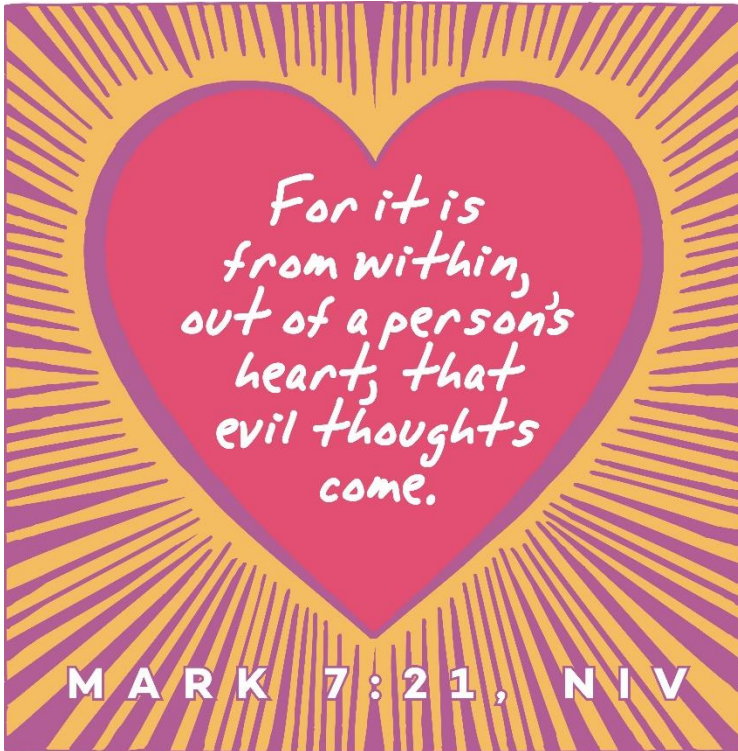


Faith Lutheran Church

September 2, 2018



Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517)349-0620



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

What Matters

Remember grammar lessons? Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns all had specific purposes in a sentence, specific placements, and specific punctuation to go with them. The lesson drilled into grammar students was that knowing the rules about how to use words correctly is extremely important. Using slang and profanity was rebellion against those rules. Certain words and phrases may evoke feelings in each of us. The misuse of *your* and *you're* and nonstandard words like *irregardless* can irritate; words that some consider gross, like *moist* and *vomit*, can cause physical reactions. Even though we are taught that it's sticks and stones that break our bones, some words can injure us more deeply than any rock.

When some religious leaders are offended by how the disciples are eating, Jesus counters their complaints with one of his own: "Isaiah was right; you like to talk big, but you care more about your traditions than you do about honoring God." He tells those listening that being grammatically correct—following tradition—isn't what is necessary. The motivation behind the words we chose to speak and the impact those words have on others is what matters.

James, in today's second reading, takes Jesus' message a step further and tells his readers to "be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves" (James 1:22). We can't just listen, or only consider, or simply hear, then move on believing we did everything we were supposed to do. This is akin to caring more about whether a message is written with proper grammar than what the message actually says. James tells us that "the word" isn't just meant to evoke feelings in us, but to compel us to *do* the word.

For James, "the word" was true belief in God and doing the word—living that true belief—was caring for those in need, especially those who were sidelined or invisible because they didn't conform to strict guidelines or customs.

Sunday, September 2, 2018

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God’s law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

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

“Be Thou my Vision”

arr. Paul Manz

GATHERING

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

GATHERING SONG

Be Thou My Vision

ELW #793

GREETING

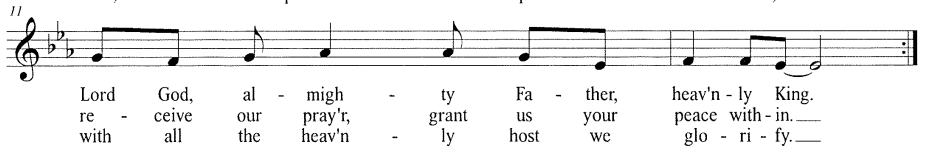
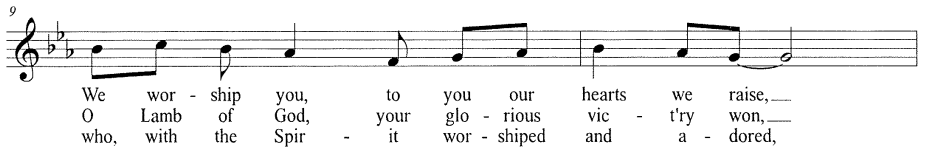
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’”

