

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

January 28, 2018



“Let the little children come to me...”

Matthew 19:14, NIV

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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Okemos, MI 48864
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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

Astounding Authority

“They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Mark 1:22). Why is Jesus’ authority so astounding? What makes Jesus’ way of teaching and healing so astonishing? Apparently, the scribes did not speak with or embody authority. They interpreted what ancient texts said. They did not open up new possibilities. They were powerless to create new life for people.

Jesus’ authority is about his power to open up new possibilities, to create new life for people. Jesus shows his authority to forgive sins and cast out demons. Rather than repeat worn out religious clichés and give easy answers to people’s questions, he spoke words that transformed. He brought healing that restored life. Throughout the first half of Mark’s gospel, Jesus’ authority amazes people. At the same time, it is questioned and challenged by those who fear him, those invested in the old ways of teaching and preaching that do not bring life and healing.

Later in Mark’s gospel, Jesus does something else astounding: he grants authority to his disciples to do the same as he is doing. He sends them out to heal, forgive, and set free. He sends them out to astound people with the authority of God to author a new reality in their lives through grace and love.

How do we respond to Jesus’ authority? Do we welcome the new chapters of life he authors for us and for the world? Are we rightly astounded at how he forgives our sins and heals our diseases? If we are open to his authority, his power to transform our lives, then we, like the disciples, can also be open to the authority he gives the church to do the same things for others: forgive, heal, transform, renew. Who can you astound today with the love and grace of God?

Sunday, January 28, 2018

4 Epiphany

Introduction to the day

For the past few weeks we have heard about people hearing God's calling, first Samuel and then Simon, Andrew, James, and John. In today's readings we learn about Joseph (who will later hear God's calling) and the Ethiopian eunuch who also follows God's calling. As we celebrate RIC Sunday today with fellow RIC congregations across the country, we remember that God calls all people to do God's work and that we are called to do God's work for all people. As an RIC congregation, as we state in our welcoming statement, we clearly and publicly define "all people" as every person with no exclusions.

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

A special thanks to Father Ron Byrd for presiding today.

*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

“Blind Man”

(Traditional)

Joyful Noise Choir

GATHERING

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

Affirmation of Baptism

Leader: Holy One of Blessing, in baptism you bring us to new life in Jesus Christ and you name us Beloved. We give you thanks for the renewal of that life and love in the renewal of our baptisms.

Let us pray. Merciful God, you have made each of us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of Your Spirit, nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians:

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

GATHERING SONG

All Are Welcome

ELW #641

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



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

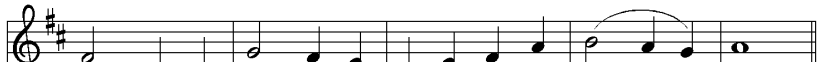
Refrain



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.

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

First Reading: Genesis 37:2-11, 19-24, 29-36

(The Inclusive Bible)

These are the generations of Joseph. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he used to accompany his siblings, the children of Bilhah and Zilpah, Jacob's spouses, as they herded the flocks. Joseph would tattle on the others to Jacob while they tended the animals, always presenting them in a negative light.

Now, Israel doted on the youth, because he was a child of his old age; he loved Joseph more than the others. And Israel gave Joseph a richly ornamental robe. When the brothers saw that Israel loved him best, they were jealous and had nothing but words of contempt for the boy.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated Joseph all the more. Joseph had said to them, "Listen to my dream. We were all out in the field binding sheaves, when all at once my sheaf straightened itself and remained standing upright, and your sheaves circled around my sheaf, bowing down as if paying homage to my sheaf."

The brothers rejoined, "So you want to play the sovereign with us? Do you really intend to rule over us?" and they hated Joseph that much more because of the dream and how he interpreted it. Then Joseph had another dream, which he told to his father and the brothers: "Listen to me, I had a second dream. In this dream the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me."

When he told them the dream, Israel scolded him. He said, "What is all this dream business? Are you saying that I, your mother, and the rest of the family will bow down and pay homage to you?" The siblings were jealous, but Israel did not forget the incident.

They said to one another, “Here comes that dreamer. Now’s our chance! Let’s kill Joseph and throw his body in one of these pits. We’ll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what becomes of Joseph’s dreams.

Reuben intervened and saved the boy from their hands, saying, “No bloodshed! Throwing him into a pit in the wilderness is one thing, but let’s not lay a hand on him.” Reuben’s intention was to rescue Joseph and return him to Israel.

