

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church

December 31, 2017



LESSONS & CAROLS

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Sunday, December 31, 2017
First Sunday of Christmas
Service of Lessons and Carols
Pastor Darrell Neves

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

The pre-service music signals the beginning of the worship service. Silence during the pre-service music enables worshippers to prepare for worship through quiet meditation.

“He is Born, the Divine Christ Child”

arr. Wood

the assembly stands

GATHERING SONG

Once in Royal David's City

ELW #269

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright morning star, shines light in the world.

By day and night, he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty,

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may

not perish by have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in the darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen

The assembly is seated

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

A reading from Genesis.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

CAROL

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW #295

Vs. 1 & 2

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

CAROL

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW #239

Vs. 1 & 4

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

A reading from Luke.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW #265

Vs. 1,2,4

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

A reading from Matthew.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Carol: Emmanuel (sing twice)

C Em⁷ F F/E Dm⁷ G⁷ F/G C Gm⁶/B^b

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

4 A⁷ A⁷/C[#] Dm Dm/C G⁷/B G G⁷/B C E+ E⁷

— His name is called _____ Em - man - u - el: _____ God with

9 F A⁷/E Dm G⁷ C Gm⁶/B^b A⁷ A⁷/C[#]

us, _____ re - vealed in us! _____ His name is

13 Dm Dm/C G⁷/B G⁶ G⁷ C

called _____ Em - man - u - el. _____

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

A reading from Luke.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

A reading from Matthew.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

What Child Is This

ELW #296

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

A reading from John.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL

Love Has Come

ELW #292

The assembly stands

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger,
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger,
to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger,
to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life,
**cast away the darkness of injustice,
poverty and hunger in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way,
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Oh God, Landscaper of Peace, you root us in love and tend to us like a tree by the water. Turn over the soil of our indifference and weed out the roots of violence and greed. In this season of joy and light, may our actions yield healing in a warring world, abundance in a hungry world, and comfort in a world of illness and hurt. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who calls us to a harvest of eternal peace.

Amen

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

The assembly is seated

OFFERING

“Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child”

arr. Hayes

Tammy Heilman, soloist

The assembly stands

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the tree of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

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.
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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence
in the words our Savior gave 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

God fills the hungry with good things.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The assembly is seated

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen

WE WELCOME ALL GUESTS worshiping with us today and invite all baptized Christians to come to the Lord's table. Children who have not yet received First Communion instruction are invited to come forward with their families to receive a blessing. There will be one chalice (cup) of wine, as well trays of individual cups. In the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine.

Communion song:



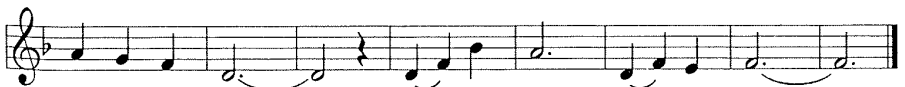
☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

The First Noel

ELW #300

The assembly stands

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

arr. Manz

Copyright © 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000803. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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 24, 2017 Attendance 4pm: 87 10pm: 173

Serving Faith	December 31	January 7
Acolyte	Atu Ngasala	Kaden Steinke
Altar Care	Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers, Brielle Bowers	
		Carol Towl & Cecelia Kramer
Communion Assistants	Atu Ngasala	Kaden Steinke
	Zachary Hereza	Doug Hirt
	Gus Lulis/Diane Wilke	John McCracken
Greeters	Mark & Molly DeHate	Barrickows/Hirts
Lay Assistants	Zachary Hereza	Doug Hirt
Readers	Gus Lulis/Diane Wilke	John McCracken
Ushers	Bowers/Whitmyers	TBD
Nursery	Alexis Hereza	O'Briens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

December 31, 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

February Faith Family News newsletter—

Please submit by Monday, January 22

Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please lift up in prayer this week:

- † Members—Max Ambs, 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, Carol Lynn, Johnathon Manitta family, Loretta Milne, Bethany Robison, Rosanne Rose, Karen Smiley, Jean Smith, Scott Seeley, “Little Zee” (3 yr. old daughter of a friend of Brenda Kopf’s), Renee Wood 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 the supply pastors and the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church of Marlette, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering	12/17/17	Year-to-date as of 11/30/17	
Loose Cash	\$ 48.00	Income	\$245,586
Loose Checks	\$ 105.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$270,417</u>
Staff Gifts	\$ 895.00	Net Income	-24,831
ELCA Good Gifts	\$ 166.00		
Parish House	\$ 700.00		
Tanzania Water	\$ 425.00		
Reverse Advent Food	\$ 50.00		
Vision 2020	\$10,000.00		
World Hunger	\$ 75.00		
Flower	\$ 45.00		
General Fund	\$ 3730.00		
Subtotal	\$16,239.00		
Simply Giving	\$ 2,826.00		
Total	\$19,065.00		

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Jon & Elaine Harrison in celebration of Dan's birthday.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 1

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

Office Closed

Wednesday, January 3

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

No other evening activities

Thursday, January 4

Friday, January 5

Saturday, January 6

9am Parish House Work Day/Christmas De-Decorating

Sunday, January 7

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.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP!



