

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

December 3, 2017



— FIRST 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

Tender Branch, Hidden Life

Advent begins with urgent cries for help. From Isaiah: “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down” (Isa. 64:1). And from the prayer of the day: “Stir up your power”—stir up your strength—and come to help us.

Our gospel today refers to suffering that will darken sun and moon and cast stars into freefall. The psalmist and Isaiah cry that God’s people have drunk bowls of tears and feel as frail as dead, wind-tossed leaves. God’s face is hidden. The desperation of a cry for help reflects the intensity of a trauma. So, do the calls to God for action: Tear open! Stir up! Strike as forcefully as earthquake or fire! But any cry for help is also a sign of hope: we expect someone to hear and to respond.

In the gospel Jesus tells of his future coming with power and glory. But then, surprisingly, he shifts his focus from the clouds of heaven to a single fig tree whose branch will become tender, so it can put forth new leaves. Even if everything in our world is shaken and falls, in God’s time there is promise of new life and a future season. Power exists not only in one hundred billion galaxies, but in tough bark that softens to allow fresh growth.

In October 2001 workers at Ground Zero uncovered a charred, twisted, pear tree. Astonishingly, the tree was still alive. It has been nurtured and given a place of honor at the 9/11 Memorial as “The Survivor Tree.” Its seedlings are sent as encouragement to communities that have experienced tragedy.

When God seems absent or silent, Jesus awakens us to the hidden life that courses through us as through the branches of a tree. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away”—and here we are, two thousand years later, gathered around those very words (Mark 13:31). Jesus alerts us to God’s nearness in ordinary leaves, words, responses to our cries.

Sunday, December 3, 2017

1 Advent

Introduction to the day

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

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.*

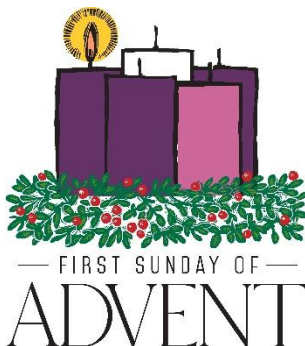
Prayer Requests

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Traditional)
Joyful Noise, Tone Chimes Gwynne Kadrofske, flute

GATHERING

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



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – Advent 1

Reader One: Isaiah the Prophet cried out to God, I wish you would open the heavens that separate us and come down, making the mountains quake because you are here. Make your name known to all who are against you. Make the nations tremble because of your presence.

Reader Two: You came before and did awesome deeds that we did not expect; you made our world shake at the sight of you. In all the history of the world, no ears have heard, and no eyes have seen any God other than you.

Reader One: You work for those who wait for you.

Reader Two: We wait and hope, as we light this candle.
(*Pause as the first candle is lit.*)

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

GATHERING SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW #257

vs. 1-4

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.



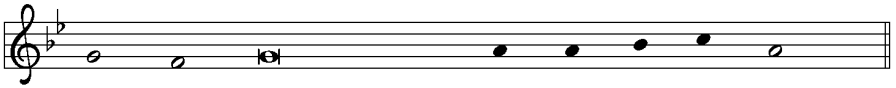
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



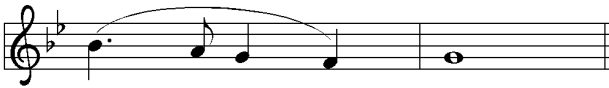
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father 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 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,

and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

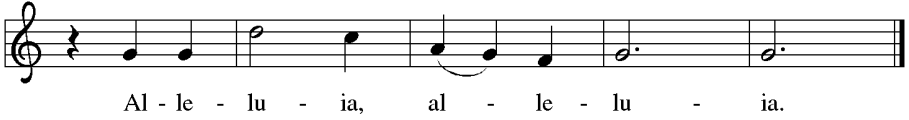
⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in

charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

The assembly is seated.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW #242

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,
hear 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.

OFFERING

“Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain” (Jennings)
Combined Chancel Choir and Joyful Noise

OFFERING RESPONSE

Emmanuel

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

his name is called Em - man - u - el;

God with us, re - vealed in us;

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef. The melody is in a major key and 4/4 time. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff continues the melody. The third staff introduces a key signature change to one flat (Bb) for the 'ho - san - na' section. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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.

