

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

November 22, 2017 7:00pm

Thanksgiving Service



4515 Dobie Road
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517-349-0620

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org



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/>

Bread of Life

Each year we celebrate Thanksgiving as a way to remember the gifts that God has given us. It is historically remembered as a time when the first European settlers gave thanks to God for safe journeys across the sea and successful harvests in their new home. This connection with the harvest is why we celebrate in autumn, and why abundant food is so much a part of most of our celebrations.

Successful harvests, farmers and laborers who work the land, workers who process and package the fruits of the earth for sale in stores, truckers who drive it across the country, employees who stock the shelves, cashiers who assist us with our purchases, and even volunteers who donate time, money, and groceries to the local food bank, are all part and parcel of God's work of bringing to each one of us our daily bread.

In today's gospel, Jesus reminds us that all food—whether it is your homegrown beef from your own pasture, tomatoes or zucchini from a neighbor's garden, or mac and cheese off the grocery store shelf—will eventually leave us hungry again. Even the stuffed feeling with which many of us leave the Thanksgiving table will pass. Our greatest need—even beyond food—is for that which fills our souls. Because while stomachs will always be hungry for food, hearts are hungry for the one who created them.

Jesus Christ is the bread of life. He heals our sin-sick hearts with his self-giving. He feeds our souls with his very own body and blood. He fully satisfies us with forgiveness, life, and salvation in a way that cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie—no matter how delicious—never can. In the midst of our feasts this year, let us give thanks to God for this most precious gift.

Wednesday, November 22, 2017
Thanksgiving Eve
7:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

Every gathering for worship has elements of thanksgiving. When we are nourished with God's bounty in holy communion, when we partake of Jesus' word that gives life to the world, and even when two or three of us simply join our hearts in prayer to make our requests known to God, we do so "with thanksgiving." Let us give thanks to the Lord, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.

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.

PRELUDE

"We Gather Together"

arr. Dale Wood

GATHERING SONG

We Gather Together

KREMSER 12.11.12.11

Netherlands folk hymn, 1625
Trans. Theodore Baker, 1894

Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626
Harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;
Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;
And pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glo - ry be Thine!
Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

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



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - migh-t-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



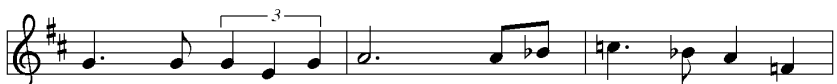
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on

earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

MEDITATION

The assembly stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ELW #693

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.

The assembly is seated

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

“Acclamation”

arr. Robert Ray
Chancel Choir



OFFERING RESPONSE

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C 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**

BLESSING

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.
Amen

May the God of faithfulness and
encouragement grant you to live in
harmony with one another, in
accordance with Christ Jesus.
Amen

May the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace in believing, so that you may abound
in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, continuing to
give God your thanks and praise!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”

arr. John Innes

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“Taste and see that the LORD is good!” (Psalm 34:8).
Before we dine at our holiday tables, let us feast on the
Word of the Lord. Welcome to Thanksgiving worship!

Immediately following this evening’s Thanksgiving service,
we are gathering for fellowship and PIE.

You are invited to join us for a slice or two or . . .



Pie Fest

Pastor Ellen M. Schoepf
Secretary Katie Love
Director of Christian Education
Director of Music
Organist/Pianist

prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
klove@faithlutheranokemos.org
Katie Love
Debra Borton-McDonough
Bruce Williams

WAYS YOU CAN HELP!



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 10th).

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 17th. 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 19th & 26th: - ***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

WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

purchase eggs, milk and bread for each family. Thank you for your donation!

Week 3 -December 3rd - **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 10th - **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 17th - **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.

Items can be brought in out of order: Just note that Non-Perishable Food Items will be delivered the week of December 10th.



Do you love to decorate? Do you love coffee and doughnuts? Join us this Saturday, December 2nd as we decorate Faith for the Christmas season!! Pastor Ellen will provide the doughnuts and coffee!



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.



Congregational Meeting



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.



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

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.