

Faith Family News

From the Pastor's Pen...

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am also working on Lenten programming. And, as we move through Lent, I am always reminded about the way in which life is all about dying and rising. Every day of our lives, there is something that dies. Every day of our lives, we can also find something new, some aspect of resurrection.

I believe it is possible that some of us have a rigid, static view of God and faith. It is even more probable that each and every one of us go through periods of static faith, of attempting to solidify a very **moving**, active God. We attempt to box God in and we get stuck in one place – our view of God becomes static. We do this for many reasons. In fact, the causes are too many to count and some of them often have to do with the deep pain we have experienced in life. It is often easier to live in denial than truly feel the pain. Yet, what is true in the end is that, at some point, maturing in our faith, becoming closer to God in heart and in the way we live, becomes our own responsibility. And, that always means facing ourselves, and often it means facing our pain. Growing in our faith requires us to move out from where we started from or the place where we are stuck, into an agile continuance with God – into a new beginning.

We often try to escape life's challenges, but the truth of the matter is, we cannot because whatever we do and wherever we go, there we are. We carry our **self** (and our issues) with us. I appreciate what Father Richard Rohr says when talking about this. He writes, "**God comes to us disguised as our life.**" So, know that it is also true that wherever we go, there is also the gift of God. Even if you have tried to bury your fears, frustrations, resentments, ill-gotten beliefs, watered down or withered faith, **there is God also.** There is God reminding us we live in resurrection now, that we are enjoined to God's eternity now, that we are made to co-create from our divine entanglement with the Christ mystery – the goodness, beauty, and delight of a life with God. We get to delight in our salvation with God! To do that we have to move through our "stuff" and do our work. We need to be willing to drink from a deeper well of thought and teaching. We need to be centered on God, and let God do God's work in our lives.



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Faith Lutheran Church
4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
Office Hours: 9am-12pm
Monday-Friday
Phone: (517) 349-0620
Fax: (517) 349-5822

www.faithlutheranokemos.org
faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Ministers

All Members of the Faith Family

Pastor

Ellen Schoepf

prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Director of Music

Deb Borton-McDonough

Instrumental Worship Leader

Bruce Williams

High School Leaders

Kim O'Brien

Ryan & Addie Thompson

Newsletter Editor/Church Secretary

Katie Love

Mission Partner Congregation

Redeemer Lutheran Church

President	Ryan Thompson
Vice President	Tula Ngasala
Secretary	Molly DeHate
Treasurer	Gwynne Kadrofske
Financial Secretary	Jon Harrison
Members-at-Large	Judy Tuthill
Members-at-Large	Beth Belonga
Past President	Paul Hereza

2020 Committee Chairs

Caring	Pam Williams
	Lois Neves
Evangelism/Outreach	Ellen Lewis
	Brenda Kopf
Human Resources	Lori Haven
Media/Technology	Chris Lewis
Membership Development	Emily Brown
	Mike Eschelbach
Mutual Ministry	Linda Hirt
Property	Bob Nelson
	Rick Baderstadt
Stewardship	Paul Hereza
Worship & Music	Diane Hill
Christian Education	Judy Tuthill

ACOLYTES

February 2	Serena Ngasala
February 9	Rachael Ngasala
February 16	open
February 23	Kaden Steinke

To sign up to acolyte please use the following link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094caaa623a3f49-acolyte2>

ALTAR CARE

Peggy Crum & Marla Holle

GREETERS

February 2	Bill & Pam Williams
February 9	Mike Eschelbach
February 16	Mark & Molly DeHate
February 23	Doug & Linda Hirt

LAY ASSISTANTS

February 2	Dane Webb
February 9	Walter Kopf
February 16	Ken Schoepf
February 23	Paul Hereza

READERS

February 2	John McCracken
February 9	Jack Dingedine
February 16	Warren Heilman
February 23	Gus Lusic

USHERS

February 2	Jeff & Melinda Schultz
February 9	Mark & Gwynne Kadrofske
February 16	Bill & Pam Williams
February 23	Doug & Linda Hirt

NURSERY

February 2	Melinda & Lauren Schultz
February 9	Marquardt
February 16	Brenda Kopf
February 23	Rachel Ngasala

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

February 2	Elizabeth Edberg
February 9	Sheila Urban-Smith
February 16	No Sunday School
February 23	Megan Nyquist

Throughout this Lenten season, in our weekly Lenten services, we will be listening to Richard Rohr speak to us about **Resurrection Now: *Delighting In Our Salvation***. As we listen to Rohr and his insights, I pray that these gatherings will become for you a process of growing in and through God's love. I invite you to join us on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent for our 7:15 Lenten Service.

