

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

December 17, 2017



— THIRD SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864



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/>

Who Are You? Wisdom and Joy

On a clear night, the sky starts to turn shades of rose an hour or so before sunrise. The colorful display isn't yet dawn, but it heralds the dawn. During any long wait or process there is usually a turning point, like quickening in a pregnancy—an encouraging sign that what we long for will soon come about. For ages in parts of Western Christianity, rose vestments have appeared on the third Sunday of Advent. Songs and readings lilt with joy. For the last thousand years monastic communities have added color to evening prayer through a set of beautiful verses for December 17 to 23. Many of us know these “O Antiphons” from the hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel” (ELW 257). Each day is a name (ending December 23 with O Emmanuel) for the promised Christ. Today's name is Wisdom.

Today's gospel illuminates John the Baptist, who is not himself the light but a witness to it. Religious gatekeepers ask him hostile questions: “Who are you?” “What do you say about yourself?” John shows wisdom not only in knowing who and what he is not (the Messiah, a prophet such as Moses or Elijah), but also in knowing who he is: the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.

Those same questions, without hostility, ask each of us throughout our lifetime to discern with wisdom who we are not, who we are, and what particular message and song God is calling us to voice. Baptized in water and Spirit, we rejoice with all generations in God our Savior, who casts down the mighty, lifts up the lowly, and fills the poor with good things. Mourners, given a garland instead of ashes, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit, will repair ruined cities. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. “Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn” (ELW 723, refrain).

Sunday, December 17, 2017

3 Advent

Introduction to the day

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

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.*

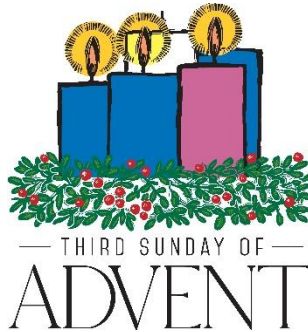
Prayer Requests

PRELUDE

“Sussex Carol for Bells and Organ” arr. Burroughs & Page
Faith Bells

GATHERING

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



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – Advent 3

Reader One: Isaiah the Prophet announced it. The Spirit of God is with me, because I have been chosen to bring good news to the abused, to bandage the wounds of the heartbroken, and to release those who are in prisons of all kinds. I am here to proclaim a good year in God's sight, a time when things will be set right.

Reader Two: I am here to comfort the grieving and to dress them for happy times instead of sad ones.

Reader One: The people who are healed and comforted will be like strong trees, upright and loyal to God. They will be like a forest planted to show God's glory. They will rebuild the world and show everyone God's power.

Reader Two: We wait for the day of God's joy, and live in God's peace and hope, as we light these candles.

(Please pause as we light three candles, then respond.)

All: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!

GATHERING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW #267

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



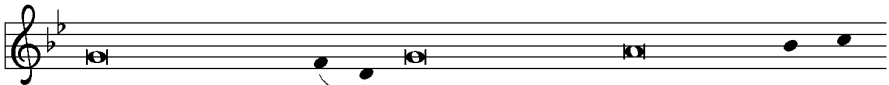
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



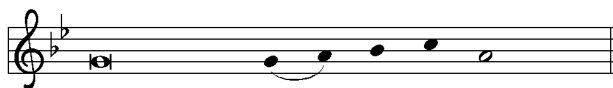
God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



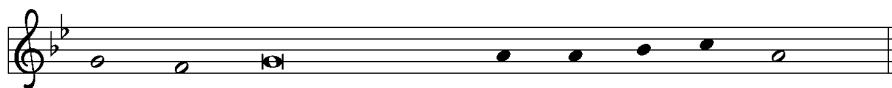
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,

my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn #723 (Based on Luke 1:46-55)

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

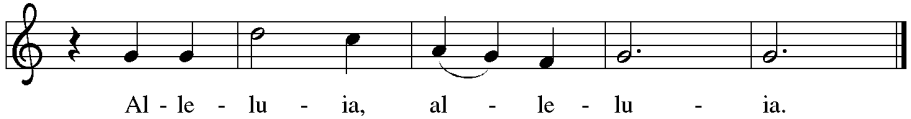
²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."

