

Faith Lutheran Church

April 22, 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

For the Love of Sheep

Children's Bibles and Sunday school lessons always include stories of Jesus healing people, doing miracles, and being loving and kind to others. They also typically include the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. It can be confusing, especially to young children, why anyone would put such a good person to death. "Why did he die?" children (and youth and adults!) often ask.

Why did he die?

Jesus himself answers this question in today's gospel when he says three times that he, unlike the hired hand, "lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11-18). He has committed himself fully to his vulnerable flock, and in the moment of their vulnerability he chooses to stand between them and the wolves. He dies because when you stand by a vulnerable flock without any weapons, you risk death by wolf.

Just before Jesus calls himself the good shepherd, he was caught in an exchange with some religious leaders over the healing of a blind man on the sabbath (John 9). Remember that story? Jesus approaches the blind man, and that man listens to Jesus' voice even before he receives his sight and can physically see Jesus. He is one of the vulnerable sheep of Christ's flock. But the Shepherd's care of such a vulnerable sheep draws much attention from the religious authorities. As these leaders repeatedly question and attack the now-seeing man, Jesus does not abandon him but attends to him and cares for him. This care further provokes the anger of the religious authorities.

Why did he die?

He died because of his steadfast insistence on caring for sheep such as the once-blind man. Even now he continues to stand between the sheep and the wolves, between all of humanity and the sin to which we cling.

Sunday, April 22, 2018

4 Easter

Earth Day Celebration

ELW Holy Communion Setting Three

Introduction to the day

The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.

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

“Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land” (Traditional Spiritual)

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (Rick Founds)

Joyful Noise

GATHERING

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

A reading from the Psalms:

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters. O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.
(Psalm 29:3, 11)

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD. *(Psalm 98:7-8)*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. We give you thanks for the Great Lakes that surround us, and for Lake Lansing, the Grand River and the Red Cedar that are nearby us.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection. Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and

your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. We thank you for this Faith Lutheran community whose members have faithfully walked wet in your baptismal water for sixty years.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW #876

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

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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.

Lord, we thank you for this opportunity to reflect on your creation, your covenant with all living things, and our obligation to be good stewards of the gifts you have provided. Help us to understand that each of us has an important role in Caring for Creation, by the choices we make and by the actions we take. Give us the wisdom to choose thoughtfully, and to act with care, in accordance with your will, and your love of this good Earth, our island home.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

A reading from Acts.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Psalm 23”

Adapted by Ryan & Addie Thompson
Ryan Thompson, solo
Addie Thompson, flute

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

A reading from 1 John.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

77

Jesus, name above all names

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord,

Em - man - u - el, God is with us,

bles - ed Re - deem - er, liv - ing Word.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 12/8. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a D chord above the first measure and an F#m7 chord above the fourth measure. The second staff has an Em7 chord above the first measure and an A chord above the fourth measure. The third staff has a D chord above the first measure and an F#m7 chord above the fourth measure. The fourth staff has an Em7 chord above the first measure, an A7 chord above the second measure, a D chord in parentheses above the third measure, and G/A and A chords above the fourth measure. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Text and music: Naida Hearn

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GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

God of the Sparrow

ELW #740

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

**Women: We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

**Men: We believe Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with our kin.**

**Women: We believe that God became flesh and blood,
became a part of Earth,
a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross,
for all human beings and for all creation.**

**Men: We believe that the risen Jesus
is the Christ at the core of creation
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation, and filling the cosmos.**

**Women: We believe the Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.**

**All: We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are 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:*

We now offer our silent petitions to you....

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our 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.

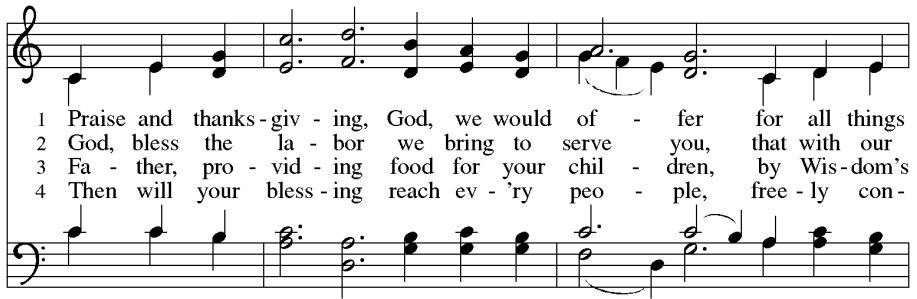
OFFERING

"Love is Come Again"

