

# Welcome to Faith Lutheran

November 19, 2017



## Using Your *Talents*

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](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/>

## **The Price of Worry**

It doesn't take long before the effects of worry or stress are realized in the rhythm of daily life. The effects are often physical and personal, perhaps resulting in a lack of sleep or disruption in eating patterns. But worry can also be sensed collectively, for example, in a social group, community organization, or congregation. Worry can creep in when congregational giving is significantly behind budget. When a change in leadership results in members leaving. When things seem to be going all right but the youth aren't really showing up to church anymore. Changes like these are opportunities for God to use the gifts God gives us, but worrying can skew our attention. We may fixate on our vulnerabilities and what is missing instead of seeing the potential for God's provision.

Jesus tells a story about a property owner who goes away for a while, leaving the servants in charge. The first two servants have no time to worry about what to do with the money left to them. Perhaps they see the master's departure as an opportunity for their personal career advancement and are motivated to invest the money. Or maybe they are bold enough to make a decision because they know the master trusts them and they want to live in that trust. Whatever the motive, the servants are rewarded by being able to share in the master's joy. If they had let worry get the best of them, it would have been far more difficult to enter into that joy.

When worry gets in the way of experiencing the joy God desires for us, we would do well to turn our attention to practices that allow us to enter into that joy. Weekly worship with our faith community. Regular participation in holy communion. Prayer. Scripture study. Mutual conversation and listening. God has given us everything we need to live in trust.

**Sunday, November 19, 2017**

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher, Pastor David Sprang

**Introduction to the day**

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

*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**

“Song of Thanksgiving”

(Sherman)  
Faith Bells

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## GATHERING

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

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

*Now Thank We All Our God*

*ELW #840*

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



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



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



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



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



hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. *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. 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.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

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## **WORD**

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

### **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.*

A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,



near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come

upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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 25:14-30**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have

will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

We welcome Pastor David Sprang who joins us this morning. He is an Assistant to the Bishop in our synod.

*The assembly is seated.*

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Lord of Light*

***ELW #688***

## **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.*

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## MEAL

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

### OFFERING

“Oh God our Help in Ages Past”

Hopson  
Chancel Choir with Congregation

## O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

Stanzas 1-5: ISAAC WATTS (1719)  
Psalm Interludes based on Psalm 90 (H.H.H.)

ST. ANNE  
Attributed to WILLIAM CROFT (1708)

CONGREGATION SINGS STANZAS 1, 3 & 5 (*Stanzas 2, 4 and Psalm Interludes: Choir only*)



1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2. *Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived its frame,*
3. A thou - sand a - ges, in thy sight, are like an eve - ning gone;
4. *Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, soon bears us all a - way;*
5. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come;



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.  
*from ev - er - last - ing, thou art God, to end - less years the same.*  
short as the watch that ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
*we fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the op'n - ing day.*  
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Psalm Interlude between Stanzas 2 & 3: *Choir*

*Lord, through all generations you have been our home.  
Before the mountains were created, from age to age you are God.  
A thousand years to you are just as yesterday,  
like a watch in the night.*

Psalm Interlude between Stanzas 4 & 5: *Choir*

*Lord, in the days of childhood, be our true delight.  
O be our joy throughout our lifetime, through ev'ry circling year ahead.  
O may your goodness be with us forever;  
be the light upon our way.*

## OFFERING RESPONSE

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

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases marked with slurs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final note of the piece is a whole note.

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.

Text and Music printed under A-708005

## OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,

you made everything, and you provide for every need.

The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you.

As we eat and drink with thanksgiving,

fill us with your love;

let that love flow through us to others;

and join us to the saints before us

in a holy and boundless communion;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

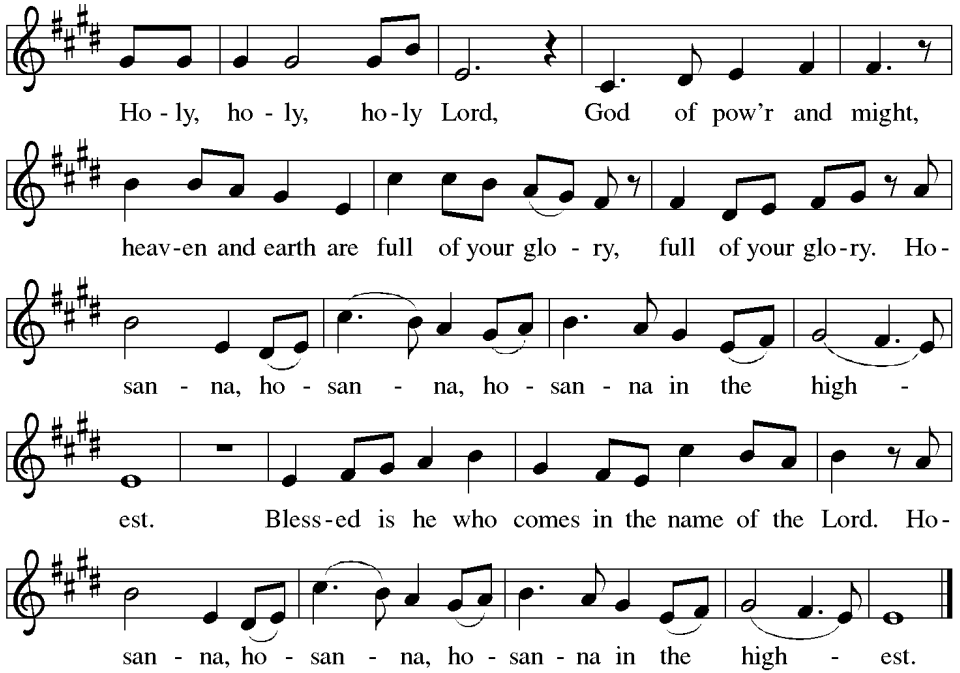
## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
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, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

