

Faith Family News

From the Pastor's Pen...

November means the holiday season is upon us. As we come to this busy time of year, I find it helpful to intentionally focus on ways to make my schedule a bit less busy and think about gratitude. The end of the year always makes me think about what I am so grateful for in life.

Because gratitude is important in my life, I have kept this quote I once found in **Psychology Today**:

Gratitude is an emotion expressing appreciation for what one has – as opposed to a consumer-oriented emphasis on what one wants or needs. Gratitude is getting a great deal of attention as a facet of positive psychology. Studies show that we can deliberately cultivate gratitude, and can increase our well-being and happiness by doing so. In addition, grateful thinking – and especially the expression of it to others – is associated with increased levels of energy, optimism, and **empathy**.

When I think about our present culture, I am aware of how deeply we need to experience this emotion of gratitude, especially as we enter the holiday season. We are entering a time when we will see a consumer-oriented emphasis that comes at us and hits us with fever pitch. Before Thanksgiving Day is even over, stores will be opening their doors to attract and seduce shoppers. We cannot escape what is happening in our culture during this busy, bustling season of the year. However, we **can** intentionally focus on what we are grateful for and what is really important in life. We can “deliberately cultivate gratitude.” And, guess what? What I read from **Psychology Today** is not new news! We find words about gratitude and being grateful throughout scripture, especially in the book of Psalms. Here are just a few examples:

Continued on Page 3



NOVEMBER

Inside This Issue

Parish Officers.....	2
Prayers	3
Meetings & Studies	4
Ways to Help/Thanks.....	5,6
DCYE/Parish Ed	7,8
Calendar.....	9
Special Events.....	10
Harris Nature Walk	11
Special Services.....	12

Serving at Faith

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Monday-Friday

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All Members of the Faith Family

Pastor

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Director of High School

Katie Love

Middle School Leader

Maddie Wosinski

Director of Music

Deb Borton-McDonough

Instrumental Worship Leader

Bruce Williams

Church Secretary

Katie Love

klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

Newsletter Editor

Katie Love

Mission Partner Congregation

Redeemer Lutheran Church

President	Kim O'Brien
Vice President	Paul Hereza
Secretary	Molly DeHate
Treasurer	Gwynne Kadrofske
Financial Secretary	Tom Schrote
Members-at-Large	Kurt Steinke
	Mike Eschelbach
Past President	John McCracken

Committee Chairs

Caring	Ann Mayer
Evangelism/Outreach	Carol Towl & Brenda Kopf
Human Resources	Lori Webb
Media/Technology	Chris Lewis
Membership Development	Jean Lewis & Michelle Ransom
Mutual Ministry	Linda Hirt
Parish Ed	Melinda Schultz
Property	Bob Nelson
	Rick Baderstadt
Stewardship	Mary Ann Scheuerman
Worship & Music	Diane Hill

ACOLYTES

November 4	Isaac Webb
November 11	Austin Jones
November 18	Maude Lewis
November 25	open

To sign up to acolyte please use the following link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094caaa623a3f49-acolyte>

ALTAR CARE

Brenda Kopf & Cecelia Kramer (4), Gail Barricklow (11,18,25)

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

See Acolyte, Lay Assistant and Reader.

GREETERS

November 4	Rich Weingartner
November 11	Bill & Pam Williams
November 18	Doug & Linda Hirt
November 25	Mark & Molly DeHate

LAY ASSISTANTS

November 4	Harold Sollenberger
November 11	Bob Shorman
November 18	Korine Wawryznski
November 25	Dane Webb

READERS

November 4	Linda Hirt
November 11	Brenda Kopf
November 18	Deb Borton-McDonough
November 25	John McCracken

USHERS

November 4/11/18/25	Bowers/Whitmyer
November 18	Doug & Linda Hirt

NURSERY

November 4	Marquardt's
November 11	Williams
November 18	Jennifer Coe
November 25	Heidi Bowers

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 107:1

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

As I intentionally think about what I am grateful for, one item at the top of my list is you, the people of this Faith Lutheran community. I give thanks for you with all my heart and I am deeply grateful TO you and FOR you. I pray that you will have a blessed and grateful Thanksgiving and holiday season.

