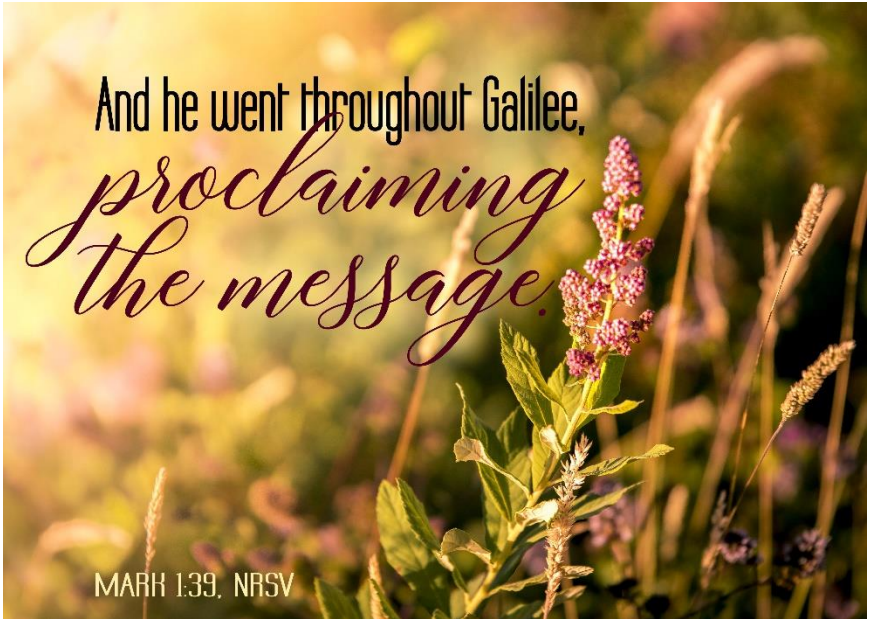


Welcome to Faith Lutheran

February 4, 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

First, He Lifted Her Up

We don't know if she had the flu, pneumonia, or some other infection. We know she had a fever and was sick in bed. Everyone can relate to that feeling: having no energy, the aches, chills, and sweats. It's a terrible feeling, and you can bet the last thing she wanted to do was get up.

While she was still sick and feverish, Jesus took her by the hand and lifted her up. Maybe she felt too weak. Maybe everyone thought it was too soon. First, he lifted her up. Then her fever left her and she served her guests in her home.

Being lifted up is both literally and figuratively true in this story. Sometimes we need to be lifted up in our hearts and our spirits when we feel weary or worn down. Sometimes Jesus comes to us with good news and we still feel the fever of our wayward souls or the aches of wrongs done to us. We don't always welcome the lifting up that Jesus does because we think we need to be healed first. But often the healing comes *after* the lifting up, the word of forgiveness, the acceptance of our imperfect condition, the encouragement to get up even though we think we cannot.

This is how God's grace works. It comes to us before we are ready to receive it and lifts us up before we think we can or should be up. This grace heals us, breaks our fever, sets us free. And what happens next? We are motivated and energized to serve, to offer what we can in gratitude. Are you feeling unworthy or unready for God's grace in your life? Jesus is here to lift you up first, then you'll know what good news really means.

Sunday, February 4, 2018

5 Epiphany

First Communion

Introduction to the day

In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

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

“Nettleton”

arr. Paul Manz

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

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW #843

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.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

A reading from Isaiah.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all

means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his

companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.
The assembly is seated.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Healer of our Every Ill

ELW #612

INSTALLATION OF TARA WILLIAMS AS INTERN

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

They Shall Soar Like Eagles

(Manzo)