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.**

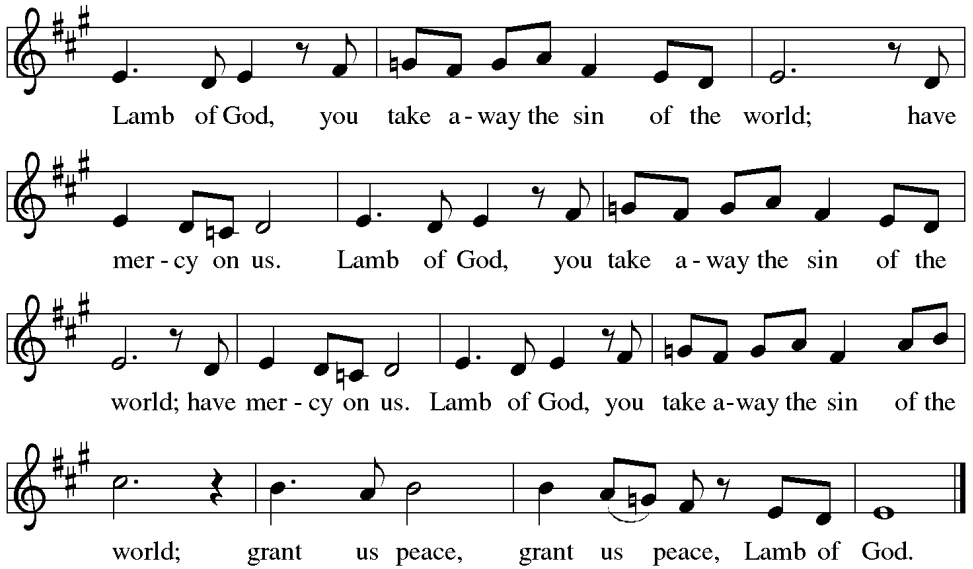
### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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.

## INSTUMENTAL MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“He Leadeth Me”  
“Blessed Assurance”

William Bradbury  
Phoebe Knapp  
Flutes of Faith

*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

*Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

*ELW #548*

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

“When the Roll is Called Up Yonder”

Mark Hayes

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://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 12, 2017 Attendance: 88

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Serving Faith	November 19	November 26
Acolyte	Isaac Webb	Sami Ransom
Altar Care	Brenda Kopf & Karen Whitmyer	Brenda Kopf & TBD
Communion Assistants	Isaac Webb	Sami Ransom
	Bob Shorman	Ken Schoepf
	David Baker	Jack Dingledine
Greeters	Doug & Linda Hirt	Brian & Michelle Ransom
Lay Assistants	Bob Shorman	Ken Schoepf
Readers	David Baker	Jack Dingledine
Ushers	TBD	TBD
Nursery	Marquardt's	Heidi Bowers

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Faith Family & Friends

November 19, 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.
- ✠ Samaritan 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 Gary Bunge and the congregation of St. Stephen 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>11/12/17</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of 09/30/2017</b>	
Loose Cash	\$ 57.00	Income	\$204,025
Loose Checks	\$ 80.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$221,382</u>
Youth		<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$17,357</b>
Bottle Recycle	\$ 10.10		
Nat. Gathering	\$ 150.00		
Confirmation Ret.	\$ 150.00		
Auction	\$ 1075.00		
General	\$ 40.00		
Kathy Bryan Mem.			
Tanzania Water Pro.	\$ 25.00		
Vision 2020	\$ 500.00		
Wed. Dinner			
Evangelism	\$ 39.00		
Green Team	\$ 39.05		
General Fund	\$ 1050.00		
 Subtotal	 \$ 3215.15		
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 3215.15</u></b>		

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**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

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Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Doug and Linda Hirt with gratitude for our church family.

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**THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS**

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Today

9:00 a.m.      Sunday School: Tanzania Water Offering  
10:00 a.m.      Worship  
11:30 a.m.      Mutual Ministry  
4:00 p.m.      Worship at Burcham Hills

Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m.      Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>

Noon:          Study in Pastor's office  
7:00 p.m.      Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

7:30 a.m.      Men's Study  
9:30 a.m.      Quilting and Samaritas ACTION  
7:00 p.m.      Thanksgiving Eve Service  
Pie Fest Immediately Following Worship: Sign-Up in Narthex

Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>  
Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Executive Committee is calling a special congregational meeting for Sunday, December 3, following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss ways in which we as a Faith community might help to support Samaritas kids.