In Christ,

Pastor Ellen



Are you interested in being apart of the volunteer team at Faith? We have openings for ushers, readers, greeters, lay assistants, altar care, nursery and Loaves and Fishes. Watch for blank spaces on schedules on the Volunteers board or contact the volunteer coordinators.

Nurse: Jennifer Coe: jenlynncoe@yahoo.com

Lay Assistants/Readers: Diane Hill: hillmaxd6@gmail.com

Greeters: Mike Eschelbach: EschelbachM@michigan.gov

Ushers: Ken Schoepf: kjschoepf@yahoo.com

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison: jon.harrison@comcast.net
Peggy Crum: peggy.crum@hc.msu.edu

Loaves & Fishes: Gretchen Bills: gretchenb520@gmail.com
Tammy Heilman: heilmant@hotmail.com

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS – Sunday, February 9

On Sunday, February 9, following worship, Pastor Ellen will host a first communion class for children who are interested in taking communion. Pastor Ellen asks that parents participate in this class along with their children. If you are interested in having your child participate, please speak to Pastor Ellen. Children who participate in this class will receive their first communion on Sunday, February 16 or 23. We know the weekend of February 16 is a long holiday weekend, so if families are not here that weekend, the children will receive communion on February 23.

Prayers for Health & Healing

Members of the congregation:

Dale Halverson, Brenda & Walter Kopf, Rita Barry, Ellen Milne, Ken Whitmyer, Phyllis Shorman, Connie Nelson & Sifa Ngasala.

Friends & Family:

Ruthie Gardner, Allyson, Jeanne Hicks, Todd Holle, Todd Barriklow, Carol Coyer, Loretta Milne, Ginger Kinney, Todd, Sharon, Kathy, Christel Taha, Ben Cowin, Kenley, Bob, Lyndsey.

Prayers of Intercession

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

LENT BEGINS – Ash Wednesday, February 26

Join us for **Ash Wednesday Worship on February 26** as we again begin our Lenten journey to the cross.

- Noon Worship Service at Faith Lutheran followed by a soup luncheon
- 7:00 PM joint worship service with Okemos Presbyterian Church and Okemos Community Church. This worship service will be held **at Okemos Presbyterian Church**, Pastor Ellen will be preaching.

Then, plan to attend our weekly Lenten Services. They will then take place on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent. ***Soup and bread suppers will begin at 6:30 PM, followed by a worship service at 7:15.*** This year our Lenten focus will be:

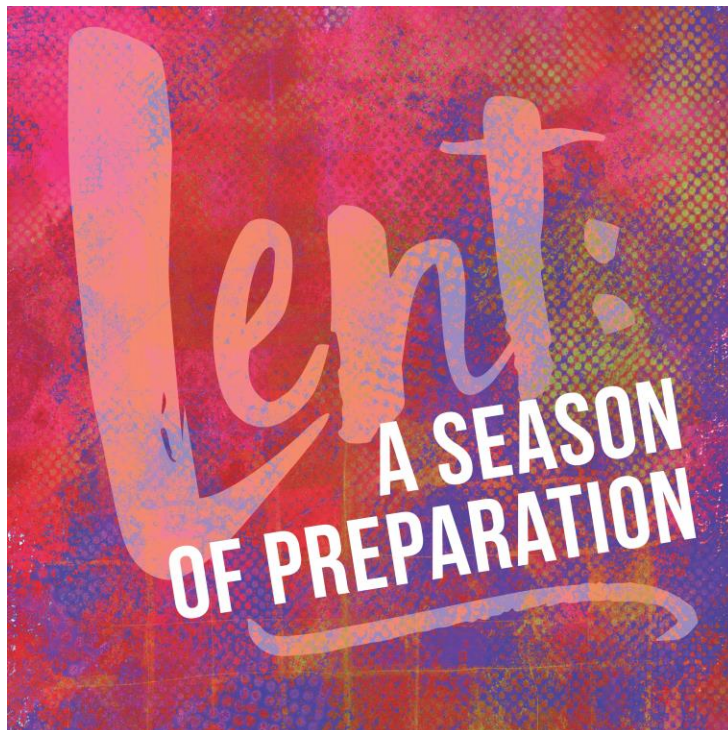
Resurrection Now: Delighting In Our Salvation

This is a series of short videos containing messages from Richard Rohr as he talks about our faith journey. We will also be using Holden Evening Prayer as our Lenten liturgy.

