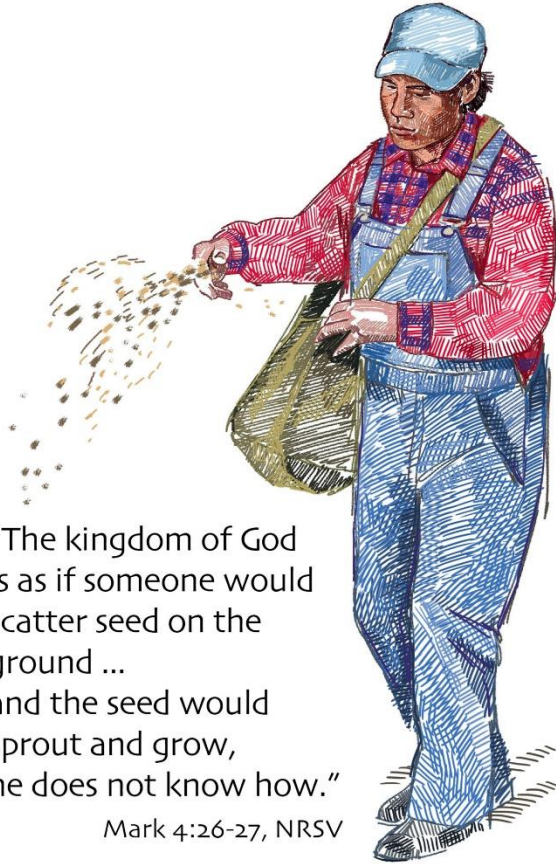


# Faith Lutheran Church

June 17, 2018



“The kingdom of God  
is as if someone would  
scatter seed on the  
ground ...  
and the seed would  
sprout and grow,  
he does not know how.”

Mark 4:26-27, NRSV

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](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)

### Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship  
Sermons

## Behold the Harvest

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground . . .

Teresa among Calcutta’s destitute and dying + Clarence Jordan’s *Cotton Patch Gospel* + Sojourner Truth, the slave preacher + *Who taught you prayer?* + Flannery O’Connor, writing scandalous grace + Florence Nightingale, “Let my work be thine” + Rosa Parks on the bus + Thomas Merton, spiritual guide + Mahatma Gandhi, “Living Christ means a living cross, without it life is a living death” + *Who stood with you in your shame?* + Dorothy Day’s Catholic Workers + Fyodor Dostoyevsky, imprisoned novelist of suffering love in Russia + Black Elk of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux), a faith after Wounded Knee + *Who taught you love?* + The Samaritan woman, shamed evangelist + Peter, betrayer and Rock + John Muir, steward of creation + Mitri Raheb, Bethlehem’s visionary pastor of hope + J. S. Bach, musician for the glory of God + *Whose song has inspired you?* + Jimmy Carter, president and Bible teacher + *Who has put scripture in your hands?* + C. S. Lewis, literary scholar and defender of faith + Francis of Assisi, “Lord, make us instruments of your peace” + Paul, persecutor and apostle + Sister Alice Domon and Mothers of the Disappeared awakening Argentina’s conscience + Henri Nouwen, wounded healer + Martin Luther, reformer + *Who has challenged you to change?* + Mother Emanuel Church, showing forgiveness to a nation + Shusaku Endo, Japan’s Christian novelist + Mahalia Jackson and Thomas Dorsey, “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” + Albert Schweitzer, theologian, musician, doctor, missionary + Christian Peacemaker Teams protecting children in Hebron + Prisca and Aquila, evangelists with Paul + Damien of Molokai, joyful among the lepers + Dietrich Bonhoeffer, living and dying the cost of discipleship + Harriet Tubman, slave “Moses” freeing slaves + *Who has shown you courage?* + Desmond Tutu, enemy of apartheid + St. Augustine, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in you” + Daniel Egan, “Junkie Priest” in the Bronx + Martin Luther King Jr., “I Have a Dream” + *Who has healed you?* + Daniel Berrigan, prisoner priest for peace + Mary Magdalene, apostle + Oscar Romero, voice for the voiceless . . . and the seed would sprout and grow” (Mark 4:26-27).