So when Joseph came upon his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe he wore, and picked him up and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty and there was no water in it.

When Reuben came back to the pit to rescue Joseph, he found Joseph gone, and he tore his clothes in grief. Returning for the others, Reuben said, “The boy is gone! Now what will I do? What will become of me?”

So they took Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood. Then they took the ornamented robe and brought it to Israel, saying, “Look what we found! Do you recognize it? Isn’t it Joseph’s robe?”

Israel recognized the robe. “It is Joseph’s! A wild animal has devoured him. Joseph was surely ripped to pieces!” Jacob tore his clothes, dressed in sackcloth, and mourned Joseph’s death for a long time. His daughters and sons tried to comfort Israel, but he refused to be comforted, saying,

“I will go to my grave mourning for Joseph.”

Meanwhile, the Midianites had sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s court officials and captain of the guard.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Acts 8:26-40

(The Inclusive Bible)

An angel of God spoke to Philip and said, “Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes to Gaza, the desert road.” So Philip began his journey.

It happened that an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, the ruler of Ethiopia, had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage and was returning home. He was sitting in his carriage and reading the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and meet that carriage.” When Philip ran up, he heard the eunuch reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

“How can I,” the eunuch replied, “unless someone explains it to me?” With that, he invited Philip to get into the carriage with him. This was the passage of scripture being read:

“You are like a sheep being led to slaughter, you are like a lamb that is mute in front of its shearers: like them, you never open your mouth. You have been humiliated and have no one to defend you. Who will ever talk about your descendants, since your life on earth has been cut short?” The eunuch said to Philip, “Tell me, if you will, about whom the prophet is talking – himself or someone else?”

So Philip proceeded to explain the Good News about Jesus to him. Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, there is some water right there. Is there anything to keep me from being baptized?”

He ordered the carriage to stop, the Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch didn’t see him anymore, and went on his way rejoicing.

Philip found himself at Ashdod next, and he went about proclaiming the Good News in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



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: Matthew 19.10-15 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

His disciples said to him, ‘If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.’ But he said to them, ‘Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.’

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

You Are Mine

ELW #581

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 THE PEOPLE

With the whole earth, let us lift our hearts and voices in prayer. For the Church, as we seek to live out our call to be sanctuary, to proclaim welcome, love, and hospitality. God of love,
Receive our prayer.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

God of love,
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 gracious love, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

Dear children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. You are beloved by God, and claimed as God's own. Bear witness to this new life in the Name of Christ. Share it in the name of mercy. Offer it in the name of justice. Christ is among us making peace right here right now. And let the people say, "Amen," as you share the peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

“First Song of Isaiah”

(White)

Chancel Choir

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

Ecce, Deus

The congregation is asked to join the choir singing this refrain after each verse is sung:

ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the



Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

OFFERING RESPONSE

VS. 1&2

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,

ourselves, 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

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to 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, Lifegiving God.

We thank you, divine Seamstress for you never stop creating. From the dawn of time, to our mother's womb, even in the age to come, Your creativity is as endless as eternity. Today you are knitting us your people into a garment of many colors.

We thank you, Holy Spirit, for you do not allow us to grow complacent. You stir up dreams and visions within us making us restless for a new Heaven and a new Earth. You clothe us with power to bring these dreams to life. In you, we are beginning to see all things anew.

We thank you, Christ our Savior for your wondrous transformation, the Word made into flesh. You challenge us with foreign experiences teaching us that those we thought were strange and cut off are members in your holy body.

Therefore, with Joseph and all of Israel's children, with the confused disciples and the Ethiopian eunuch, with all who have shown us your way, all who have gone before us, and all those we gather with this day, 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music ends with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. He took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to them, 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.

We remember that night Jesus spent with his friends, and we feel his presence with us now. We ask God, through the Holy Spirit to bless these gifts we offer and share, making them Christ for us, and making us into Christ's holy body. Together with all the church, we give you thanks: Creator, Redeemer, Spirit of love. Bind us together. Open our hearts. Grant us peace.