The weekly Lenten soup and bread suppers will be hosted by various church committees. The Worship Committee has designated the hosting committees as follows:

March 4 – Council
March 11 – Green Team
March 18 – Chancel Choir
March 25 – Bell Choir
April 1 – Education & Evangelism

Join us as we make this journey together.



The Caring Committee

The Caring Committee will be making cards for the non-profit “Bringing Smiles to Seniors” on **Sunday, February 23rd** at 9:00 a.m. in the music room. All are welcome.



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

The Caring Committee is sponsoring the annual Easter Basket Food Drive beginning at the end of the month. Meridian Township Human Resources Dept. provides us with the names of 20 families that need a little extra help. Faith members are blessed to be able to help by providing any/or all the items listed below.

Cereal
Juice
Tuna

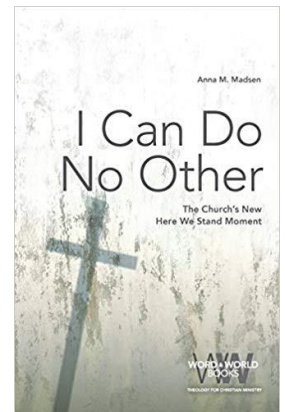
Peanut Butter Muffin Mix
Easter Candy
Boxed Potatoes
Canned Fruits and Vegetables

Boxed Desserts
Easter Egg Coloring Kits
Mac & Cheese

Cash donations help with the purchase of the hams, eggs, and milk for the families. Donations will be taken until March 25th and **the delivery date will be Sunday, March 29**. Drivers will be needed. Please contact Lois Neves or Pam Williams with any questions. Thank you for your support, care for others and prayers as we do HIS work in the community.

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.*

CAYMN – Capital Area Youth Ministry

Area ELCA Clergy have been working together to form a leadership group to explore hiring a full-time Youth Director to work with youth in all our churches. As we work on this endeavor, we will be hosting two events. The first is for Middle School and High School. It will be:

CAYMN Youth Gathering at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lansing Sunday afternoon, February 23

To be included: Fun, Music & Food (Marco's Pizza!)

4:00 – 6:30 Middle School

5:30 – 8:00 High School

As we work to develop a new model for youth ministry in our churches, we are hosting a second event. This will be for parents, church leaders and interested members. It will take place on **Saturday, March 28**, right here at Faith Lutheran Church when the Rev. Dr. Andrew Root comes to speak on:

The End of Youth Ministry?

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM (lunch included)

Dr. Root is Professor of Youth & Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in Minneapolis. All who are interested in seeing youth ministry become a vital aspect of church ministry are encouraged to take advantage of this event. You will also have an opportunity to purchase Dr. Root's new book, ***The End of Youth Ministry?***

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. Sponsorship forms are available on the counter in the Narthex.

See the flyer for more details.

The End of Youth Ministry?

Dr. Andrew Root

Professor of Youth & Family Ministry at Luther Seminary

**WHEN: Saturday, March 28
9:30-3:00**

**WHERE: Faith Lutheran Church
4515 Dobie Rd.
Okemos, MI**



This event is FREE, however a freewill offering will be taken to cover luncheon expenses.

Schedule for the day:

9:30 – 10:00 Registration and coffee

10:00 – 12:00 Plenary 1 – Youth Ministry in an Era of Over-Parenting: Moving from the Thing to the Story (See explanation on next page)

Noon – 12:45 Lunch and conversation

12:45 – 3:00 Plenary 2 – Faith Formation in a Secular Age: Examining the Changes Impacting Ministry (See explanation on next page)

Dr. Root will share information based on his new book, ***The End of Youth Ministry?*** His new book will be available for purchase on this day. The cost is: \$11.50.

Dr. Root will also talk about emerging models of youth leadership.