## GOING ON NOW

### 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!

**REMINDER POSTCARDS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE ADVENT TABLE!**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Order forms are available in the narthex. Please drop in the church office or in Katie Love's mailbox. Deadline Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

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**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.**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **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.



Mark your calendar and join us Saturday, December 2 at 9:30 a.m. We will be putting up the Christmas trees and other decoration to make the building look festive for the Holiday

Season! Pastor Ellen will supply donuts and coffee! Come and enter into the Holiday spirit with us!



Decorating Party

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

**There will be NO Wednesday Night Live Activities this week. We hope you can join us for the Thanksgiving Eve Service and Pie Fest!**

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

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.



## OPERATION GOOD CHEER



Samaritas of Lansing has given Faith Lutheran 10 children to sponsor for the Christmas Season. You will find a board on the Samaritas Table in the narthex with the information. You can write your name on the board and take the envelope underneath. **The return date is Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Many of the children are requesting winter accessories and blanket. Please contact Marla Holle or Katie Love with questions. Thank you for your blessing.

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The Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Please call Pastor Ellen at 517-974-5570 with any urgent needs.

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**Thanks**  
*FOR PITCHING IN!*



Thanks to everyone who pitched in during our clean-up last Sunday. It is great to have things cleaned and organized for the New Year!



**PLEASE NOTE:** Because of Thanksgiving, the Next Teen Meeting will be Sunday, December 10th. We will meet at Love's House. This is our

**Christmas PARTY!! Bring a white elephant gift and be prepared for FUN!!**

This week...

**Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

No Activities: Thanksgiving Eve Service and Pie Fest

**November:**

26<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School PK-3<sup>rd</sup>, Trinity 4-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

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.**

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

10<sup>th</sup>: During Sunday School we will do our final rehearsal and get into costume. 10 a.m. **Christmas Play by Play Pageant.** Following the pageant, the children will go to the Sunday School room and can be picked up after worship.

13<sup>th</sup>: T&C and PK-3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Fun Night

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

20<sup>th</sup>: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

24<sup>TH</sup>: NO MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP

31<sup>ST</sup>: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

# 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.

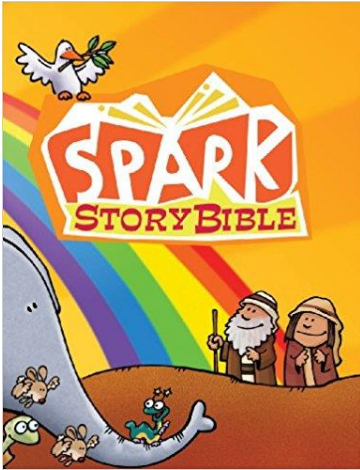


-Every Sunday School family at Faith will receive a barnyard bank to place their offering in. Bring your offering every week or your total offering on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

-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???



Praise Report!!

Thank you to a very generous couple for donating \$250.00 to purchase 12 Bibles for the Sunday School!!

God is Good!!

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND STUDIES

## 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



# **Urgent! Samaritas has an IMMEDIATE need for homes!**

Samaritas is in urgent need of caring homes for 5 youth who currently reside in the Jackson House and will age out of our refugee youth program this winter. Without a visa, they are only eligible for foster care services until the age of 18, however, due to delays caused by the reworking of the visa process by the current administration, they will not be able to receive their visa before the deadline. Unless homes are found for them, they will be moved to a detention facility or will be homeless for the duration of their immigration proceedings.

This is the first time in the 16 years Samaritas has been working with this population that youth in this program have been unable to receive their visa on time, and we are determined to do all that we can for these youth before their termination from the program. That is why we are reaching out to the greater community to find homes to care and provide for them after they leave the Jackson House. The 5 homes need to be identified by the end of November, and Samaritas will begin arranging opportunities for families and youth to meet and get to know each other before they move in. It is unclear at this time whether this is simply a very unfortunate delay in the visa process, or if the youth will ultimately be denied immigration relief. It should be known that a denial is not due to any action on the part of these young men—a year ago they would have received their immigration status without much fanfare.

Note: because the youth will have aged out of the foster care program, Samaritas will be unable to provide services to families and the youth, who have no medical coverage. Additionally, unless they receive their visa, the youth will be unable to work and so unable to pay rent or offer reimbursement to the families. However, families have no legal obligation to the youth, but will receive the opportunity to connect and develop a long-lasting relationship with a youth from another country, as well as know that they are making the difference in the life of someone in need!

If you are interested in hosting or learning more, contact Kayla Park at (517)827-5179 or [kpark@samaritas.org](mailto:kpark@samaritas.org).

Kayla Park  
Refugee Capacity Builder  
[Samaritas](#)

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 FOLLOWING THE RECENT HURRICANE.

Several of our ELCA churches are working together to plan this Mission/Service Trip. We will be traveling to Fort Myers, 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.

While the authorities in Florida are still working on assessing the destruction in various parts of the state, we know we will be going to Fort Myers, Florida. At this point in time it looks like the cost will be between \$500-700. We will know more as time goes by.

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.