

Faith Lutheran Church

March 17, 2019

SECOND SUNDAY



IN LENT

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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4515 Dobie Road
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.

Faith Lutheran live streams it’s services. No names of participants are broadcast.

Purpose and Perseverance

There may be a credible argument to be made for living life fully in the “now.” It might go like this: “Yesterday is no more, tomorrow may never come, so be present in the present because it’s all you’ve got.” Some Pharisees, members of the group of religious interpreters of God’s law who so often appear as Jesus’ adversaries, showed up at a critical hour with an urgent and, by all indications, well intentioned warning for him: he was in the crosshairs of killers. Herod, the embodiment of “law and order” for the Roman Empire (more accurately, the incarnation of an empire’s brutal force—an offense of power not left behind in the first century), wanted Jesus dead. Jesus, not ignoring the Pharisees or their warnings, nonetheless rejected them with the sort of loving intensity a mothering hen might have for her brood of chicks. With an eternal “right here, right now” challenge to the power and the authority of both Herod and empire, Jesus refused to flee from tomorrow’s trials; he refused to withdraw from what might come. He stayed in the now. When everything seems to be going wrong, the one who is Alpha and Omega holds by faith a course toward hope. Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, stands firm when certainty breaks apart in storms of chaos, when doom leases the moment, and when the long, sharp claws of tragedy and sorrow cut close. Jesus’ way among demons and despair is to heal—yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Jesus’ way of hope transcends the pinnacles upon which vacant optimisms teeter—yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Neither counsels of caution nor threats from empire, not the demise of prophets nor rejection from his own can stall the blessed hope that comes in the name of the Lord

Sunday, March 17, 2019
Second Sunday in Lent

Introduction to the day

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God’s desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God’s people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who “comes in the name of the Lord.”

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

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Faith Bells

arr. Wagner

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us,
anoint us,
and make us new.

Amen.

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin,
and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God at the margins,

**We have wandered far from your home;
again and again, we lose our way.**

We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.

**We forget that you have saved your people before
and promise to do so again.**

**Do not remember the deeds of our past,
but turn our faces toward the future,
where your forgiveness is sure,
your welcome is clear,
and your love overflows.**

Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks,

God embraces you in tender care.

Like manna in the desert,

God feeds you with surprising mercy.

Like a loving parent,

God runs to meet you again this day,

forgiving your sins for the sake of ✚ Christ,

leading you from death into life.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW #803

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



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

A reading from Genesis.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17--4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

A reading from Philippians.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack (Pastor Nik) serves as the Director of Congregational Engagement for Samaritas. He was previously a pastor on the prairies of Minnesota, a pastor developer in an exurban Michigan community, and most recently a pastor and head of staff in a suburban Detroit congregation. A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, his degrees include a B.B.A. in Accounting from Eastern Michigan University, an M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and a D.Min. in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary. Pastor Nik is married to Whitney and they have two daughters. He enjoys history, economics, gardening, travel, kayaking, and miniature golf.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Twilight Comes

ELW #566

Vs. 1 Chancel Choir

Vs. 2 & 3 All

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

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for 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:*

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our 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

“Jerusalem”

(Choplin)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the

joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

Arr. © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God,

**you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.**

**Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.**

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 call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life 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, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

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.**

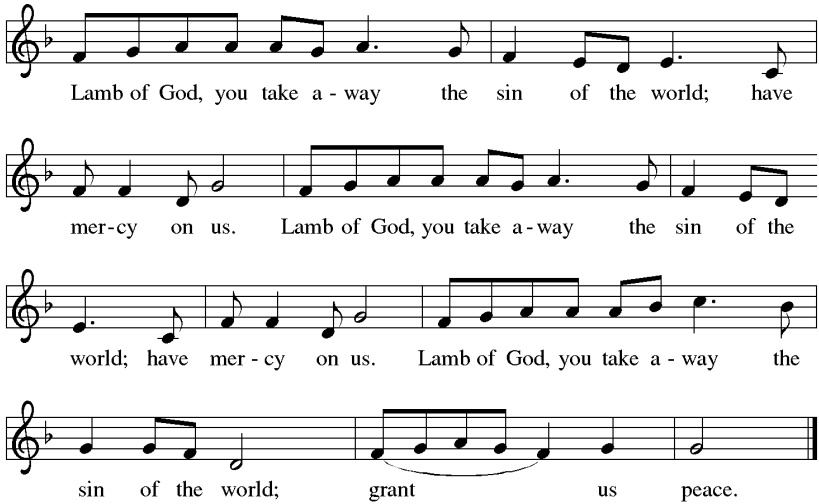
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has prepared the feast.
Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Faith of Our Fathers

ELW #812

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

God Loved the World

ELW #323

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for
justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of
grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

ELW #802

DISMISSAL

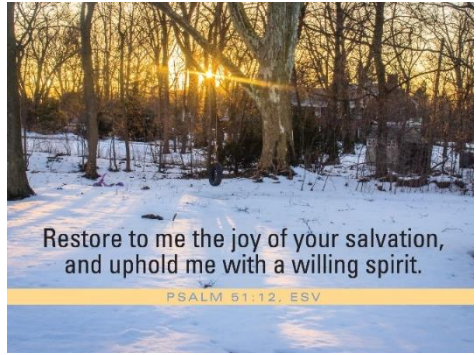
Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

arr. Howard McKinney

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.

March 10 Attendance: 101

Serving Faith	March 17	March 24
Acolyte	Atu Ngasala	Austin Jones
Altar Care	Tammy Heilman & Melinda Schultz	
Communion Assistants	Atu Ngasala	Austin Jones
	Heidi Nussdorfer	Gus Lulis
	Mike Eschelbach	Doug Hirt
Greeters	Bill & Pam Williams	Doug & Linda Hirt
Readers	Heidi Nussdorfer	Gus Lulis
Lay Assistant	Mike Eschelbach	Doug Hirt
Ushers	Gerard/Milne	Jeff & Melinda Schultz
Nursery	O'Briens	Melinda & Lauren Schultz
Coffee Hosts	Jeff & Melinda Schultz	open

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, March 17

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Virginia Taschner.

Altar Flowers are provided by Al-Lins of Okemos

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Weekly Wednesday Night Soup Suppers and Lenten Services

Beginning on Wednesday, March 13, we will again hold weekly Lenten services at Faith Lutheran. We will worship as we sing the music of Holden Evening Prayer and experience the poems and reflections of *Forty Days: A Journey Through the Desert of Lent*.

Wednesday Eve Schedule 3/13-4/10 No Dinner or Youth Activities on 4/3

5:30-6:00	Joyful Noise Rehearsal
5:45-7:00	Dinner is Served
6:15-7:00	Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30-7:05	Pk/Trinity/Confirmation and Adult Classes
7:15-7:45	Lenten Services
7:45-8:15	Cantata Rehearsal
8:15-9:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Maundy Thursday Service – April 18

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Faith Lutheran, April 18

Good Friday Services – April 19

12:00 Noon Service at Okemos Community Church

This will be a combined service with the following churches participating Okemos Presbyterian, Okemos Community, Faith Lutheran and Haslett Community Church. A joint choir will be singing at this service and the offering taken at this service will go to the local area food banks.

7:00 PM Service at Faith Lutheran Church

Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church will join us for this service as the combined choirs will sing *Once Upon a Tree*, a musical version of Luke's account of Jesus' passion. Join us for this deeply meaningful experience.

*Okemos Community Church: 4734 Okemos Rd, Okemos
Haslett Community Church: 1427 Haslett Rd, Haslett*