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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 Right Hand of God

ELW #889

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

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

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:*

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

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

"This is My Father's World"

arr. Brian Chung

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.

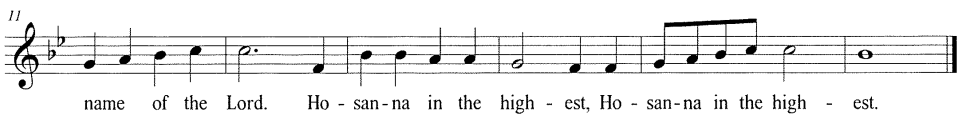
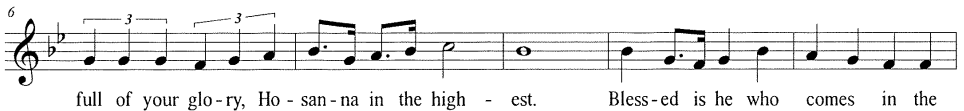
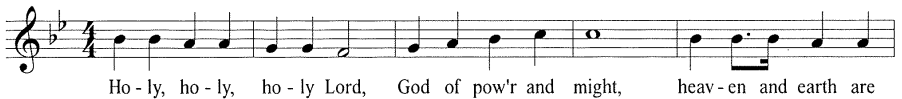
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of
the resurrection,

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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Going Home”

arr. Joseph Martin

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

Before You, Lord, We Bow

ELW #893

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary in D”

William Boyce

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	klove@faithlutheranokemos.org
High School Director		Katie Love
Trinity/Middle School Director		Maddie Wosinski
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

August 26, 2018 Attendance: 95

Serving Faith	September 2	September 9
Acolyte	open	open
Altar Care	Melinda Schultz	
		Melinda Schultz & Gwynne Kadrofske
Communion Assistants	open	open
	Gus Lusis	John McCracken
	Zachary Hereza	Jim Crum
Greeters	Bob Scholle	Doug & Linda Hirt
Readers	Gus Lusis	John McCracken
Lay Assistant	Zachary Hereza	Jim Crum
Ushers	Ken Schoepf	open
Nursery	O'Brien Family	Melinda & Lauren Schultz

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, September 2nd

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Faith Lutheran Church.



Sunday School Begins on Sunday, September 9th! We are excited to see you at 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs

Sunday School wing. Sunday School classes are for kids in Pk-5th grade. Older kids are welcome to come and help as classroom assistants!

Rally Day is Sunday, September 9th!

Everyone is invited to join us following worship for a potluck downstairs in the fellowship hall. Membership Development will provide sloppy Joe's and mac and cheese and drinks. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. Games will be provided for the kids. We look forward to the start of a great Sunday School year!



Meet Maddie!!

Hello all! My name is Maddie Wosinski and I will be starting my freshman year at Michigan State University in the fall. I will be studying to earn my certificate in Elementary Education with a highlight in History and Reading Specialist. I am so excited to be connected with this congregation and to be leading the Trinity classes for third-fifth grade students and Middle School LYO. My own father is the Director of Youth and Family Ministry at my home congregation in Muskegon, MI. I have been involved in many youth group activities including Middle School LYO, High School LYO, four years of the Michigan Gathering, yearly mission trips nationwide, and two National Gatherings. My hope is that through this ministry I will be able to form relationships with all of the students that I will meet. I firmly believe that youth group is a way that students can connect to their Christian community and a place where they can ask the tough questions. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Bring your kids and let's have some fun this year!

