



Faith Friends & Family Announcements and News for January 5-January 18

Log onto Faith's website www.faithlutheranokemos.org 24/7 for updates

NEXT TWO WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 5

- 10:00 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Take down Christmas decorations
11:30 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. Confirmation

Monday, January 6

Tuesday, January 7

- Noon Bible study in Pastor's office

Wednesday, January 8

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
4:00 p.m. Bible study
6:30 p.m. Faith Bells
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 9

Friday, January 10

Saturday, January 11

Sunday, January 12

Committee reports due

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship/New Member Sunday

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

Monday, January 13

Tuesday, January 14

10:30 a.m. Meridian Township Playgroup

Noon Bible study in Pastor's office

Wednesday, January 15

9:30 a.m. Quilters

4:00 p.m. Bible study

6:30 p.m. Faith Bells

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 16

Friday, January 17

Saturday, January 18

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH

FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP. The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 26, following worship. The Middle School Youth are hosting a Souper Bowl Luncheon on that day and the meeting will take place during the luncheon. The youth will also be providing an Ice Cream Sundae Bar for dessert. All of this will be done as a fundraiser, and the money raised will help to support their experience at CHARGE, our Synod Middle School Youth Event in March.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

December 22, 2019

		Year to Date as of 11/30/2019	
Loose Cash	\$ 92.00	Income	\$234,214
Loose Checks	\$ 200.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$275,819</u>
Flowers	\$ 40.00	Net	\$ (41,605)
World Hunger	\$ 25.00		
Youth Bottle Return	\$ 23.60		
General Fund	\$3,720.00		
<u>Staff Gifts</u>	<u>\$1,070.00</u>		
Subtotal	\$5,170.60		
Simply Giving			
General	\$9,645.00		
Building	\$ 25.00		
Total	\$14,840.60		

December 24, 2019

Loose Cash	\$ 341.00
Loose Checks	\$ 150.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$3,442.00</u>
Subtotal	\$3,933.00
Total	\$3,933.00

December 29, 2019

Loose Cash	\$ 35.00
Loose Checks	\$ 100.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$2,015.00</u>
Subtotal	\$2,150.00
Simply Giving	
General	\$ 200.00
Building	\$
Total	\$2,350.00

Save the Dates

The **Caring Committee** is inviting others to come during Sunday School on **Jan. 19 at 9:00 a.m.** to make cards for the nonprofit, Bring Smiles to Seniors. No experience necessary, please come by the choir room and help.

Join 60 +/- Wednesday, January 22nd at 11:30 a.m. at Faith. We welcome a speaker from Pure Michigan. More information to come. Contact Marla Holle with any questions.

The Next Beer & Hymns will be January 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Ken & Ellen Schoepf (383 *Split Raid Ridge, Williamston*). The Schoepf's will provide beef sandwiches. Please bring a side or dessert and your drink of choice.

An Alternative Worship Service – Beginning on **Sunday evening, January 26, at 6:00 PM**, Kim O'Brien and Pastor Ellen will be holding an alternative worship experience for anyone who is interested. This service will be more intimate and more contemplative, not unlike Holden Evening Prayer. We will also be using some of the music from the Taize community, and the service will incorporate contemplative songs that deeply connect to the longings and yearnings of our hearts. We plan to hold this alternative worship experience once a month. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Ellen. We invite you to join us for this monthly experience.

New Six-Week Lenten Book Study begins on Sunday, February 23, at 9:00 AM, in the Library

On February 23 Pastor Ellen and Kim O'Brien will begin leading a six-week study on the book ***I Can Do No Other: The Church's New Here We Stand Moment***, by Dr. Anna Madsen. This book focuses on the church's response to our cultural context at this moment in time. Here is a synopsis of the book:

There are two gods currently competing for our collective trust: nationalism and quietism. Both make a claim on our allegiance. Where will the church stand in a day that is marked by globalization, polarization, racism, bigotry, and debates about justice for humanity and for the earth itself? While Luther's Reformation centered on justification by grace alone, Anna M. Madsen calls people of faith to a new reformation focused on standing for justice in the world. *I Can Do No Other* looks to the example of Jesus and shows how the Christian claim of his death and resurrection entails a radical commitment to justice. She explores recent examples of that commitment, including liberation theology, black and womanist theology, feminist theology, and Christian resistance to Nazism. Madsen makes the case that justice, anchored in justification, is the church's new reformation moment, one not inconsistent with Luther's theology but weighted differently to address the many concerns of our day.

