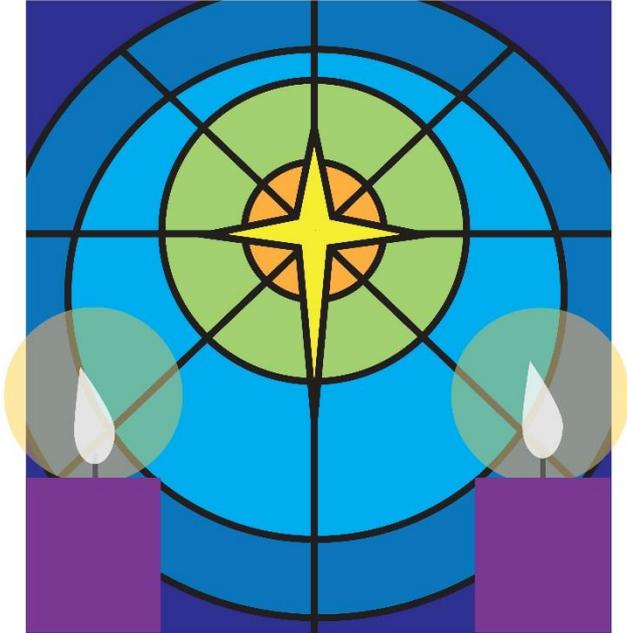


Faith Lutheran Church

December 9, 2018



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

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

Power Upended

Today's gospel begins with a list of seven national, regional, and religious rulers. If you want to know power, look no further than these names. And yet, plunked down next to these power brokers is John, a ragamuffin in the wilderness. God chose John as his messenger, dismantling any ideas that we need political or social power in society to be useful to God's mission.

John may not be a political titan, but his message is authoritative. John commands us to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Luke 3:4), to begin major construction on the systems and structures of our world. Valleys will be filled, mountains will be leveled, and crooked ways will be straightened out. This is no small project that John has in mind!

But before we go rounding up the bulldozers, notice how this upending is going to take place. John doesn't arrive with heavy equipment, nor with the power of armies or wealth. Instead, God empowers the wilderness wanderer with nothing but the word *repent*. John arrives with a call to stop looking to the power brokers for our peace but instead to return to God, who can level mountains with a few ordinary folks willing to claim a different kind of power.

This call to return to God is a radical notion inviting us to enter God's vision for a world ruled not by power over others or by false peace, but by love. It is a call not to overthrow, but to clear the path in our hearts and in our world to receive God, who provides ultimate peace. Returning to God, we see possibility where before we saw hopelessness. Returning to God, we enter a place of desolation—the wilderness—and see that God transforms it into a place of redemption, new life, and abundance. As we prepare to welcome the Christ child, let us answer John's call to repent, embracing God's ultimate peace as we fervently pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, come."

Sunday, December 9, 2018

2 Advent

Introduction to the day

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

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, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.
Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (traditional carol)
Joyful Noise
Gwynne Kadrofske, flute

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.
Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.
To you, O God,
we lift up our souls.
You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways;
teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism:
your sin is washed away in the name of ✚ Jesus;
you belong to Christ;
you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads!
The reign of God is near.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW #264

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.



Candle Lighting Liturgy – Advent 2

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,
says the Lord of hosts.

The light of hope has awakened our spirits.

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

**Renew in us your covenant, O God, that we may be ready for
the dawn of your salvation.**

We light a second candle to bring light to every darkness, and to
guide us in the way of peace.

**With gratitude for your light, O God, we will prepare to
welcome a new birth of your love.**

Light One Candle

M.P.

Mark Patterson (ASCAP)

With purpose (♩ = 88)

2



1 Light one can - dle for hope,
 2 Light one can - dle for peace,
 3 Light one can - dle for joy,
 4 Light one can - dle for love,



hope that the whole world needs.
 peace that the whole world needs.
 joy that the whole world needs.
 love that the whole world needs.



Light one can - dle for hope,
 Light one can - dle for peace,
 Light one can - dle for joy,
 Light one can - dle for love,



hope that the Sav - ior will bring;
 peace that the Sav - ior will bring;
 joy that the Sav - ior will bring;
 love that the Sav - ior will bring;



hope that the Sav - ior will bring.
 peace that the Sav - ior will bring.
 joy that the Sav - ior will bring.
 love that the Sav - ior will bring.

2

Copyright © 2004 Augsburg Fortress. All right reserved.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
 By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of
 your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who
 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
 forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM:

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW #250

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

ELW #255

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

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church,
the world, and all of 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:*

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you
these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

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

“Who Would Send a Baby?”

(Carter)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

Emmanuel

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

his name is called Em - man - u - el;

God with us, re - vealed in us;

his name is called Em - man - u - el.

