

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

February 11, 2018



Transfiguration SUNDAY

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

Listening in the Fog

It's an astounding scene: Jesus on the mountain with Peter, James, and John. Elijah and Moses appear. Jesus' appearance is transformed. This is not an ordinary day with Jesus! Then the cloud fogs everything up—which is perhaps more similar to our experience of faith than beholding Jesus in all his glory.

A voice is heard in the fog: “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” (Mark 9:7). Apparently they had *not* been listening to him. Jesus had been teaching that he would be rejected, suffer, die, and on the third day be raised. Jesus had been telling the disciples that following him meant denying themselves, taking up their cross, and losing their lives for the sake of the good news. No, they didn't want to hear this. They wouldn't listen.

We often want a faith that is all sunshine and clarity. We often want a life that is a straightforward path with no confusion, stumbling, or sacrifice. But most of the time we are walking in the fog of uncertainty and in a cloud of confusion. Life is not easy or clear, and neither is following Jesus and living by faith in the gospel. The transfiguration shows Jesus' disciples that he really is the one, and his way really is God's way. Elijah and Moses affirm by their appearance that Jesus is the continuation of God's plan.

Listen to him! Jesus' way of selfless love is the path to life for all. Listen to him! Even though life feels like a fog, God is with us on the journey. Listen to him! There is glory hidden among us all through our trials and sacrifices, the glory of the crucified Christ with us. Listen to him! The voice comes in the fog and says Jesus is the way and walks the way of the cross with us until the fog of this life becomes the clarity of the kingdom of justice and mercy for all.

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Transfiguration

Introduction to the day

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's beloved son. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

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

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea” arr. Barry and Van Valey
Joyful Noise with Gwynne Kadrofske, flute

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

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

ELW #315

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.

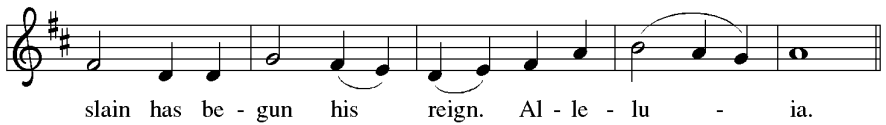
Refrain



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

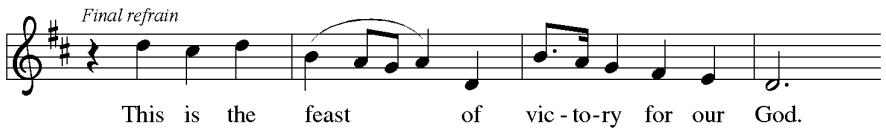


al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



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.

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

A reading from 2 Kings.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The

chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

“I Am the Resurrection”

(Repp)

Joyful Noise Choir

*“I am the
resurrection
and the life.”*
JOHN 11:25



SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine out of darkness at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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: Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The gospel of the 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

Come to the Mountain



1 Je - sus took Pet - er, James, and John
2 "This is my Son!" said a voice from the cloud.
3 We will be changed like Je - sus our Lord,



up to the moun - tain to be a - lone.
"Lis - ten to him and do what he says!"
and live with him in heav - en a - bove.



While they were watch - ing Je - sus was changed;
Soon as it came that vis - ion was gone,
But while we live on this earth - ly home,



and they saw Mo - ses face to face.
and they saw Je - sus stand - ing a - lone.
our work as ser - vants nev - er is done.

Refrain



Come to the moun - tain to see the light.



Come to the moun - tain to hear God's word.



Go to the val - ley, it is your home.



Go to the val - ley to serve the Lord.

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

“We Will Glorify”

(Schrader)

Chancel Choir

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.

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, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,

that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.

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.**

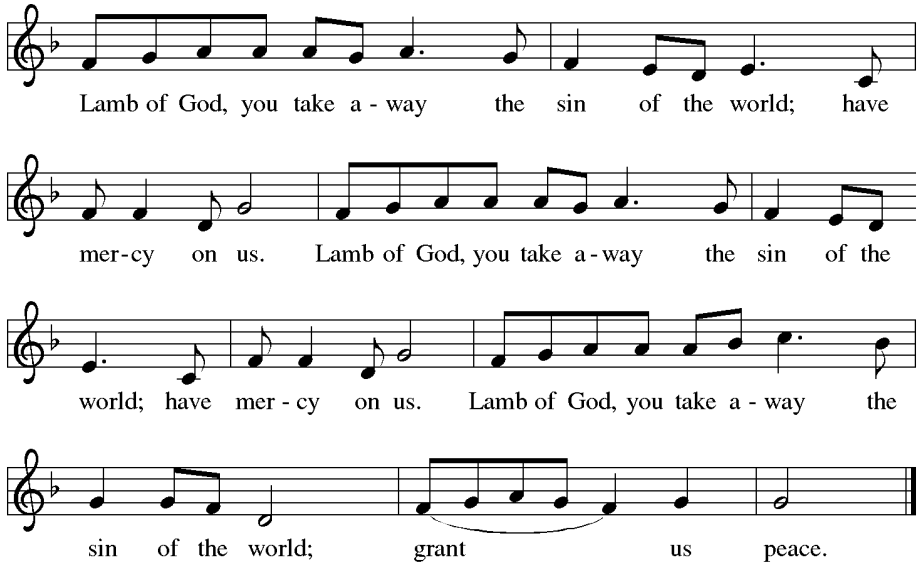
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