Pastor Ellen

New Way to Give



Please contact Tom Schrote if you need any assistance with the Give + App. finsec@faithlutheranokemos.org

Don't forget to Faith Lutheran on the following social media channels:

Facebook – <http://bit.ly/2L3rJvM>

Instagram – <http://bit.ly/2L5m6gG>

Youtube – <http://bit.ly/2JiDgKa>

Your Faith Journey Podcast for IOS Phones - <http://bit.ly/faithios>

Your Faith Journey Podcast for Android Phones - <http://bit.ly/faithandroid>

Prayers for Health & Healing

Members of the congregation:

Sally Knoll, Ellen Milne, Darrell Neves, Janice Taschner & Ken Whitmyer

Friends & Family:

Harriet, Michael Bennett, Todd Barriklow, Bill Baker, Carol Coyer, Kay Coker, Chris Cotter, Terrie Becker, Brian Fent, Allyson, Heather, Al, Lilly Sai, Rod Kaschner, Eshwar Lingamgunta, Jenn Leitch, Brian Johnson, Meridith, Jeanne and Leonard, Jonathon Manitta family, Kiersten, Loretta Milne, Patricia Rinehart, Bethany Robinson, Karen Smiley, Jean Smith, Lisa & Scott Seeley, & the White family

Prayers of Intercession

- Our Mission Partner congregation: Lansing Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Those in Military service: Jon Schoepf, Lani Yearicks and Melody, Adam Wright and Joe Galvin.

Please contact the church office at faith@faithlutheranokemos.org or 349-0620 to update the prayer list.

The website for **Prayer Ventures** is <http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/prayer-ventures>
 Prayer Ventures is a guide to daily prayer for the ministries of the church produced by ELCA Communication Services on behalf of the whole church.

Worship at Ingham Facility on Dobie Rd.

We will be holding a Worship Service at the Ingham County Facility on Dobie Road on November 29th. This is one week later than normal due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The service will last approximately ½ hour and will begin at 11:00 AM. Anyone is invited to come and join us for this service.

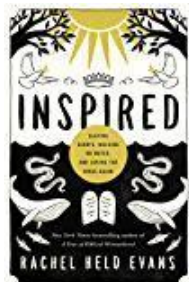


Beer & Hymns



Come and join us for fun, fellowship and singing! You purchase your own meal and beverage and we supply the music and lead everyone in songs. Beer and Hymns is on the first Sunday of every month at Williamston Pub & Grill in Williamston.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 4th at 5:30



Upcoming Book Study

Join Lois Neves for a book study of Rachel Held Evans book "Inspired." This book study will be on Wednesday evening starting after the first of the year. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex. The cost of the book is \$14.00.

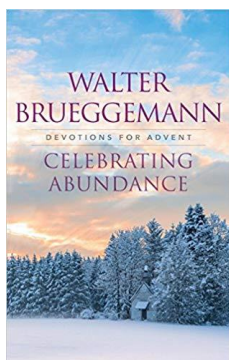
Wednesday night meals and classes are going on NOW!



5:30 – 6:00
5:45 – 7:00
6:30 – 7:30
6:30 - 7:30
6:30 – 7:30
7:30 – 9:00

Wednesday Night Schedule

Joyful Noise choir rehearsal
Meal served
Trinity, Confirmation, and *activities for younger children!*
Breathing under Water Book Study
Bell Choir rehearsal
Chancel Choir



***Devotions for Advent: Celebrating Abundance* by Walter Brueggemann**

Advent is coming! In fact, Advent begins on Sunday, December 2. Advent is really “not the kind ‘preparation’ that involves shopping and parties and cards. Such illusions of abundance disguise the true cravings of our weary souls. Advent is preparation for the demands of newness that will break the tired patters of fear in our lives.” (Walter Brueggemann – *Celebrating Abundance*.) So, we invite you to daily spend time in a short Advent devotion as we move toward Christmas. If you are interested in purchasing the book ***Devotions for Advent: Celebrating Abundance*** by Walter Brueggemann, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex and we will order you your own copy. You can then devote a few minutes each day as we prepare for the newness into which God invites us. The book is \$10.00. Please put "Advent Book" on the memo line of your check.



Kim O'Brien represented our congregation at the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services national conference in October in Baltimore MD. Kim and Cindi Williams from Samaritas presented about our collaboration for the Post-18 Refugee home that we coordinate. We are the only location in the country that is providing this much needed support for Post-18 refugee youth. We spoke to community representatives from throughout the United States to share this incredible story of hope and God's work in our lives. Several individuals have requested more information and follow-up calls from Kim and Cindi for assistance in creating possibilities for Post-18 youth within their home communities. Thank you for your continuing support of this incredible ministry that is changing lives.