To register for this event:

- Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the narthex
- Or call Faith Lutheran Church (517-349-0620).
- If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ellen Schoepf at prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Information on Plenary Sessions

10:00 – 12:00 Plenary 1 – Youth Ministry in an Era of Over-Parenting: Moving from the Thing to the Story

Youth workers know what it is to watch parents and youth participate in multiple other activities. Most families have limited time and space for youth ministry activities or youth group. Often parent(s) (and youth) express desire to participate, but say they have no time. A parent might even say, “Sorry, we haven’t gotten her to youth group in the last six months, it’s just that gymnastics is kind of her thing; it’s really who she is.”

This can be frustrating for youth workers. Some respond by contending that youth ministry needs to up the commitment level and move higher up the ranking of things. In this presentation we’ll together explore how this approach can’t work, because the decisions parents and young people make exist inside very deep conceptions of what makes for a good life. In a time of limited time and unlimited options, youth ministry can’t—and I’ll show, *shouldn’t*—compete in ranking of important activities. Youth ministry should not be just another *thing* (like basketball, violin, or debate club). Instead, we should turn toward story to reimagine what youth ministry can be for.

12:45 – 3:00 Plenary 2 – Faith Formation in a Secular Age: Examining the Changes Impacting Ministry

Why is faith formation so hard? We’re confronted at every turn with the narrative of decline, the rise of the nones, the constant refrain to pastors, youth workers and churches that “the world is changing.” But the most fundamental challenge facing the church today is that God is no longer an assumed reality. How might ministry, the church, and ministry to young people shift when belief in God and transcendence is optional? What is faith in a secular age? And how can we help form it?

IN OUR COMMUNITY



“From Tolerance to Unity: Racial Justice Training”

Facilitator: Rev. Liz Miller
Date: Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Place: Haslett Community Church
Cost: \$10/participant

Presented by Church and Society Committee

This workshop seeks to create a common language around racism, unmask racism in our lives, and encourage long-term engagement in racial justice. We will examine racism as a spiritual, personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural issue. Participants will leave understanding the shift from tolerance/acceptance to advocacy and meaningful change and equipped with resources and ideas to continue their engagement.



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

Kick off *Faith Climate Action Week* by attending 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 You may also register by going to this link: <https://faithlutheranokemos.brushfire.com/events/463307>

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Reconciling in Christ Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Annual Meeting 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:00 PM Sunday Eve Service	27	28 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	29 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	30	31	1
2 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Worship Committee 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	3	4 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	5 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	6	7	8
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM First Communion Class 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	10	11 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	12 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	13	14	15
16 No Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	17 7:00 PM Council Meeting	18 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	19 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	20	21 5:00 PM Large Fellowship Hall Rented	22
23 9:00 AM Book Study 9:00 AM Caring Committee Card Making 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 4:00 PM Middle School Youth Group at Bethlehem 5:30 PM High School Youth Group at Bethlehem 6:00 PM Sunday Eve Service	24	25 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group	26 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship at Faith Lutheran 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship at Okemos Pres.	27 11:00 AM Dobie Road Service	28	29 3:00 PM Large Fellowship Hall Rented

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Book Study 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	2	3 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group	4 Council Serves Dinner 9:30 AM Quilting 6:15 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Soup & Bread Lenten Dinner 7:15 PM Lenten Services 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	5	6	7
8 9:00 AM Book Study 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	9	10 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group	11 Green Team Serves Dinner 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:15 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Soup & Bread Lenten Dinner 7:15 PM Lenten Services 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	12	13	14
15 9:00 AM Book Study 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	16	17	18 Chancel Choir Serves Dinner 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:15 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Soup & Bread Lenten Dinner 7:15 PM Lenten Services 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	19	20 5:00 PM Large Fellowship Hall Rented	21
22 9:00 AM Book Study 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	23	24	25 Bell Choir Serves Dinner Easter Basket Food Collection Deadline 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:15 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Soup & Bread Lenten Dinner 7:15 PM Lenten Services 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	26	27	28 9:30 AM Dr. Andrew Root Seminar
29 9:00 AM Book Study 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Easter Basket Delivery 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	30	31	1 Education/Evangelism Serve Dinner 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:15 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Soup & Bread Lenten Dinner 7:15 PM Lenten Services 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	2	3	4