INSTURMENTAL MUSIC

“I Love to Tell The Story”

(Fischer)

“Polonaise”

(Bach)

Flutes of Faith

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Beautiful Savior

ELW #838

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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW #671

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in F major”

Dietrich Buxtehude

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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A Warm Welcome



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

February 4, 2018 Attendance 112

Serving Faith	February 11	February 18
Acolyte	Atu Ngasala	Austin Jones
Altar Care	Tammy Heilman & Peggy Crum	
Communion Assistants	Atu Ngasala Kim O'Brien Heidi Nussdorfer	Austin Jones Ken Schoepf Jack Dingedine
Greeters	Mike Eschelbach	Mark & Molly DeHate
Lay Assistants	Kim O'Brien	Ken Schoepf
Readers	Heidi Nussdorfer	Jack Dingedine
Ushers	Harrison	Harrison
Nursery	Jennifer Coe	Jennifer Coe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

February 11, 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, 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.
- † Samaritan children who seek adoption. Pray for each to be adopted and for Jesus to be their lifelong friends

NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

As Jesus calls us to be one, even as he and the Father are one, please include Rev. Dana Hendershot and the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Mt. Pleasant, 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	\$ 21.25	Income	\$272,093
Loose Checks	\$	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$296,290</u>
Wed Dinner: Bell Choir	\$ 83.00	Net Income	-24,197
Michigan Refugee Hope	\$ 155.00		
Parish House	\$ 541.00		
Vision 2020	\$1250.00		
General Fund	<u>\$4580.00</u>		
Simply Giving	\$2356.00		
Total	\$8986.25		

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Rich Weingartner in memory of his Grandparents Ahti and Ellen Waak.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
10:00 a.m.	Worship: Joyful Noise Sings
11:30 a.m.	Thrivent Lunch and Financial Workshop: All are Welcome! -Topic: Retirement Income Planning
11:30 a.m.	Tech Committee Meeting
11:30 a.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
11:30 a.m.	Parish Ed Meeting
3:00 p.m.	Worship at the Willows
6:00 p.m.	"Getting Ready" Teen Study at Love's House

Monday, February 12th

9:00 a.m.	Meridian Play Group
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Tuesday, February 13th

Noon Study in Pastor's office	
5:30-7	Shrove Pancake Dinner/Gathering Fundraiser

Wednesday, February 14th

7:30 a.m.	Men's Study
9:30 a.m.	Quilting and Samaritas ACTION
Noon:	Ash Wednesday Service
Following	Soup and Bread Lunch in Large Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service – this year, the members and clergy of Okemos Presbyterian Church and Okemos Community Church will join us for evening worship.

Thursday, February 15th
7:00 p.m. R.I.C Meeting

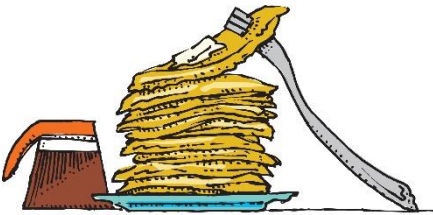
Friday, February 16th

Saturday, February 17th

R&M Holle Speaker Series
9:30 – 1:30 (Lunch provided)
Childcare Available
Featured Speaker: Dr. Jacqueline A Bussie
Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

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!**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Because of Ash Wednesday Service there will be NO Wednesday Night Live Programming on Wednesday, February 14th. We hope you can join us for the Lenten Services.

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND STUDIES

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!

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:

- 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.



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 & Lock In: Saturday, March 17th



Confirmation & High School Lock in.
Saturday, March 17th 6 p.m. – midnight.

R&M Holle Speaker Series
Saturday, February 17, 2018
9:30 – 1:30 (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 **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.