²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with

water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There’s a Voice in the Wilderness

ELW #255

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

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

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:*

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
Chancel Choir

(Holst)

OFFERING RESPONSE

Emmanuel

C C/E F G G⁷ C C/B_b
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

A A/C[#] Dm G⁷ G/B C
his name is called Em - man - u - el;

C/E F G G⁷ C C/B_b
God with us, re - vealed in us;

A A/C[#] Dm G⁷ F/C C
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

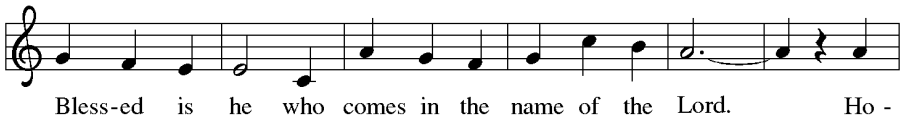
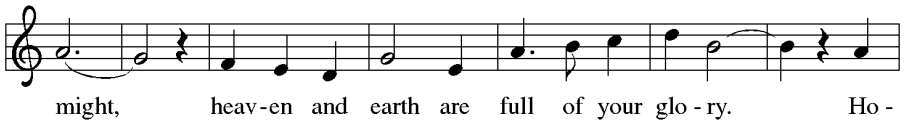
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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



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.**

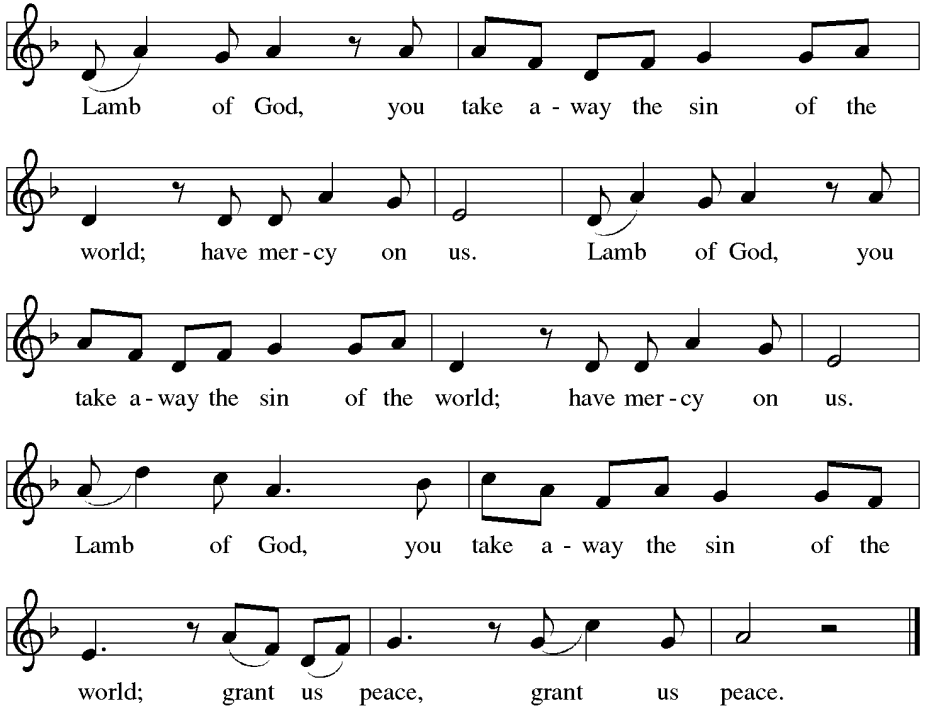
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.
Share in the feast of salvation.

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.

“Low How a Rose”

Bruce Williams

arr. Benson

“Christmas Lullaby”

Faith Bells

arr. McChesney

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

People, Look East

ELW #248

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.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from before your path.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW #244

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“People Look East”

arr. Himmelman

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Celebrate the Season



Sisters & brothers in Christ, welcome to
worship! May your time in the Lord be rich
and blessed.

