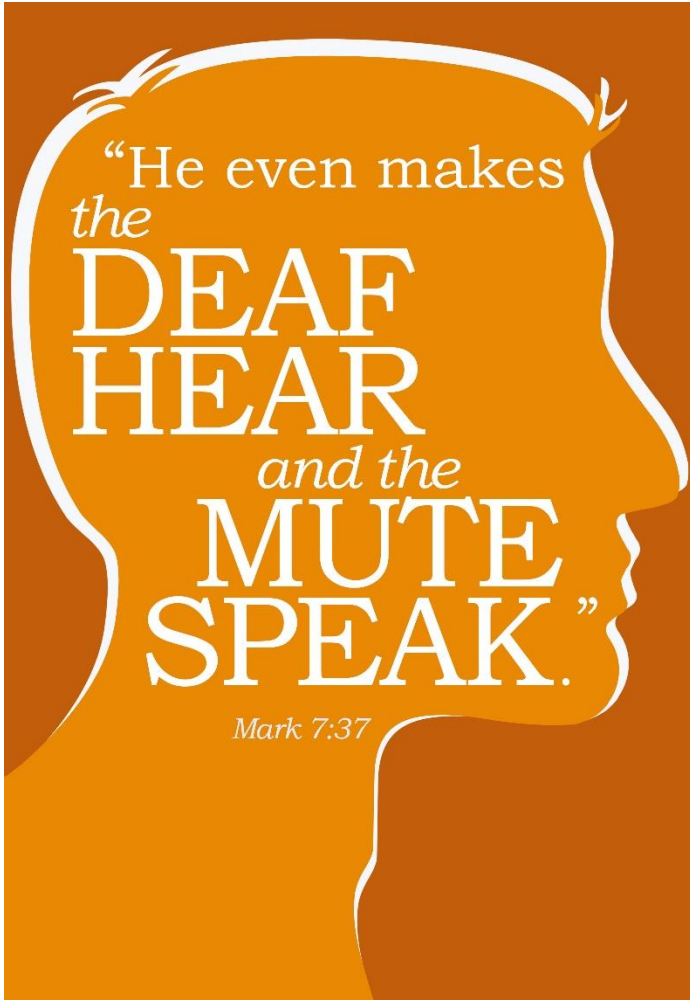


Faith Lutheran Church

September 9, 2018



Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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Okemos, MI 48864
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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

Jesus Said What?

We like to believe we are insiders when it comes to knowing Jesus. We self-identify as Christians. We go to church, have Bibles in our homes, and maybe wear crosses around our necks. If any Bible story could cause us to question our judgment about following Jesus, today's gospel is it. Scholars and preachers have tried to soften the word—dog—that Jesus chooses to refer to the Syrophoenician woman's daughter, but Jesus didn't choose a soft word. He didn't wink as he said it or intend for it to be heard as a pet name. The word he chose wasn't any nicer than it is now.

We like to believe that, as insiders, knowing Jesus means we are like Jesus and that calling ourselves Christians means that, ultimately, we are good, righteous, deserving people.

If any story about Jesus could cause us to challenge and scrutinize our own behavior, question our own sense of what is acceptable, and make us rethink our entitlements—today's gospel is it. Jesus doesn't act like Jesus when he calls people derogatory names, treats them as outsiders, or denies them help—and neither do we.

After Jesus tells the Syrophoenician woman that the demon is gone from her daughter, he encounters a man with a hearing problem and a speech impediment. Coincidence? Not in Mark's gospel. As Jesus heals the man, he uses the word *Ephphatha*, which means "Be opened." If Mark hadn't just told us about the Syrophoenician woman, the only things being opened here would be the man's ears and tongue. But Mark included her story to show Jesus incorporating her into his own story. Because Jesus acts like Jesus when he's open to those on the outside—and so do we.

Sunday, September 9, 2018

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

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

“All are Welcome”

arr. Ron Schmoltze

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
Source of all life,
**we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.**
We fear that we are not good enough.
**We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.**
**We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.**
Forgive us. Stir us.
**Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.**
Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
✠ God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Earth and All Stars!

ELW #731


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.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*



2 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

Refrain
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 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.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

A reading from James.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be

opened.”³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW #726

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF TEACHERS

A reading from First Corinthians.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*I Cor. 12:4-7*)

Brothers and sisters, you have volunteered your time, your energy, and your gifts to the children, youth and family ministries of this congregation. Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

A reading from Proverbs.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (*Prov. 3:5-6*)

Will you carry out this ministry centered in Christ's call, striving to trust God as your guide and inspiration?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

A reading from Ephesians.

I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (*Eph. 3:16-19*)

Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and honor the gospel with a faithful life?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands

I now ask you, the people of Faith Lutheran Church:

Will you today renew your commitment to our youngest brothers and sisters, our children and youth who look to you for guidance, support, and examples of righteous living?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

People of Faith: Will you claim these gifted people as those called by God to help carry out our congregation's ministry to children, youth, and families? Will you support them and enthusiastically celebrate the work they do?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for these leaders and the young people they serve, celebrating our children and youth as the ones Jesus blessed and welcomed?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently. Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, who has given you the gifts and the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

On behalf of Faith Lutheran Church, we now commission you for ministry, grateful for your gifts and your willingness to serve.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause

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 assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

“Sing Out to God”

(Voorhaar)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

Let The Vineyards

Let the vineyards be fruit - ful Lord, and

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

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

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

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

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

- taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of life,

**you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.**

**Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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." The music ends with a double bar line.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body 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

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

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, grant us peace.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW #612

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

ELW #620

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



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW #886

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

arr. Alec Wyton



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.

September 2, 2018 Attendance: 66

Serving Faith	September 9	
Acolyte	open	open
Altar Care	Melinda Schultz & Gwynne Kadrofske	
Communion Assistants	open	open
	Ken Schoepf	Heidi Nussdorfer
	Mike Eschelbach	Jim Crum
Greeters	Doug & Linda Hirt	Mark & Molly DeHate
Readers	Ken Schoepf	Heidi Nussdorfer
Lay Assistant	Mike Eschelbach	Jim Crum
Ushers	open	open
Nursery	Melinda & Lauren Schultz	Marquardt

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, September 2nd

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Walter, Brenda, Becca, Austin, and Ciara in celebration of Katy's birthday.