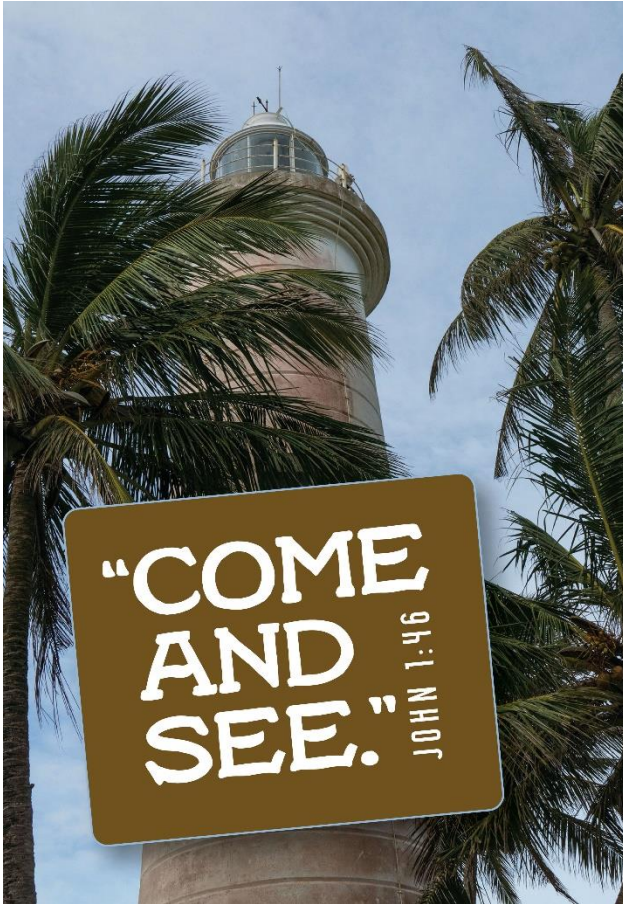


Welcome to Faith Lutheran

January 14, 2018



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

One Degree of Connection

A modern theory proposes that every person is separated from every other person by at most six degrees (six connecting relationships). Pick any person in the world and they will know someone who knows someone who knows someone who knows you. When we meet strangers, we often don't realize how closely connected we are until we share our stories.

In today's gospel story, Philip is first connected to Jesus by being from the same town as Andrew and Peter. But then Jesus calls him to follow, and Philip is in a direct relationship with Jesus. He went from two degrees of separation to one degree of connection. Philip tells Nathanael that Jesus is the one spoken of in Moses and the prophets. At first Nathanael doubts Jesus can measure up, since Jesus is from a small town of no importance. Nathanael is still two degrees away from Jesus.

Then Nathanael meets Jesus in person, and it changes everything. Instead of Nathanael getting to know Jesus, he discovers that Jesus already knows him. Nathanael's doubt about Jesus turns into astounding trust. Nathanael learns that even when he was two or more degrees separated from Jesus, Jesus was already directly connected to him.

Like Philip, the church shares the good news of Jesus with those who are near to us, friends, neighbors, and strangers. We say to others, "Come and see." When we invite people to learn about Jesus, we are inviting them to a great surprise: No matter how separated they may feel from Jesus because of time, relationship, or doubt, Jesus already knows them and loves them. God already knows them and accepts them. The good news of Christ is that we are all only one degree, one relationship away from God, and that relationship is Jesus himself, who has already befriended us on God's behalf.

Sunday, January 14, 2018

2 Epiphany

Introduction to the day

All the baptized have a calling in God’s world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn’t important; it’s where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

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

“Oh Jesus, I have Promised”

arr. Aaron D. Miller

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who stretches out the heavens,
who sends light to the nations,
who gives breath to us all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Loving God,
**we confess that we have turned from your way
to follow our own ways.
Forgive us for the times
we have spoken or acted too quickly;
we have not spoken or acted at all;
we have hurt those closest to us;
we have hurt those we have yet to know;
we have thought more about ourselves than others;
we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.
Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,
so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.
Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.
God's love never runs out.
God never tires of calling us beloved children.
Hear God say to you now:
Your sins are forgiven,
for the sake of ✚ Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

We All Are One in Mission

ELW #576



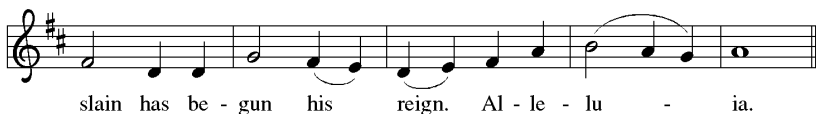
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



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



Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, 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: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

A reading from 1 Samuel.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or

offering forever.”