NEIGHBORLY LOVE

To help enable independence and encourage important life skills for budgeting and planning meals, we will be collecting gift cards to Meijer and cash donations for the youth for groceries. They have been working on these skills and we will continue to work with them as they move here beginning next week. Donations can be given at the regular



STUFF THE STOCKINGS FOOD DRIVE

The Faith Lutheran Caring Committee was asked by the Meridian Township Human Services Director if we could provide support to families during the Christmas/Winter school break. There is a need for food items during this two-week break from school because children are at home during this time and do not get their breakfasts and/or lunches at school. Please look in the narthex for the grocery cart to appear and be ready to collect the donations for food items needed.

Needed items:

peanut butter, jelly, snack bars, pop tarts, muffin mix, pancake mix, syrup, canned fruits, boxed cereals, oatmeal, macaroni & cheese, boxed meals- example hamburger helper, soup, boxed crackers, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce

With your cash donations we will purchase one dozen eggs, one gallon of milk and a loaf of bread to be included with the food donations.

Thank you, Faith Family, for helping those in the community that have a need. Food collection for this project will begin in November and our delivery date will be Sunday, December 16.

WAYS TO HELP

Volunteers are needed in the following areas. Can you help?



Ushers contact Ken Schoepf:
kjschoepf@gmail.com



Altar Care contact Elaine Harrison:
jon.harrison@comcast.net



Nursery contact Jennifer Coe: jenlynncoe@yahoo.com

February Mission Trip to New Bern, North Carolina



Members of Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos, First Lutheran Church in Muskegon, Trinity Lutheran Church in New Era, and any other interested persons will be heading to New Bern, North Carolina February 2 – 10. We will be partnering with the members of St. Andrew Lutheran Church (www.standrewnewbern.com) in New Bern and their Pastor, Ted Rust, as they work to rebuild following a devastating hit by Hurricane Florence. Several of the families from St. Andrew lost homes in the hurricane. The whole area was devastated. We will be traveling by bus, the First Lutheran Bus. The cost of the trip is estimated to be \$150 per person. We will be staying at **Don Lee Camp and Retreat Center**. If you are interested in participating in this trip, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have further questions, please talk to Pastor Ellen.

Annual Fall Clean Up

The Property Committee will have our annual Fall Cleanup Day on Sunday, Nov. 4th after service. All are welcome to help. We will concentrate on trimming and pruning trees and shrubs, as well as washing the aluminum siding on the door and back sides of the house garage. We'll try to do some weeding under the trees too. No mulching is needed this year. If you have any trimming and pruning tools, a wash bucket and sponge, that would be great. Wear gloves if you wish. Thanks for your help. Contact Bob Nelson or Rick Baderstadt if you have a question.



November:

- 4th: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (PK-5th grade)
- 7th: 6:30 p.m. Classes for PK-2nd grade, Trinity (3-5th grade) and Confirmation (6th-8th grade)
- 11th: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (PK-5th grade) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group at Katie Love's House
- 14th: **High School Group serves Wednesday night dinner**
6:30 p.m. Classes for PK-2nd grade, Trinity (3-5th grade) and Confirmation (6th-8th grade)
- 18th: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (PK-5th grade)
3:00 p.m. **Middle School/High School Youth Rake & Run & Dinner**
- 21st: No Wednesday Night Activities
- 25th: No Sunday School.



The High School & Middle School Youth Group will be doing a "Rake n Run" on Sunday, November 18th at 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting) if you live within 10 miles of the church and need some extra assistance raking your lawn please contact Katie Love in the church office.

October Highlights: High School Youth Group Fall Fest



October Highlights: Middle School Youth Group at Best Corn Maize.