**Sunday, June 17, 2018**  
4th Sunday after Pentecost

### **Introduction to the day**

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

*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**

“As Rain from the Clouds” (Hymn 508) arr. Aaron D. Miller

---

## GATHERING

---

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

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
full of compassion and mercy,  
abounding in steadfast love.

**Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,  
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Eternal God our creator,  
**in you we live and move and have our being.**  
**Look upon us, your children,**  
**the work of your hands.**  
**Forgive us all our offenses,**  
**and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.**  
**By your grace draw us near to you,**  
**our refuge and our strength;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit given to us.  
In the mercy of almighty God,  
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;  
and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.  
**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG


*Let Us Go Now to the Banquet*

***ELW #523***


### 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.**

# KYRIE



Lord, have - mer - cy, — Christ, have - mer - cy, — Lord, have -



mer - cy, have mer - cy on - us.

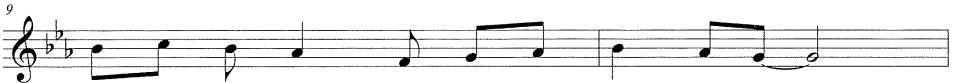
# CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God, we give you  
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's  
A - lone, O Christ, you on - ly



thanks and praise; of heav' - nly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.  
on - ly Son, you bore for us the load of this world's sin. —  
are the Lord, at God's right hand in ma - jes - ty most high:



We wor - ship you, to you our hearts we raise, —  
O Lamb of God, your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, —  
who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - migh - ty Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
re - ceive our pray'r; grant us your peace with - in. —  
with all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy. —

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, 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: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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? Al - le - lu - ia,  
4 you have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
8 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. \_\_\_\_\_

## GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

*The Word of God Is Source and Seed*

*ELW #506*

### 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

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place,  
praying for the world that God so loves.

*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:*

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our  
prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through 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

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

arr. Hayes

Tammy Heilman, soloist

## OFFERING RESPONSE

### Let The Vineyards

Let the vineyards be fruit - ful Lord, and

5 fill to the brim our cup of bles - sing. Gath - er the har -

10 - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the

15 bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u -

21 nite them in the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta -

26 - ble with your pres - ence, Lord, and give us a fore -

30 - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Merciful God,**

**you open wide your hand**

**and satisfy the need of every living thing.**

**You have set this feast before us.**

**Open our hands to receive it.**

**Open our hearts to embrace it.**

**Open our lives to live it.**

**We pray this through 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.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,  
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,

uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

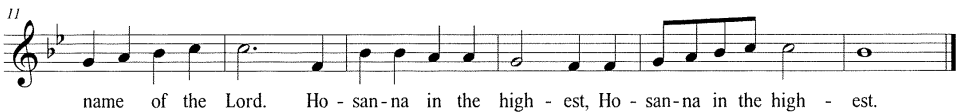
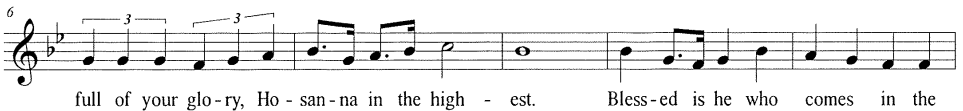
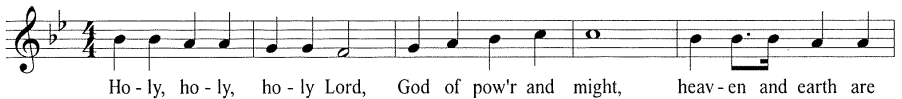
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of  
the resurrection,

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





## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, Breath of life and Fire of love, with a mighty wind you brought creation into being, and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom. We praise you for the gift of your Son, who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.