Chancel Choir

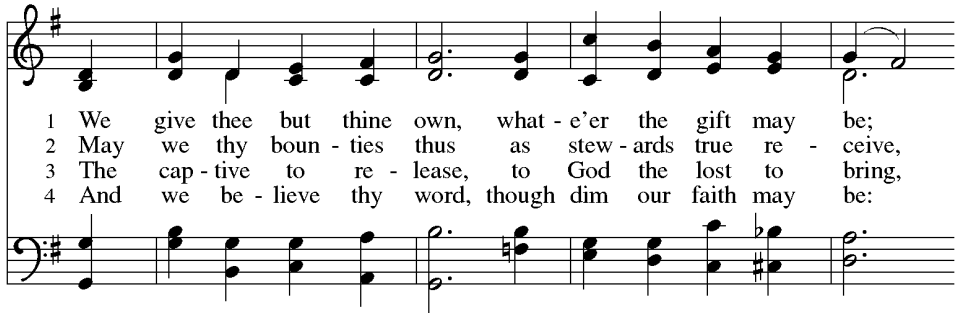
Gwynne Kadrofske, flute



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,
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.**

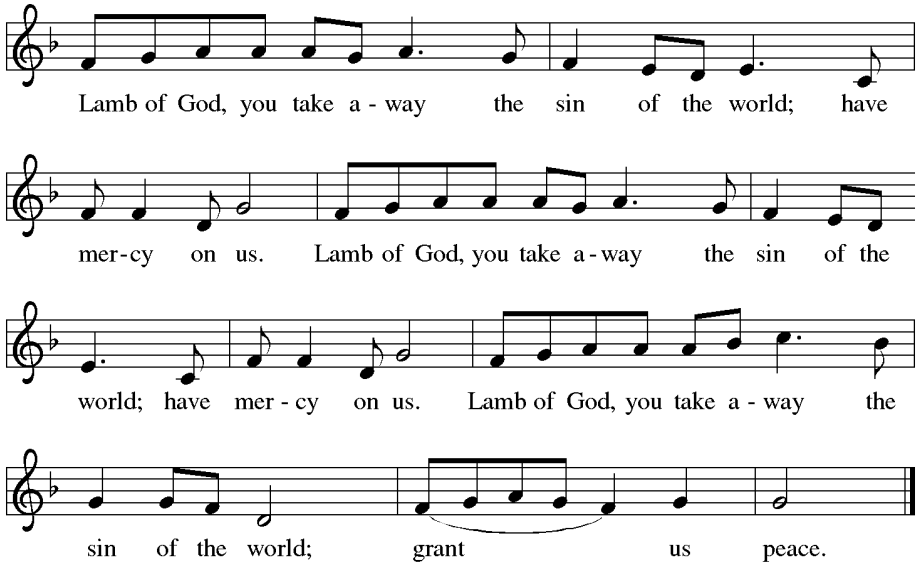
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Morceau Symphonique

(Guilmant)

Sam Kadrofske, baritone

Kathy Richardson, piano

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

On Eagle's Wings

ELW #787

Refrain
All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

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

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW #860

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

arr. Matt Hyzer

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	kllove@faithlutheranokemos.org
Director of Christian Education		Katie Love
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

January 21, 2018 Attendance 107

Serving Faith	February 4	February 11
Acolyte	Adelle Dingledine	Atu Ngasala
Altar Care	Tammy Heilman & Peggy Crum	
Communion Assistants	Adelle Dingledine	Atu Ngasala
	John McPhail	Kim O'Brien
	Melinda Schultz	Heidi Nussdorfer
Greeters	Rich Weingartner	Mike Eschelbach
Lay Assistants	John McPhail	Kim O'Brien
Readers	Melinda Schultz	Heidi Nussdorfer
Ushers	Harrison's	Harrison
Nursery	Heidi Bowers	Jennifer Coe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

February 4, 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 Rev. F. Laraine Sundin and the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church of Millersburg, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering	1/28/2018	Year-to-date as of 12/31/17	
Loose Cash	\$ 32.00	Income	\$272,093
Loose Checks	\$ 5.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$296,290</u>
World Hunger	\$ 50.00	Net Income	-24,197
Wed Dinner: Choir	\$ 42.00		
Outlaw Christian Book	\$ 8.00		
Samaritas Cards	\$ 5.00		
Building Fund	\$ 25.00		
General Fund	\$2535.00		
Vision 2020	<u>\$ 250.00</u>		
 Total	 \$2952.00		

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

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

Vase 1: Faith Lutheran Church in thankfulness for John McCracken's service as President of Council

Vase 2: the Kopf family in celebration of Austin's birthday.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Worship: First Communion

Beer & Hymns is cancelled for this evening.