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

December 10, 2017 Attendance: 134

Serving Faith	December 17	December 24 4:00pm/10:00 p.m.
Acolyte	Isaac Webb	Griffin Ransom/Zachary Hereza
Altar Care	Karen Whitmyer,	Heidi Bowers, Brielle Bowers
Communion Assistants	Isaac Webb	Griffin Ransom/Zachary Hereza
	Diane Wilke	Jim Crum/Mike Eschelbach
	Elaine Harrison	Brenda Kopf/Linda Hirt
Greeters	Mark & Molly DeHate	Barrickows/Hirts
Lay Assistants	Diane Wilke	Jim Crum/Mike Eschelbach
Readers	Elaine Harrison	Brenda Kopf/Linda Hirt
Ushers	Bowers/Whitmyers	Schoepf/TBD
Nursery	Lori Webb	Jennifer Coe/No Nursery

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

December 17, 2017

Log onto Faith's website www.faithlutheranokemos.org 24/7 for updates

DEADLINES

Sunday worship folder announcements—Tuesday of each week
Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

January Faith Family News newsletter—
Please submit by Monday, December 18
Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please lift up in prayer this week:

- † Members—Max Ambts, Lowell Barricklow, Ellen Milne, Tammy Heilman, Dale Halvorson and Virginia Tashner.
- † Friends and family—
Harriet, Pat Belonga, Todd Barriklow, Marilyn Belanger, George Bach, Greg Beckwith, Carol Coyer, Kay Coker, Chris Cotter, Terrie Becker, Allyson, Heather, Erin, Al, Sai, Jeanne Hicks, Rod Kaschner, Eshwar Lingamgunta, Jenn Leitch, Brian Johnson, Meredith, Jeanne and Leonard, John Joseph Lanzetta, Johnathon Manitta family, Loretta Milne, Bethany Robison, Karen Smiley, Jean Smith, Scott Seeley, “Little Zee” (3 yr. old daughter of a friend of Brenda Kopf’s), 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

NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

As Jesus calls us to be one, even as he and the Father are one, please include Pastor William Huether and the congregation of Victory Trinity Lutheran Church of Ludington, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering	12/10/17	Year-to-date as of 10/31/2017	
Loose Cash	\$ 48.00	Income	\$224,661
Loose Checks	\$ 805.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$242,195</u>
Flowers	\$ 125.00	Net Income	-17,584
Vision 2020	\$ 2500.00		
Parish House	\$ 1200.00		
Staff Gifts	\$ 775.00		
Samaritas Cards	\$ 5.00		
Worship-Wed Dinner	\$ 76.00		
General	<u>\$ 3495.00</u>		
Subtotal	\$ 9029.00		
Total	\$ 9,029.00		

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Keith, Beth & Taylor Belonga in memory of Beth's dad, Richard Jennings.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship: Special Congregational Follow-up Meeting immediately following worship.

Monday, December 18th

9:30 a.m. Meridian Township Play Group

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 19th

Noon: Study in Pastor Ellen's Office

Wednesday, December 20th

7:30 a.m. Men's Study

9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION

6:30 p.m. Faith Bells

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 21st

11:00 a.m. Worship at Dobie Road

Friday, December 22nd

Saturday, December 23rd

Sunday, December 24th

NO MORNING WORSHIP

4:00 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve Service

10:00 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

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.

The Executive Committee is calling a special congregational follow-up meeting TODAY following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss and follow-up on ways in which we as a Faith community might help to support Samaritas kids.



TODAY

The Caring Committee needs your help delivering the Reverse Advent food to Meridian Township



Food Delivery

Families. Delivery will be today following worship. Please see Annie Mayer or Sally Knoll for info.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



As Winter Weather approaches please note that if OKEMOS SCHOOLS are cancelled, the church office will be closed. If Events or Services are cancelled it will be announced on Facebook and the website and emailed, if possible.



Pastor Ellen will be holding First Communion classes January 10, 17, 24 and 31st. First Communion will be Sunday, February 4th. If you are interested in your child participating please call the office or let Pastor Ellen know.

