

# Welcome to Faith Lutheran

December 24, 2018

10:00 p.m.



*Christmas*  
**EVE**

Pastor Ellen Schoepf

[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)

4515 Dobie Road

Okemos, MI 48864

## Christmas Eve 10:00pm

In the children's "I Spy" hidden object picture book series, each page is a close-up photograph of an intricately arranged world. A rhyming riddle tells what we get to find: particular objects hidden in plain sight. No further clues are given; we can only look deeper into the picture. Things like thimbles and pine cones become catalysts for wonder, the extraordinary hiding in the ordinary.

That is Christmas: holiness concealed in the everyday. What we search for is not distant but right in front of us. Our "riddle" is a deceptively simple story:

I spy an empire taking count for greed,  
and travel forced upon people in need. I  
spy a woman in maternity gown and her  
fiancé returning to ancestral town.

The deeper we look, the more we see. Crowded together, just as in an I Spy photograph, are Caesar Augustus and one poor unmarried couple. Also Judea and Rome. Shepherds and angels. Heaven and earth. A stable and glory. God and human flesh. An angel says, "This will be a sign for you. You will find . . ." (Luke 2:12). Just as the combination of lots of close-up little things and rhyming riddles coaxes kids to play I Spy, so the promise of a sign to be found and the beauty of the angels' song summons the shepherds' response. The artistry of the story appeals to our imagination, each word the careful, bright brushstroke of a deceptively small, simple painting, the words creating a music of their own. Enchanted, we too go to Bethlehem to see this thing which the Lord has made known. We imagine the world as it could be: poor lifted up, hungry filled with good things, peace and good will among all. We practice for such a realm by learning to find where it is already: hidden, in plain sight.

I spy a child lying in hay wrapped in  
cloth, born for you this day.

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve  
Monday, December 24, 2018, 10:00 pm

## **Introduction to the day**

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

*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.*

## **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**Brass Quartet in Narthex**

Thank you to our brass quartet for enriching our worship on this special night: Austin Muthyala and Jon DeVries, trumpet; Drew Kilpela and Sam Kadrofske, trombone.

## **PRELUDE**

**"O Come All Ye Faithful"**

**arr. Burkhardt**

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## GATHERING

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

*The assembly stands*

### GATHERING SONG

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

***ELW #283***

*Please use the hymnal in your seat.*

### 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.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

***ELW #289***

*Please use the hymnal in your seat.*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

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## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

“He Shall Be Called”

(Callaway)

Chancel Choir

**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior’s final appearance.*

A reading from Titus.

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
<sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
<sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Joy of All the Earth”

(Lantz)

Chancel Choir

Ryan Thompson, soloist

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

*God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of

Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

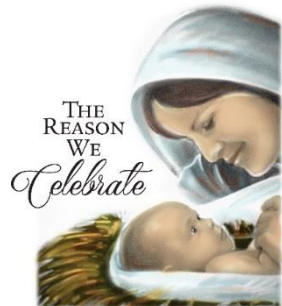
<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



*The assembly stands to proclaim the world of God in song.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

***ELW #270***

*Please use the hymnal in your seat.*

## **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**

This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God.

*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 outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.     **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.*

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## **MEAL**

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

"O Holy Night"

(Adam)

Lindsay Snyder, soloist

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts, help

us to bless the lives of others in

the strength of your holy name.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

To the tune of "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Lord be with you,

**And with you, his servant.**

O, Come let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**With hearts uplifted thanks to Him we render:**

**With joy we come before Him, in gratefulness implore Him,**

**With thankful hearts adore Him Evermore!**

## **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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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**

To the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord!**  
**God of hosts, by all adored!**  
**Heav'n and earth cannot contain**  
**All the glory of your name!**  
**Hail, hosanna, God most high!**  
**Blest is He who now draw nigh**  
**in the name of God the King!**  
**Hallelujahs glad we sing:**  
**Hail, hosanna! Praises due**  
**be forever, Lord, to you!**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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 birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light 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**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray.

**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**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let  
every heart receive your Savior.

*The assembly is seated*

## **COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen.*

WE WELCOME ALL GUESTS worshiping with us today and invite all baptized Christians to come to the Lord's table. Children who have not yet received First Communion instruction are invited to come forward with their families to receive a blessing. There will be one chalice (cup) of wine, as well trays of individual cups. In the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

***“Gesù Bambino”***

Pietro Yon

Drew Kilpela, trombone

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

***ELW #279***

*Please use the hymnal in your seat.*

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

***I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve***

***ELW #271***

*Please use the hymnal in your seat.*

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

**Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated*

## **LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES**



*The Fire Marshall has asked that children age 6 and under do not hold candles independently.*

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DURING CANDLE LIGHTING**

“Night of Silence”

Chancel Choir

Kantor

Silent Night, Holy Night!