TODAY !!

ANNUAL MEETING – SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – DEDICATION OF HOUSE

Today will be a busy day at Faith Lutheran Church.

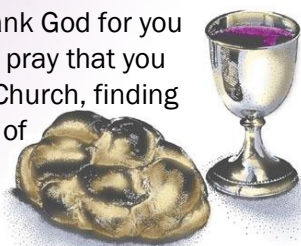
1. **Annual Meeting** – Our Annual Meeting will take place during lunch, following worship
2. **Souper Bowl of Caring** - The Annual Meeting will take place while you eat soup. Various kinds of soup will be served, and the freewill offering proceeds will

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.

Today is a special day for Maddie Webb. When she was baptized, God made her a part of his household, the family we call the church. As she grew, she learned about her heavenly Father and what it means to be part of his family. She has learned how in sharing the bread and wine of Holy Communion we remember Jesus' death and his rising to life again on that first Easter Day, and how eating the bread and drinking the wine makes us one with him and brings us closer to each other. She has expressed her desire to join us as we gather around the Lord's table, and so she is invited to participate for the first time.

We welcome you to the Lord's table. We thank God for you and rejoice in your being among us. And we pray that you will remain faithful to Christ and to his Holy Church, finding joy and strength in his body and blood, signs of his love for the world.



Monday, February 5th

9:00 a.m. Meridian Play Group

Tuesday, February 6th

Noon Study in Pastor's office

Wednesday, February 7th

7:30 a.m. Men's Study

9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION

5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

5:45 p.m. Meal is Served

6:30 p.m. Trinity & Confirmation

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 8th

11:30 a.m. Caregivers Support Group

Friday, February 9th

7:00 p.m. Euchre Tournament

Saturday, February 10th

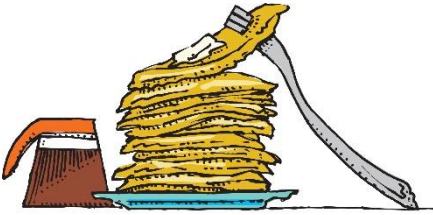
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**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!!**

**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!



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!

60 +/-

You are invited by the Freewheelers of University Lutheran Church to join with their senior citizens for a brunch on Friday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to noon in the lower level of their church. Ann Booren of MSU's hospitality services will provide the food, and her colleague Gilbert Manuwell will present a fun, food-related program.

Cost is \$10, payable at the door. Our friend Jan Mace adds, 'Age is no restriction for having fun!'

Please sign up on the board in the narthex so food quantity can be planned."

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.

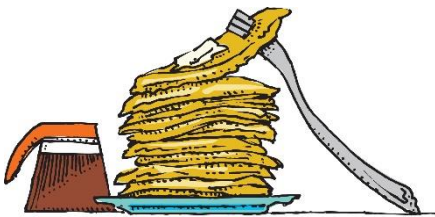
Mark your calendars for our upcoming topics:

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.

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.



SHROVE TUESDAY

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



The Winter Retreat will be on Friday, February 23-Sunday, February 25th. This trip is for students in 9-12th grade and for 8th grade students who have finished their confirmation requirements.

Youth Winter Retreat

Email Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org for more information.

Confirmation Save the Date:

Saturday, March 17th

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

More information coming soon.



Confirmation & High School
Lock in.

Saturday, March 17th 6 p.m. –
midnight.

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.

LENT BEGINS

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 14.**

We will be holding two Ash Wednesday services:

1. Noon service on Ash Wednesday, followed by a soup luncheon
2. 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service – this year, the members and clergy of Okemos Presbyterian Church and Okemos Community Church will join us for evening worship.



Weekly Lenten Services will take place beginning on Wednesday evening, February 21. The traditional Soup Supper will be offered before worship. This year, our Lenten focus in Wednesday services will be The Beatitudes.

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.