“The First Noel”

(arr. Agioritis)

“What Child is This”

(arr. King)

Flutes of Faith

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW #490

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

vs. 1, 2 & 4

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn”

(arr. Benson)

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Celebrate the Season



Sisters and 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

November 26, 2017 Attendance: 105

Serving Faith	December 3	December 10
Acolyte	Paige Lewis	Owen Kadrofske
Altar Care	Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers, Brielle Bowers	
Communion Assistants	Paige Lewis Dane Webb Brendan Guenther	Owen Kadrofske Rich Weingartner Warren Heilman
Greeters	Mike Eschelbach	Jeff & Melinda Schultz
Lay Assistants	Dane Webb	Rich Weingartner
Readers	Brendan Guenther	Warren Heilman
Ushers	Bowers/Whitmyer	Bowers/Whitmyers
Nursery	Lori Webb	Pam Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

December 3, 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 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

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 Bethany Lutheran Church of Lansing, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering	11/26/17	Year-to-date as of 10/31/2017	
Loose Cash	\$ 34.00	Income	\$224,661
Loose Checks	\$ 5.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$242,195</u>
Thanksgiving Svc	\$ 392.00	Net Income	-17,584
Youth Education	\$ 10.00		
Spark Bibles	\$ 250.00		
Tanzania Water Project	\$ 75.00		
Reverse Advent Food	\$ 10.00		
Flower	\$ 45.00		
World Hunger	\$ 53.00		
General	<u>\$ 3,105.00</u>		
 Subtotal	 \$ 3,729.00		

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by...

Walter, Brenda, Katy, Austin, and Ciara, in celebration of Becca's 30th birthday.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

Following Special Congregational Meeting

Kids lunch and Pageant Dress Rehearsal until 1 p.m.

Noon: 60 +/- Christmas Luncheon at State Room

1-4 p.m. Confirmation Review Class

5:30 p.m. Beer & Hymns at Williamston Pub & Grill

Monday, December 4

9:30 a.m. Meridian Township Play Group

Tuesday, December 5

Noon: Study in Pastor Ellen's Office

Wednesday, December 6

7:30 a.m. Men's Study

9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION

5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

5:45 p.m. Meal is Served: Worship

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, December 7

Friday, December 8

Saturday, December 9

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TODAY

The Executive Committee is calling a special congregational meeting for today, 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.



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.

Order forms are available in the narthex. Please drop in the church office or in Katie Love's mailbox.

Deadline Sunday, December 10th



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.



**Advent Calendars are available in the
narthex.**

Please take 1 per family.

Merry Christmas

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

November 29th: Membership Development

December 6th: Worship

December 13th: Pizza Party

Wednesday evenings, adults will be able to participate in a **new educational opportunity**. Beginning at 7:00 PM 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.

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?

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

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 must 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.





Next Teen Meeting will be a Christmas Party at the Love's House. Sunday, December 10th, 6-8 p.m.

Please bring a gift valued at \$5-10 for our gift exchange. If this is a hardship, please let me know!

December:

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

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

10th: 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.

13th: T&C and PK-3rd Christmas Fun Night!!

17th: Sunday School (PK-6th)

20th: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

24TH: NO MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP

31ST: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

November & December Sunday School Offering

Starting Sunday, November 5 - Sunday, December 10 the Sunday School offering PK-6th 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 17th 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 10th.

-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!!*

Upcoming Caregiving Meeting

December 14th – 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

**Christmas Brunch at the State
Room
December 3, 2017**

**60 Plus
or Minus**



December 3 is the first Sunday in Advent, a time to begin preparing for the Holy Season of Christmas. Join your 60 Plus or Minus friends for a Christmas luncheon at 12:00 p.m. on that Sunday at the Kellogg Center on Harrison Avenue on the MSU Campus. We will enjoy the delicious buffet brunch at a group of reserved tables in the State Room. The buffet features a complete selection from breakfast items to entrees and desserts. The cost, including tax and gratuity, is \$21.35 with free parking (under cover and attached to the Kellogg Center). We'll be paying individually on the day of the event.



As our name “60 Plus or Minus” suggests, we welcome friends and guests who have not yet reached that golden age! Be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex by November 30 so that we can reserve the proper number of tables.

If you arrive a little early or stay briefly after the luncheon, you can browse the festive seasonal decorations in the Kellogg Center, including the annual gingerbread house competition.



See you at the State Room on December 3!

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.

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.

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.