Altar Care help needed –

Ever wonder where all those little cups of wine come from? Or



how the paraments get changed so the colors match the liturgical season? If so, we have a wonderful opportunity for you. We have some openings in the Altar Care schedule and could use some more able hands. This usually involves some time on Saturday to set things up and then clean-up on Sunday. We can pair you with someone experienced in this important task so you don't have to go it alone. We generally sign folks up for a month at a time, but will work with you on times you can assist. Please contact Elaine Harrison or Peggy Crum if you are willing to help.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Altar Flowers

The 2018 Altar Flower Chart is up and ready to be filled. Please leave your flower dedication sheets in the office or in Mary Ann Scheuerman's or Katie Love's mailbox.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Wednesday Night Live will resume on Wednesday, January 10th

New Wednesday Night Live BOOK STUDY!

On **Wednesday, January 10, at 7:00 PM** we begin a new book study by Walter Brueggemann. The book we will be looking at is ***The Bible Makes Sense***. This is a "how to" book of an unusual kind. Brueggemann proposes that Christians should approach the Bible, not as a collection of ancient documents, but as our partner in an ongoing dialog about our life here and now. He explains how to enter into this dialog, how to listen, and how to respond. This book is about the Christian way of approaching the Bible as the life-giving word of God addressed to us. It has much to offer all of us who are called to live by it and proclaim it in our life and actions. If you want to be part of this life-giving opportunity, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

Starting November 19th, 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?



Thank you for your amazing generosity and huge outpouring of love during our

Reverse and Reach Out Project!

We will keep the table up until Monday, December 27th for anymore items that you would like to contribute.

Please note the non-perishable food items have already been sorted and are ready for delivery.



Upcoming Caregiving Meeting

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

**60 Plus
or Minus**

Looking ahead! (Stay tuned via the Sunday morning bulletins, the Friday E-News, and our Website)

Our activities beginning in January include the following:

- * A gathering for popcorn and a movie (suggestions for the movie are welcomed!)
- * Soup and bread luncheon after Ash Wednesday daytime service. We look forward to sponsoring this luncheon and furnishing the food on Wednesday, February 14.

COMING IN JANUARY

NEW Sunday Morning Book Study Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the “Rules”



Sign-Up in Narthex. Beginning on Sunday morning, January 7, at 9:00 AM, Kim O'Brien will be leading a six-week book study in the library. The book to be discussed is *Outlaw Christian* by Dr. Jacqueline Bussie.

In her book, *Outlaw Christian*, Bussie talks about the unwritten “rules” of modern Christianity. She goes into depth about her experience and these so called “rules” modern Christianity seems to place upon people. She says that a faith governed by these rules is stifling, unsustainable, and dishonest. In her life experience, she was unable to overlook the suffering she saw around her – suffering in her friends, her neighbors and in her own life. She discovered that the only way she could keep her faith in the God she loved was to start breaking the rules, rules like “*Never get mad or argue with God.*” She calls this rule a “life-sucking narrative of the lie you should consider breaking without shame or secrecy, especially if you are the kind of person who has already broken it a thousand tiny times within the recesses of your mind. Because hope is anger’s mother, if you start breaking this law, I promise you will encounter hope along the road and she will never leave your side. Also, airing your authentic tears, concerns, and emotions in the sunlight rather than hiding them or apologizing for their existence will restore your humanity.” (p.38)

Bussie draws from Scripture and her real-life experience and her book is a rallying cry to believers who care too much to not only let suffering go unquestioned but also care too much to let doubts go unanswered. Bussie calls for an authentic form of faith that laments, loves, laughs, longs, and lives, but never lies.

Also, in conjunction with this book study, plan to attend the kick-off of the **Annual R&H Holle Speaker Series**, a planned annual event to honor former Bishop Reginald Holle and the work he did as the first bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. This kick-off event will take place here at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos where he was a longtime member. The event will take place on **Saturday, February 17, and Dr. Jacqueline Bussie will be the featured speaker.**

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.