Chord symbols: C, C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B_b, A, A/C[#], Dm, G⁷, G/B, C, C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B_b, A, A/C[#], Dm, G⁷, F/C, C.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and 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.

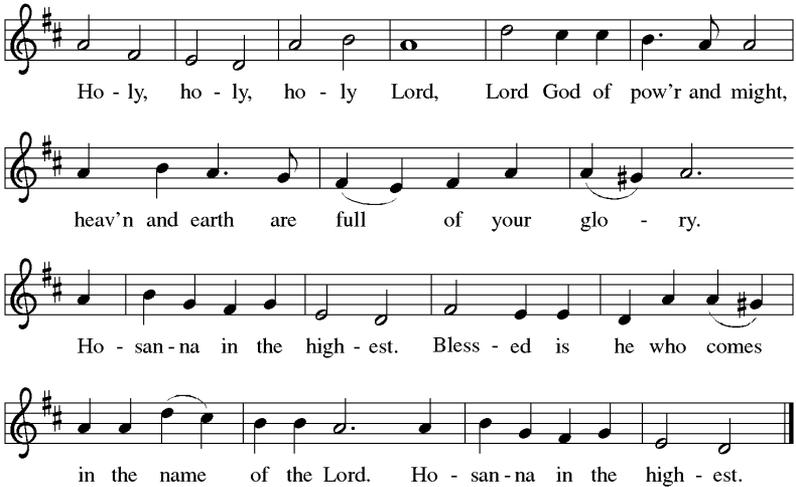
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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'r and might,
heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering 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, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy 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.**

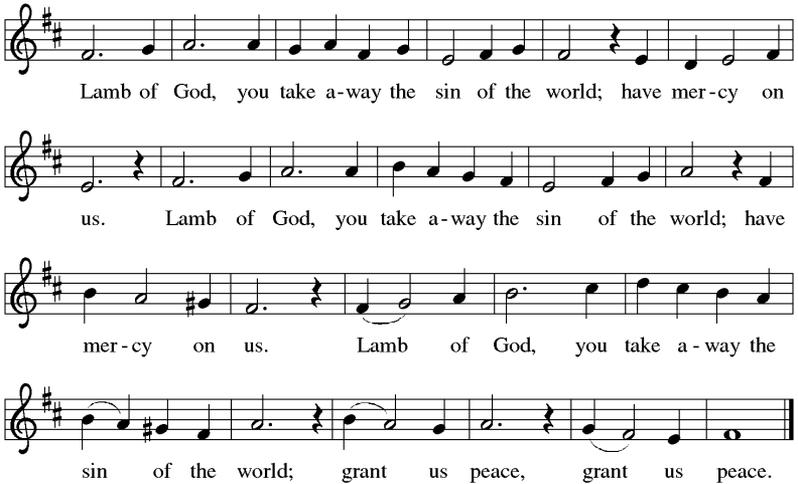
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW #256

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

All Earth Is Hopeful: Toda la tierra

ELW #266

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that
day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to
make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your
name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts
until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW #239

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying” arr. Robert Benson



Faith Lutheran will be welcoming new members
on Sunday, January 20th. If you would like to
become a member please contact Pastor Ellen or
Katie Love

prellen@faithluthernokemos.org

klove@faithlutheranokemos.org



Siblings 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.

December 2, 2018 Attendance: 120

Serving Faith	December 9	December 16
Acolyte	open	Maude Lewis
Altar Care	Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers, Brielle Bowers	
Communion Assistants	open	Maude Lewis
	Diane Wilke	Elaine Harrison
	Maddie Wosinski	Jim Crum
Greeters	Marla Holle	Ken & Karen Whitmyer
Readers	Diane Wilke	Elaine Harrison
Lay Assistant	Maddie Wosinski	Jim Crum
Ushers	Jim & Peggy Crum	Jim & Peggy Crum
Nursery	O'Brien's	Melinda & Lauren Schultz

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, December 9th :

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Kurt Steinke, Beth Ballegeer & family in memory of the 7th anniversary of Beth's sister, Christine Ballegeer Boeger's death on December 11.

Please keep Bob & Connie Nelson and their family in your prayers as Connie's sister, Chery White passed away this past week.

DUE TODAY!



Please print name of person(s) dedicating:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In celebration of _____

Number of each color plant: _____Red _____Pink _____White

Cost: \$10/plant

Checks should be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church
and placed in the offering plate.

Please mark envelope and check "Poinsettia order."

LAST DAY TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9th

Place this form in Katie Love's church mailbox or in the church office.

You may take your poinsettia(s) home
after the 10pm Christmas Eve worship service.