pray for those who are learning to care for their infants and toddlers through the parenting classes and resources offered by Shared Pregnancy. Only New Items Please.

Week 5-December 17<sup>th</sup>- **How would they care for themselves?** Place BASIC TOILETRIES (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, shampoo, comb, brush etc.) in a bag for the housing insecure served by the **Lansing Rescue Mission**. Talk about the things you need each day to care for yourself. Pray for those who often have to choose between food and basic care items for survival.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Next Teen Meeting will be Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. On November 12<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the home of Doug and Linda Hirt. They won the silent auction item and we will be helping them put up Christmas Decorations. Come for dinner and decorating!! Katie will email the address.

This week...

### **Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

6:30-7:30 p.m. Confirmation/Trinity and Activities for kids Pk-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade.

7:30-8pm: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

### **November:**

12<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School (PK-6<sup>th</sup>) Teens Study (7-12 grade) at Doug & Linda Hirt's Home (6-8pm).

15<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live: Trinity & Confirmation 6:30-7:30; Pageant Rehearsal 7:30-8.

17<sup>th</sup>: Youth Fun Night: MSU Hockey Game

19<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School (PK-6<sup>th</sup>)

22<sup>th</sup>: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE OR CLASSES/ Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 p.m. followed by Pie Fest.

26<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School (PK-6<sup>th</sup>) Teens Study (7-12 grade) at Katie Love's Home (6-8pm).

29<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live: Trinity & Confirmation 6:30-7:30; Pageant Rehearsal 7:30-8.

### **December:**

3<sup>rd</sup>: Sunday School (PK-6<sup>th</sup>) **11:30-1pm Lunch and Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant.**

# November & December Sunday School Offering

Starting Sunday, November 5 - Sunday, December 10 the Sunday School offering PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade will go to ELCA World Hunger. *We are going to challenge ourselves and see how many animals we can buy to help families in need.* On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> we will add up our money in Sunday School and decide which animals to buy.

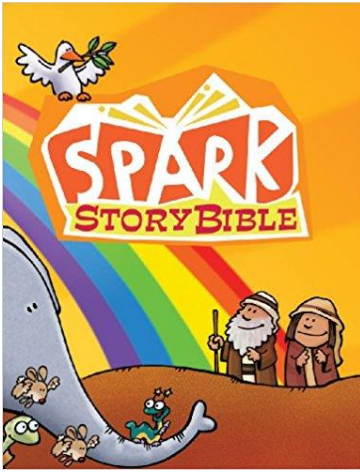


-Every Sunday School family at Faith will receive a barnyard bank to place their offering in. Bring your offering every week or your total offering on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

-If you would like to add to our total please drop a check in the offering plate and put *Sunday School Offering on the memo line!!*



How big can our Barnyard Get???



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Thrivent Action Card Request:

Currently we have a need for Bibles in our Sunday School Department. We use the Spark Story Bible. We currently own only 4. We would love for all our

Sunday School children Pk-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to be able to hold and read their own bible during Sunday School. We are hoping to purchase up to 12 more Bibles with the \$250.00 Thrivent Card. They are \$19.99 each plus some shipping. We can get a small discount with the quantity. These Bibles will stay at the church and be used in Sunday School and for possible Worship boxes in the future.

If you are able to provide the Sunday School with a Thrivent Action Card please let Katie know by calling the church office or emailing

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

Thanks!!

# Upcoming Caregiving Meeting

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Sharing and Caring Time

COME JOIN US ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 11:30 FOR A LITE LUNCH AND DISCUSSION. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming topics:

**January 11th** – Cammi Robinson – Alzheimer’s Association – the different types of Dementia

**February 8th** – How to manage emotionally as the Caregiver when your loved one is placed in assisted living or long-term care facility. Speaker details - TBA

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## **Documentary Screening of** **SOMETHING IN THE WATER**

On **Monday evening, November 13, at 7:00 PM** we will be screening the documentary *Something In The Water*, which focuses on the Flint water crisis. While most people are aware of the basic contours of Flint’s



water crisis, this Kellogg Foundation film examines what happened and it delves deeper into what has happened. Correspondent Rosario Dawson investigates how a government could poison its own citizens, what hidden forces may have been at work, and how specific policies unique to Michigan led not only to the crisis in Flint, but also damaged other poor, largely African American communities around the state. Join us.



***Sixty Plus or Minus: Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017, 11:30  
a.m. Pot Luck Lunch and Program***

## ***Snares to Wares:***

***Keeping Wildlife Safe While  
Preserving Human Livelihood in  
Uganda***

***Clara Lepard, MSU Graduate  
Student***



In poor areas of Uganda, a number of residents earn their living by snaring animals to sell for meat in their villages. The metal snares they use are made from old vehicle tires, readily available along the roadsides. Unfortunately, these same snares are also used by poachers to snare endangered wildlife. Removing the snares from the landscape solves only part of the problem. Animals are safer, but what about the humans who depend upon their “catch” to earn their living? Robert Montgomery, assistant professor in the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at MSU has developed an initiative called “Snares to Wares” that addresses both problems. Clara Lepard, a senior at MSU studying zoology, spent last summer working with this innovative program in Uganda. She is eager to share with us her experiences in words and pictures.

Joins us in Faith’s lower level fellowship hall for a potluck lunch, followed by this interesting learning experience. (Yes, we are back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday for November because of Thanksgiving.) Please sign up soon on the Faith @ Work information board in the narthex!

COMING IN 2018

## ELCA ADULT MISSION TRIP JANUARY 20-28, 2018

### WE WILL BE DOING SERVICE WORK IN FLORIDA, SPENDING THE WEEK ASSISTING IN CLEAN-UP, REPAIR AND REBUILDING

Several of our ELCA churches are working together to plan this Mission/Service Trip. We will be traveling to Florida by bus & van. There will be space for 30 participants. At this point in time, the plan is to leave on Saturday morning, January 20, get to Florida on Sunday evening, January 21, and begin doing service work on Monday morning. We will work through Friday, then begin our return home on Saturday, January 27.

The authorities in Florida are still working on assessing the destruction in various parts of the state, so we do not yet know where we will be assigned and where our help is most needed. We will have more information regarding this by mid-November. However, the hope is that the cost per person will be around \$1,000 or less.

If you want to participate in this Mission Trip, please speak to Pastor Ellen or add your name to this sign-up sheet in the Narthex.