November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM 3rd Grade Bible Presentation 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Quarterly Meeting 6:00 PM Youth Group at Katie Love's Home	29 10:00 AM Meridian Play Group	30 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	31 No Wednesday Dinner/Classes 7:30 AM Men's study 9:30 AM Quilting	1	2	3 Church Rented
4 Stuff the Stocking Begins 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Property Clean Up 11:30 AM Worship Committee 5:30 PM Beer & Hymns	5	6 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	7 7:30 AM Men's study 9:30 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Book Study 6:30 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Youth Classes 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	8	9	10 9:00 AM Sanctuary Rented
11 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM Worship at the Willows 6:00 PM Youth Group at Katie Love's Home	12	13 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 7:30 PM Film Series on Faith & Race at St. Paul	14 7:30 AM Men's study 9:30 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Youth Classes 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	15 5:00 PM Fellowship Hall Rented	16	17
18 Noisy Offering 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM Middle/High School Youth Group Rake & Run 6:00 PM Loaves & Fishes 6:30 PM Bar Theology	19 7:00 PM Church Council	20 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 7:30 AM Men's study 9:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24
25 9:00 AM No Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	26 7:00 PM Green Team Meeting	27 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 7:30 PM Film Series on Faith & Race at Faith Lutheran	28 7:30 AM Men's study 9:30 AM Quilting 11:30 AM 60 +/- Meeting 5:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Youth Classes 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	29 11:00 AM Dobie Road Service	30	1 9:00 AM Decorating the Church



COVENANTAL RESTORATION: A 12 SESSION FILM SERIES ON FAITH AND RACE

Faith Lutheran Church's RIC Team and St. Paul's Lutheran Church join forces to learn about and address issues of race within our culture.

Racism and oppression have a long and painful past and present, it is an open, aching human wound that reflects a fracture in our relationship with God. Understanding how it was promoted and is still alive and acting out in the construct of our beliefs and systems and structures is the beginning of caring for this wound.

In this series on faith and race we pray God would bring you hope, renew your mind, enliven your spirit, and gift you with the virtues of the Divine's own heart. May God strengthen your stand, inspire your movement towards God's dream for humanity, and increase Kingdom square footage with each step you make in Love.

This 12 session film series continues to be offered on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday throughout this coming year. Beginning at 7:30 on the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month, a film will be shown at St. Paul's, and on the 4th Tuesday evening of each month, another film will be shown at Faith Lutheran. This is a listing of the scheduled showings:

- 11/13 – at St. Paul's – SESSION 3//The Idol of Whiteness with Jim Wallis
- 11/27 – at Faith Lutheran – SESSION 4 //Stone Catches with Bryan Stevenson
- 12/11 – at St. Paul's – SESSION 5 //Holy Mischief with Simone Campbell
- 1/8 – at St. Paul's – SESSION 6 //Politics of Radical Difference with Dr. R. Henderson-Espinoza
- 1/22 – Faith Lutheran – SESSION 7 //Refusing to be Enemies with Amal Nassar
- 2/12 – at St. Paul's – SESSION 8 //Covenantal Restoration with Terry LeBlanc
- 2/26 – at Faith Lutheran – SESSION 9 //Created for Abundant Life with Llewellyn MacMaster
- 3/12 – at St. Paul's – SESSION 10 //A Fuller Picture of God with Michael A. Mata
- 3/26 – at Faith Lutheran – SESSION 11 //Pulling All Things Together in Love with James Forbes
- 4/9 – at St. Paul's – SESSION 12 //Bring Your Fullness with Rashad Robinson

PLEASE JOIN US AT 7:30 ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY EVENINGS OF EACH MONTH FOR THIS MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE!

HARRIS NATURE CENTER WALK/ENERGY AUDIT



On Sunday, October 21st members of Faith took an Afternoon walk at the Harris Nature Center to enjoy the Fall colors.



Energy Audit Progress

23 Homes have Signed up for the Energy Audit. Have you set up your FREE Audit?? You must use code **FAITHLU18** for it to be created to our account.

Consumers Energy encourages customers to have a Free Energy Audit done on their home. Faith Lutheran Church will get credit for all energy audits done using the Faith Lutheran code that has been provided for us (**FAITHLU18**).

If 50 homes, **anywhere in the state of Michigan**, have this done, Faith Lutheran Church will receive \$500 from Consumers. If we are able to get more homeowners to register and receive this free audit, we could receive up to \$2,000 from Consumers.

Consumers forms, and more information are available in the church Narthex.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service followed by Pie Feast

On Wednesday evening, **November 21, at 7:00 PM**, we will be holding a Thanksgiving Service. Join us as we spend time giving thanks for all that we have been given. And, bring a pie to share. Following the worship service, we will feast on pie!



Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. Family Service

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