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.**

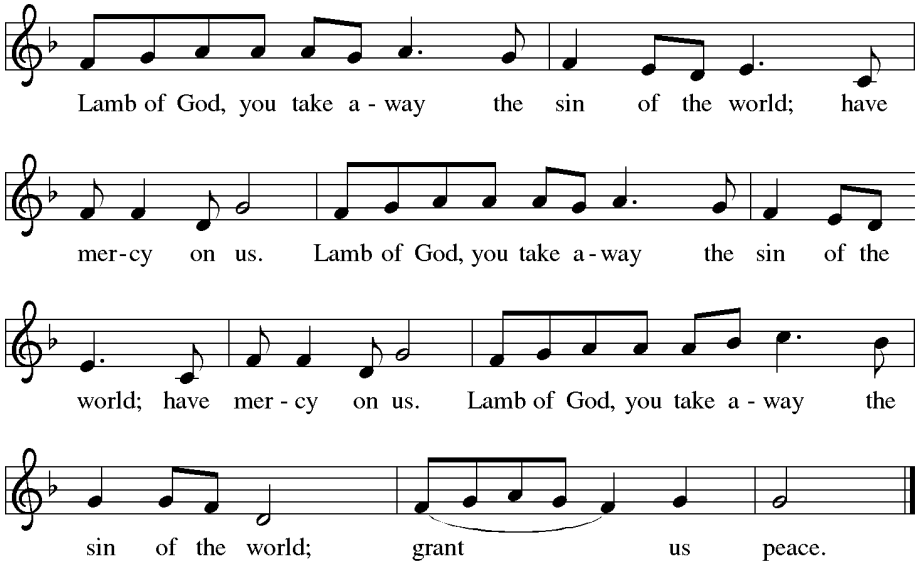
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
All are welcome at this table.

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

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW #715

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons

ELW #798

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

May we who have fed

At Wisdom's table

Take her welcome out

To where tables are reserved

And doors are closed;

May the Spirit drive us

To break our bread

On the altar of the world.

Amen.

– Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, Church Publishing, New York.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May the Creator grant us peace & courage, for we are beautifully and wonderfully made, just as we are.

May the One whose life was spent reaching out to the outsiders grant us healing, wholeness, and the assurance that we belong. May we be challenged to extend that same healing and hospitality to others.

May the One who is our advocate strengthen us in community, empower us in our gifts, and fill us with joy in the good news.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

We Are Called

ELW #720

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“All are Welcome”

arr. Ron Schmoltze



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 21, 2018 Attendance 112

Serving Faith	January 28	February 4
Acolyte	Serena Ngasala	Adelle Dingedine
Altar Care	Carol Towl & Linda Gerard	
		Tammy Heilman & Peggy Crum
Communion Assistants	Serena Ngasala	Adelle Dingedine
	Rich Weingartner	John McPhail
	Deb Borton-McDonough	Melinda Schultz
Greeters	Bill & Pam Williams	Rich Weingartner
Lay Assistants	Rich Weingartner	John McPhail
Readers	Deb Borton-McDonough	Melinda Schultz
Ushers	Mike Eschelbach	Harrison's
Nursery	Williams	Heidi Bowers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

January 28, 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

March Faith Family News newsletter—
Please submit by Monday, February 19
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, Brian Fent, 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, Doug Weaver, “Little Zee” (3 yr. old daughter of a friend of Brenda Kopf’s), and the White family.
- ✠ Our mission partner congregation—Lansing Redeemer Lutheran Church
- ✠ Those in military service—Jon Schoepf, Lani Yearicks, Melody and Adam Wright and Joe Galvin.
- ✠ Samaritans children who seek adoption. Pray for each to be adopted and for Jesus to be their lifelong friends

NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering	1/21/2018	Year-to-date as of 12/31/17	
Loose Cash	\$ 100.00	Income	\$272,093
Loose Checks	\$ 96.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$296,290</u>
Vision 2020	\$ 25.00	Net Income	-24,197
Wed Dinner: Confirm.	\$ 79.00		
Parish House	\$ 25.00		
Flowers	\$ 25.00		
Michigan Refugee Hope	\$ 162.85		
General Fund	<u>\$2225.00</u>		
Subtotal	\$2847.85		
Simply Giving	\$2952.00		
Total	\$5799.85		

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

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

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship: RIC Sunday
- 6:00 p.m. "Getting Ready" Teen Gathering at Love's House

Monday, January 29

- 9:00 a.m. Meridian Play Group
- 6:00 p.m. Cultural Training

Tuesday, January 30

No Noon Study

Wednesday, January 31

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Study
- 9:00 a.m. Synod Task Force Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION
- 5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise
- 5:45 p.m. Meal is Served
- 6:30 p.m. T & C: First Communion
- 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, February 1st

Friday, February 2nd

Saturday, February 3rd

Sunday, February 4th



IMPORTANT INFORMATION



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!