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.

¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you

are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.”

⁵¹And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

ELW #737

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

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

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:*

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

"Come to the Banquet"

(Martin)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

We Give Thee but Thine Own

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Merciful God,
receive the gifts we bring,
our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Through this meal unite us as your body,
shining with the light of your justice and mercy;
for the sake of him who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.
Come. Be filled with light and life.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW #810

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW #676

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.

O Morning Star, fair and bright,
you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.

You are our dearest treasure.

Go with us now—

today, tomorrow, every day—

that we tell the story of your never-ending love
and sing your praise both now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,

and shine brightly on your path;

and the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Here I Am, Lord

ELW #574

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

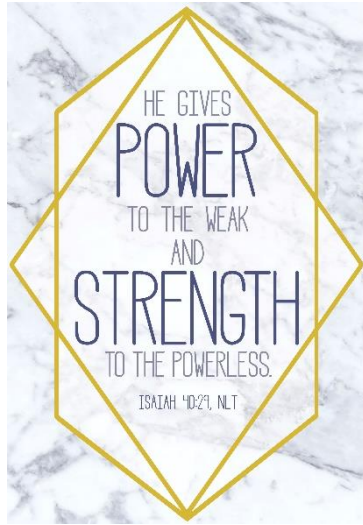
POSTLUDE

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

arr. Buxtehude

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**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

January 7, 2018 Attendance 111

Serving Faith	January 14	January 21
Acolyte	Owen Kadrofske	Rachael Ngasala
Altar Care	Carol Towl & Elaine Harrison	Carol Towl & Cecelia Kramer
Communion Assistants	Owen Kadrofske Walter Kopf Karen Whitmyer	Rachael Ngasala Katie Love Brian Ransom
Greeters	Ken & Karen Whitmyer	Jack & Natalie Dingledine
Lay Assistants	Walter Kopf	Katie Love
Readers	Karen Whitmyer	Brian Ransom
Ushers	Nussdorfer's	Needed
Nursery	Melinda & Lauren Schultz	Marquardt's

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

January 14, 2018

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, and Virginia Tashner.
- ✠ Friends and family—
Harriet, Todd Barricklow, Marilyn Belanger, 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 the supply Pastors and the congregation of St. Timothy Lutheran Church of Midland, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering	12/24/17	Year-to-date as of 11/30/17	
Loose Cash	\$ 607.00	Income	\$245,586
Loose Checks	\$ 285.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$270,417</u>
World Hunger	\$ 1.80	Net Income	-24,831
Youth-Bottle Recycle	\$ 13.50		
Staff Gifts	\$ 180.00		
Vision 2020	\$1000.00		
General Fund	<u>\$4000.00</u>		
Total	\$6087.30		

Weekly Offering 12/31/17

Loose Cash	\$ 30.00
Loose Checks	\$ 200.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 50.00
Flowers	\$ 35.00
Facility Rental	\$ 300.00
Vision 2020	\$6250.00
World Hunger	\$ 58.49
General Fund	<u>\$3430.00</u>
Total	\$10,353.49

Weekly Offering 1/7/18

Loose Cash	\$ 45.00
Loose Checks	\$ 55.00
World Hunger	\$ 25.00
Envelope Fund	\$ 96.00
Parish House	\$ 500.00
Vision 2020	\$1500.00
Books	\$ 28.00
General Fund	<u>\$4185.00</u>
Subtotal	\$6434.00
Simply Giving	<u>\$2356.00</u>
Total	\$8790.00