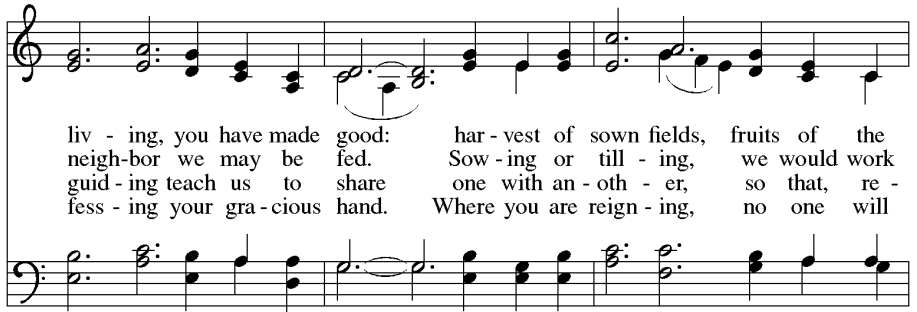
(Erickson)

Chancel Choir

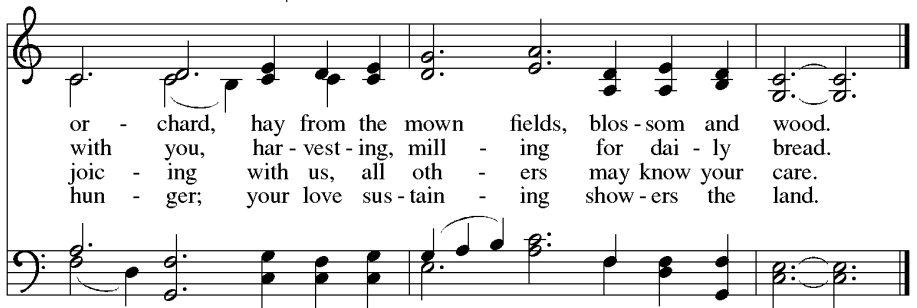
Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

All good gifts come from you, dear God, and you reveal glimpses of your grace through them. Thank you for inviting us to be partners with you in caring for your creation. We offer these gifts now, knowing that they come first from you, then from other members of your family of creation, then from us. Bless these symbols of our awareness that we depend upon you and your creation for all that we call "ours." Please accept these gifts and our desire to be your partners. In Your name.

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of
the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
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

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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 life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

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

Now let us feast this Easter day
on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

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

“The Day of Resurrection”

(Traditional German Tune)

“Thine is the Glory”

(Handel)

Flutes of Faith

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ELW #502

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
that we may show your glory to all the world;
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The whole Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Go forth and be the children of God for this world: the tillers, the keepers, the peacemakers and the hope-bringers. Care for Creation as a humble response to God's love.

And, may God who has brought us from death to life
fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW #879

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Sun Dance”

by Bob Chilcott



LET ALL THE EARTH
REJOICE!

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

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

April 15, 2018: Weather Cancellation

Serving Faith	April 22	April 29
Acolyte	Owen Kadrofske	
Altar Care	Pam Williams & Gretchen Bills	
Communion Assistants	Owen Kadrofske	
	Ellen Holste	Doug Hirt
	Natalie Dingedine	Heidi Nussdorfer
Greeters	Jack & Natalie Dingedine	Bill & Pam Williams
Lay Assistants	Ellen Holste	Doug Hirt
Readers	Natalie Dingedine	Heidi Nussdorfer
Ushers	**	Jon & Elaine Harrison
Nursery	Lori Webb	Guenther's

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Year-to-date as of 3/31/18	
Income	\$97,820
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$79,694</u>
Net Income	18,126

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Sunday, April 22nd:

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the Steinke/Ballegeer family in celebration of Abby's 7th Birthday and Kurt and Beth's 11th wedding anniversary.

COMING SOON...IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Parish House
Roof Repair

Week of April 23rd

We are working with Habitat for Humanity to replace the roof on the church house next week. This is a much needed project as the roof has been leaking. We are requesting volunteers to help with the roof work (either on the ground or on the roof) and to provide lunch for the workers each day next week. Please visit the sign-up genius below to volunteer. Thank you in advance for your support! Please sign up using the link below.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4DACAB2EA46-parish>

**Quarterly Meeting: Sunday,
April 29th**

Immediately following the meeting please stay and help with property clean-up. A lite lunch will be provided.