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## **FINAL BLESSING**

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry  
into new and abundant life.

**Amen**

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his  
arms enfold you with love and strength.

**Amen**

May the Word that angels proclaimed in  
song bring harmony to our world.

**Amen**

And the blessing of almighty God, the  
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be  
upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*Joy to the World*

***ELW #267***

*Please use the hymnal in your seat.*

## **DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

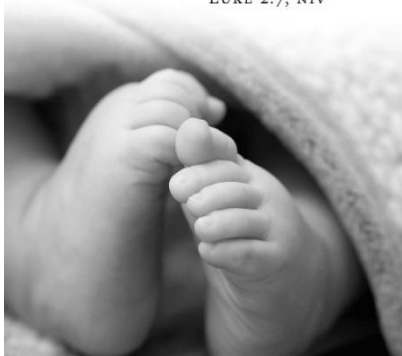
“Christians be Joyful” (Christmas Oratorio)

Bach, arr. Ritter

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of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*She wrapped him  
in cloths and placed  
him in a manger...*

LUKE 2:7, NIV



Welcome, one and all, to  
Christmas Eve worship!  
May you be touched  
tonight not only by the  
sweetness of the Babe of  
Bethlehem but by the  
profound love of God the  
Father and the miracle-  
working power of the Holy  
Spirit.

Sunday Education Hour Resumes January 13<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am

Sunday Worship

10:00 am

Pastor Ellen Schoepf [prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)

Secretary Katie Love [klove@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org)

Director of High School Ed Katie Love

Director of Middle School Ed Maddie Wosinski

Director of Music Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams

### Serving Faith Tonight

Acolyte

Altar Care

Greeters

Lay Assistant

Reader

Ushers

Keren Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers & Brielle Bowers

Jack & Natalie Dingledine

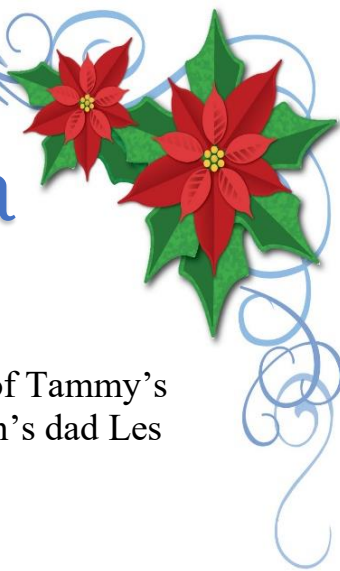
Doug Hirt

Warren Heilman

Jim & Peggy Crum



# 2018 Poinsettia Dedications



Warren & Tammy Heilman in memory of Tammy's parents, Gene & Ida Joachim and Warren's dad Les Heilman.

Mike Eschelbach in celebration of a new grandson Owen Wimberley.

Lee & Linda Gerard in memory of loved ones.

Doug & Linda Hirt in memory of our grandparents.

Virginia Taschner in memory of Conrad Taschner.

Dorothy Rush in memory of Leo Rush,  
Steven Rush and Marsha Rush Schoepf.

Kurt Steinke, Beth Ballegeer, Kaden  
Steinke & Abigail Steinke in  
celebration of Oma & Opa Steinke  
and Grandma & Grandpa Ballegeer.

Bruce Williams in memory of  
Gladys & Stanley Williams.



The Kadrofske family in memory of our parents/grandparents, Bernard & Lois Kadrofske and Gerald Brandt.

Lori & David Haven in memory of Jerry Landry and in honor of our children- Dane, Isaac, Gabriella, Alexa and Maddie.

The Kopf family in memory of William & Hilda Kopf, Richard & Jane Kemmler, John & Eleanor Tietje and Sandra Fox.

Tom & Nina Schrote in memory of Sherrill Hamilton and in honor of Helen Schrote.

Michelle Eschelbach in memory of Clara Peterhans.

Mabel Anglin in memory of Fred & Ella Schroeder and Aris Anglin.

The O'Brien family in celebration of Gabriel, Estuardo, Zakaria, Felicien, Rachid & Filepe.

Ann, Tim, Rob, Allison & Maggie Mayer in celebration of our Saviors birth.



You may take your poinsettia(s) home following the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service.



# 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](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

<http://faithlutheranokemos.org/sermons/>