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Kurt Steinke & Beth Ballegeer in celebration of Kaden's 10th birthday.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship: Thrivent Sunday

Thrivent Financial is a not-for-profit membership organization of Christians. Thrivent helps to provide members with sound financial guidance as well as solutions. Seeing money as a tool and not a goal, Thrivent strives to blend faith, finances and generosity to help members and their communities thrive. Today, Thrivent representatives join us to share information about the organization. They will be available to talk with you following worship

3:00 p.m. Worship at the Willows

6:00 p.m. Teen Night at Love's House

Monday, January 15

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 16

No Noon Study

Wednesday, January 17

7:30 a.m. Men's Study

9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritans ACTION

5:45 p.m. Meal is Served: Pastor Ellen & Confirmation Providing

6:30 p.m. T & C

6:30 p.m. Activities for kids Pk-3rd Grade

6:30 p.m. Faith Bells

6:45 p.m. Nooma Video Series

7:15 p.m. Book Study "The Bible Makes Sense"

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

7:30 p.m. Additional Activities for kids

Thursday, January 18

7:00 p.m. RIC Meeting

Friday, January 19

Saturday, January 20

Please keep those traveling to Florida for the Mission Trip in your prayers! They will be gone January 20-28th.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4th immediately following worship.

2018 Stewardship Focus – Our 2018 Stewardship Focus will be Michigan Refugee Hope. All Noisy Offerings during 2018 will go to help fund the care of the kids we and other foster parents are taking in. Noisy Offerings are always taken on the third Sunday of the month. Our first Noisy Offering will be taken on Sunday, January 21.

New Member Sunday – On Sunday, February 11, we will receive new members. If anyone is interested in becoming a member at Faith Lutheran Church, please speak to either Pastor Ellen or call the church office and let Katie 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.

Huge progress was made last Saturday on getting the parish house ready for the refugee youth to move in. A big thank you to all who helped last Saturday or who have put in work on many other occasions to get this house ready! The



TRAINING

house really looks amazing! In other exciting news, I found out this week that three sets of bunk beds and six mattresses are being donated to us by Vermeulen's in Jackson! They will be arriving in the next week.

In the next step for getting us ready to house and mentor these young men, Samaritas is going to be offering some training for those who plan on helping in the house. There are two separate trainings being offered, cultural training for anyone who plans on helping in the house in any capacity and mentoring training for those who specifically want to be mentors. Those who want to be mentors should plan to attend one session of each training. The cultural training is being offered on January 19 from 11-1 and January 29 from 6-8. Mentoring training is being offered January 23 from 1-3 and January 26 from 6-8. All training will be held at the church. Sign up sheets for training will be posted on the board. Please contact Laurie Hereza at 927-6753 or Laurie.hereza@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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: Pizza provided with Good Will Offering
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
6:45 - 7:15	Nooma Video Series
7:15 – 8:00	“ <i>The Bible Makes Sense</i> ” Book Study
7:30 – 8:00	Additional Activities for Kids
7:30 – 9:00	Chancel Choir



SIGN UP!

Please take a look at the Dinner Sign-up sheet and sign-up your group or committee to host on a Wednesday Night!

Upcoming Caregiving Meeting

Mark your calendars for our upcoming topics:

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.**



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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.

**** Please check out the new Thrivent Request Board located in the narthex. ****

January:

- 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
- 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
6-8 Gathering Study/ Teen Night
- 31st: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8
Confirmation
First Communion Class

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 FINANCIAL WORKSHOP AND LUNCHEON

On Sunday, February 11, Thrivent will be hosting a Luncheon and Financial Workshop following worship. If you are interested in coming to this event, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



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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*

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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)

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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.

Jazz Night with clarinet virtuoso Dave Bennett at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, Saturday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. Join us for Jazz Night and hear Dave Bennett, a multi-instrument phenomenon, playing the clarinet, guitar, drums, piano. He vocalizes and composes a variety of musical styles. He has performed with over 50 orchestras throughout the U.S. and Canada including a performance at Carnegie Hall, and is featured in dozens of music and jazz festivals. All are welcome.