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 death, resurrection, and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit, we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth. Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal: anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love, that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to 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.**

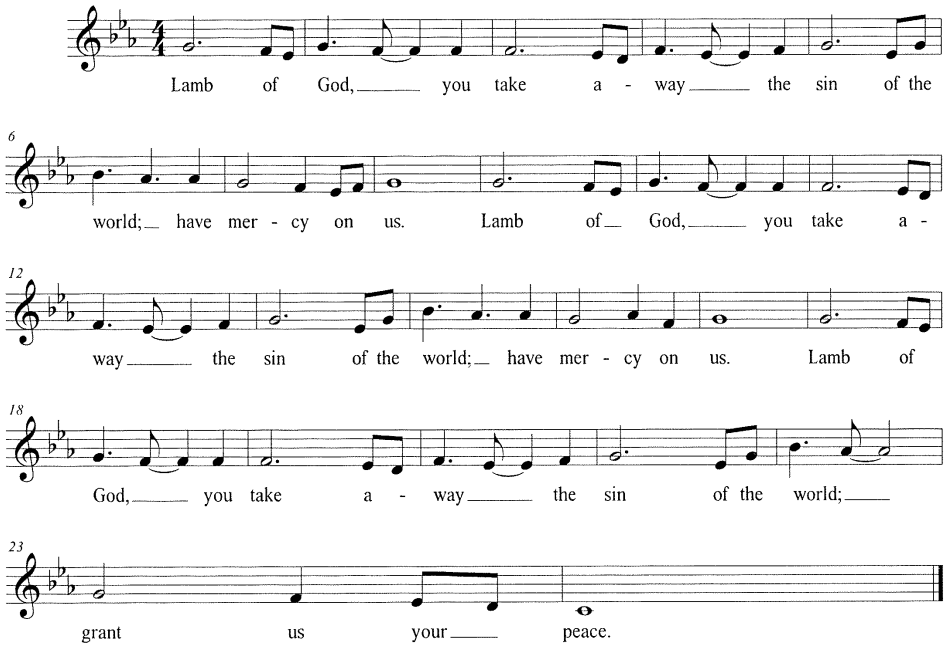
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Now let us feast this festival 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  
6 world; \_ have mer - cy on us. Lamb of \_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ you take a -  
12 way \_\_\_\_\_ the sin of the world; \_ have mer - cy on us. Lamb of  
18 God, \_\_\_\_\_ you take a - way \_\_\_\_\_ the sin of the world; \_\_\_\_\_  
23 grant us your \_\_\_\_\_ peace.

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*We Walk by Faith*

***ELW #635***

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil*

***ELW #512***

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

**Amen.**



## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,  
you have given us not only this bread and cup,  
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.  
Filled again by these signs of your grace,  
may we hunger for your reign of justice,  
may we thirst for your way of peace,  
for you are Lord forevermore.

**Amen.**

---

## **SENDING**

---

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

## **BLESSING**

May God, whose power working in us  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,  
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

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

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

*Shine, Jesus Shine*

***ELW #671***

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

“Praise to the Lord”

arr. Alice Jordan

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

# 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.**

---

### June 10, 2018 Attendance: 95

---

Serving Faith	June 17	June 24
Acolyte	open	open
Altar Care	Elaine Harrison & Diane Hill	
Communion Assistants	open	open
	Deb Borton-McDonough	Korine Wawronski
	Diane Wilke	Warren Heilman
Greeters	Mark & Molly DeHate	Gayle & Lowell Barricklow
Lay Assistants	Deb Borton-McDonough	Korine Wawronski
Readers	Diane Wilke	Warren Heilman
Ushers	Heilman	Heilman
Nursery	Heidi Bowers	Lori Webb

---

### **Altar Flower Dedications:**

#### **Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> :**

Vase 1: Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Faith Lutheran.



We are looking for singers and instrumentalists to do special music during our worship services this summer. Please contact Deb Borton-McDonough if you're interested in singing/playing - - thank you!

Here is our first 'Summer Choir' date for singing in worship:

June 24 - - Soprano/Alto Choir Sunday (rehearsal on Wednesday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m.)

Contact Deb Borton-McDonough with any questions.