Parish House Work
Day:

Saturday January 6,
2018 9AM - 3PM

Come as you are able, any time, for however long! We will be clearing out the last of items in the basement of the parish

house. If you have a truck and are able to haul items to recycling centers or garbage dumps please let us know! We will also be preparing the basement for moisture sealer on the walls and may do some outdoor maintenance, weather permitting. We may be ready to also move furniture into the house at this time. All skill levels and abilities are helpful, from sorting to moving light weight items to cleaning to heavy lifting so please come if you're available. It is helpful for our planning if you sign up in the narthex. Contact Kim O'Brien, 517-442-8977 with specific questions.



Christmas Decoration take down will occur after our Parish House Work Day. Come join us and help get the work done.

Wednesday Night Live will resume on Wednesday, January 10th

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.

5:30 – 6:00	Joyful Noise choir rehearsal
5:45 – 7:00	Meal served
6:30 – 7:30	Trinity, Confirmation, and <i>activities for younger children!</i>
6:30 - 7:30	First Communion Classes (Jan. 10-31 st)
6:30 – 7:30	Bell Choir rehearsal
7:00 – 8:00	“ <i>The Bible Makes Sense</i> ” Book Study
7:30 – 8:00	Additional Activities for Kids
7:30 – 9:00	Chancel Choir



A HUGE THANK YOU from the Caring Committee to the members at Faith Lutheran who helped support the Reverse Advent Food Drive. To everyone who brought in food, donated money for perishables, helped pack the food, and those of you who delivered the food to the 20 families in Meridian Township, we couldn't do it without your help. You are making a positive difference in our community with your support and the care you are demonstrating for others.

We also want to express our thanks to GREAT HARVEST BREAD COMPANY in Okemos for their amazing and overwhelming donation of more than 60 loaves of bread and 4 dozen cookies, each family received at least 3 bakery items. When you stop in the store, please tell them how much Faith Lutheran appreciates their continued and very generous support in this important ministry.

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

SIXTY +/-

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 1 p.m.
In Faith’s Choir Room

Popcorn and a Movie: “The Shack”

“The Shack” takes us on a father’s uplifting spiritual journey. After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips [Sam Worthington] spirals into a deep depression causing him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa [Octavia Spencer]. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.

Warm your spirit in Michigan’s cold January by sharing fellowship with your 60 Plus or Minus Friends as we watch this inspirational film.

Looking Ahead:

February 14, Ash Wednesday: We will honor our tradition of providing a soup and bread lunch for all those who attend the noon worship service.

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.**



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Thrivent Card Request:

The Youth at Faith is requesting a Thrivent Card to help offset the costs of the Shrove Dinner on Tuesday, February 13th. This will be a great time of fellowship and fundraising for the Youth going to Houston for the National Gathering. Please email or call Katie Love if you are able to supply a card.

January:

- 7th: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6
- 10th: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8
Confirmation
First Communion Class
- 14th: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6
6-8 p.m. Teen Night at Love's House
- 17th: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8
Confirmation
First Communion Class
- 21st: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6
11:15 a.m. Parish Ed Meeting
- 24th: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8
Confirmation
First Communion Class
- 27th: Confirmation Review with Melinda 9-12 at Faith
- 28th: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6
10 a.m. Joyful Noise Choir sings in Worship
5:15 p.m. Gathering Students meet at Love's to do January
"Getting Ready" Packet.
6-8 p.m. Teen Night
- 31st: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8
Confirmation
First Communion Class

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

\$300-400.

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.

Sunday, February 4 - ANNUAL MEETING – SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – DEDICATION OF HOUSE

On Sunday, February 4, it will be a busy day at Faith Lutheran Church. Not only is it Super Bowl Sunday. That Sunday morning will include the following:

1. **Annual Meeting** – Our Annual Meeting will take place during lunch, following worship
2. **Souper Bowl of Caring** - The Annual Meeting will take place while you eat soup. Various kinds of soup will be served, and the freewill offering proceeds will go to furnish food for the refugees who will be living in the Parish House.
3. **Dedication of House** – After the Annual Meeting, we will walk over to the Parish House and dedicate the house for the purpose of ministry to the refugees. Please plan to join us for these events!



Thrivent Sunday
Sunday, February 11th
Lunch & Financial Workshop following worship.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.™

BLENDING FAITH, FINANCES AND GENEROSITY

Thrivent Financial is different from other financial services organizations because we help Christians be wise with money and live generously. For more than a century, we've helped our over 2 million members make wise money choices that reflect their values, and we provide opportunities for them to be even more generous where they live, work and worship.

Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. —1 Peter 4:10

Together we are strong

Members turn to Thrivent to help them:



Develop a financial strategy that reflects their goals and values.



Financially protect themselves and their families from risks like dying too young, living too long or losing their ability to earn a paycheck.



Make a meaningful difference in their communities.

To learn more about how being financially prepared and living generously go hand in hand, contact:



Michael Jay Malsner
Financial Associate
3410 Belle Chase Way
Suite 400
Lansing, MI 48911
517-614-8687
michael.malsner@thrivent.com

Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent. Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. They are also licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent. For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

R&M Holle Speaker Series
Saturday, February 17, 2018
9:30 – 3:00 (Lunch provided)
Childcare Available
Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos

Featured Speaker: Dr. Jacqueline A Bussie

You are invited to attend this kickoff event of the 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 at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos, MI where Bishop Holle was a longtime member and where his wife, Marla, continues to be an active, vital member of the community.

Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, a former professor at Capital University, is now Director of the *Forum on Faith and Life* and professor of religion at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She is the author of ***Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the “Rules.”*** In this book, 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.

This February 17 event is free to the public. A freewill offering will be taken to cover luncheon expenses. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you plan to attend so we know how to plan for lunch.