If you are interested in being a part of this study, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. *FYI: The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen is the daughter of Rev. George Madsen who used to be pastor at University Lutheran Church in East Lansing.*

RIC Sunday – Sunday, January 26

Each year, Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregations are encouraged to celebrate RIC Sunday, which is typically the last Sunday in January. Faith will be celebrating RIC Sunday on January 26. This is a time for congregations to recommit themselves to the full and total inclusion that they committed to when becoming an RIC Congregation. The service will focus on our commitment to our Welcoming Statement with specially selected liturgy, hymns, and sermon. We encourage you to attend and invite friends and family as we celebrate our continued commitment to welcoming and including all of God's people, especially those who have often been rejected by the church.

This year, Faith and Advocacy is the theme for RIC Sunday 2020. Knowing that God calls us to love and serve ALL of God's Beloveds, it is important that we recognize the ways in which we as the church have turned away from our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We focus this RIC Sunday asking the question, "How do we advocate for our queer siblings and those who are the most vulnerable in the room?" It is a service to set our hearts and eyes to God, asking for grace and forgiveness, leading us to be the advocates in this world, and stand with the oppressed.

More information, including recommended readings and ways to continue the conversation after RIC Sunday, is at <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/ric-sunday-2020/>





Saturday, March 28 – 9:30 AM **Andrew Root**

Professor and Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary

- PhD (Princeton Theological Seminary)
- M.Th. (Fuller Theological Seminary)
- M.Div. (Fuller Theological Seminary)

The Lansing area ELCA clergy are working on developing a plan for Youth Leadership in which our churches will collaboratively work together to hire a full-time Youth Director. This person, when hired, will work with youth in all participating churches. We are working to flesh out what this position will ultimately look like. As we do this work, we are bringing Dr. Andrew Root, Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary, to our area to talk with us about Youth Ministry and Leadership. **He will be coming on Saturday, March 28.** Members of all congregations are invited to join us for this event.

If you are interested in investing in the youth of our congregations, we invite you to be a sponsor for this event. If you contribute a gift of \$100 or more your name will be included in the program for that day.

Andrew Root's bio and sponsorship forms are available in the Narthex.

Please contact Pastor Ellen with any questions.



For the Healing of the World: Apocalypse, Ecology and the Bible

Saturday, April 18, 2020
9:30 – 2:00 (Lunch provided)
Faith Lutheran Church Okemos

Featured Speaker

Rev. Dr. Barbara R. Rossing

You are invited to attend this year's presentation of the *Holle Speaker Series* on Saturday, April 18. This year's guest presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing. She will be speaking on:

For the Healing of the World: Apocalypse, Ecology and the Bible

Dr. Rossing is professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She loves to teach and preach about the Bible, including the Bible's role in public life.

An avid environmentalist, Rossing is involved with environmental initiatives at the seminary. Rossing received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton College, the master of divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School and the doctor of theology degree from Harvard University.

The *Holle Speaker Series* is an annual event that honors former Bishop Reginald Holle and the work he did as the first Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. **This April 18 event is free to the public.** A freewill offering will be taken to cover luncheon expenses. Therefore, to know how to plan, if you choose to attend you are asked to register by calling Faith Lutheran Church (517-349-0620) or email Pastor Ellen Schoepf at prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org Join us for this educational event as together we kick off the 2020 Faith Climate Action Week.

If you have any additions or updates, please contact the church office. klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

- Phyllis Shorman
- Connie Nelson
- Dale Halverson
- Brenda & Walter Kopf
- Ruthie Gardner
- Jeanne Hicks
- Todd Holle
- Rita Barry
- Ellen Milne
- Ken Whitmyer
- Sifa Ngasala
- Ginger Kinney, Kay Hillberg's sister
- Todd
- Brenda Kopf's friend Sharon who has brain cancer
- Kathy
- Todd Barriklow
- Christel Taha
- Carol Coyer
- Ben Cowin
- Loretta Milne
- Kenley
- Allyson
- Bob (Brenda Zynda's nephew in hospice)
- Bob Shorman's niece Lyndsey in hospital.

-Our mission partner congregation

- Lansing Redeemer Church of Lansing

-Those in military service

- Jon Schoepf, Lani Yearicks, Landon Belanger, Melody and Adam Wright, Tracy Tuthill, Joe Morre and Joe Galvin.

-Samaritas Children who seek adoption. Pray for each to be adopted and for Jesus to be their lifelong friend.

-Northwest Lower Michigan Synod Prayer Partners

- Rev. Janice Hite and the congregation of Redeemer Church of Lansing, Mi.
- Rev. Alex Aivars and the congregation of St. Stephen Lutheran Church of Lansing, Mi.