2017 Offering Envelopes and contribution statements are in your mailboxes.

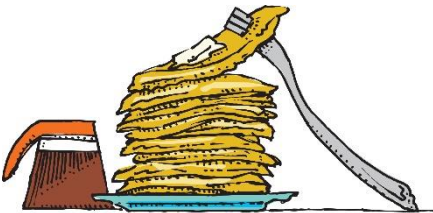


IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 next Noisy Offering will be taken on Sunday, February 18th.

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.

Shrove Dinner & ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraiser Tuesday, February 13th 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.



The youth attending the Houston Gathering in June will be preparing and serving the Shrove Dinner.

SHROVE TUESDAY

During dinner we will have introductions of the students, fun Houston Trivia, and an introduction to the “Blast off for Books” ELCA Youth Gathering Houston Literacy Campaign.

We hope you can join us for this great evening of fun as we get closer to our trip to Houston!!

**A free will offering will be collected all
proceeds will go towards our trip!!**

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.

Faith is the place to be for

Wednesday Night Live

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
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:

COME JOIN US ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 11:30 FOR A LITE LUNCH AND DISCUSSION. ALL ARE WELCOME!

February 8th – How to manage emotionally as the Caregiver when your loved one is placed in assisted living or long-term care facility. Speaker- Heather Kaslo.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming topics:

March 8th – Jessica Corson with Anew Moon Yoga & Wellness, Meditation and Relaxation

April 12th – Video (PBS special) Caring for Mom & Dad. This is an hour-long video.

Euchre Tournament Friday, February 9th at 7pm

Come and join Membership Development for a fun night of Euchre. If you do not know how to play that's o.k.-we will teach you! Bring your own beverage, we will provide a few snacks that won't get the cards dirty! Sign up in the Narthex on the Membership Development clip board. Hope to see you there!



January:

- 28th: Tara Williams starts her internship at Faith!
9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6
10 a.m. Joyful Noise Choir sings in Worship
6-8 “Getting Ready” Teen Night at Love’s House
- 31st: “Get to know the Intern” during dinner (6-6:30)
Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8
Confirmation
First Communion Class

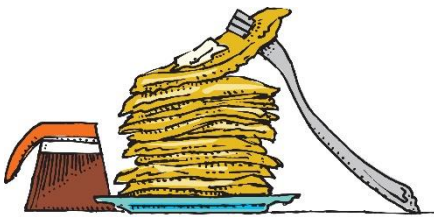
February:

- 4th: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6
First Communion Sunday, Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch
and Parish House Dedication
- 7th: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8
Confirmation.
- 11th: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6
11:15 a.m. Parish Ed Meeting
6-8 “Getting Ready” Teen Night at Love’s House
- 13th: Shrove Dinner & Gathering Fundraiser 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- 14th: Ash Wednesday Service: NO TRINITY OR
CONFIRMATION
- 18th: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6
- 23-25th: Youth Weekend Retreat: No Teen Night on the 25th.

Meet & Greet our New Intern



We are excited to welcome Tara Williams who will begin her internship at Faith on Sunday, January 28th. On Wednesday, January 31st, during the dinner hour (6:00-6:30) Tara will do a "Get to know the Intern". Tara will share a little bit about her training and goals for the internship and open it up to anyone with questions for her. We hope you can join us!



SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Dinner & Youth Gathering Fundraiser
Tuesday, February 13th
****More information in bulletin under "important information"**



Youth Winter Retreat

Youth (9-12) Winter Retreat will be on Friday, February 23-Sunday, February 25th. Sign up genius information has been sent out. Contact Katie with any questions. klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

Confirmation Save the Date:

Saturday, March 17th

Day Event filled with fun, food, games, study and a project.

More information coming soon.



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.



**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:



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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)

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.

The logo for the Marriage Retreat features a large, stylized heart shape on the left, formed by a thick, dark red line. To the right of the heart, the word "Marriage" is written in a bold, dark red, sans-serif font. Below "Marriage", the word "retreat" is written in a dark red, cursive script font.

The **Annual Marriage Retreat** will take place at the Holiday Inn in Ludington, March 2-4. You will be hearing more about this over the next month. If you are interested in coming to this event, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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.