

Faith Family News

From the Pastor's Pen...

Dear Friends,

Time is a precious gift, one of the most precious gifts we have been given. An aspect of God's gift of creation, time becomes a vehicle through which we order our lives in various and multiple ways. I am increasingly aware of this priceless gift as I order my life in ways that enable me to squeeze in treasured time with my grandchildren. I treasure every bit of time I spend with them and I am grateful for this gift of time.

Within the life of the church, we order and organize time by means of the church year. Every year we begin again, traveling the cycle that gifts us with the **story** of God. Each year, we again hear the story of the life of Christ. We hear and tell the story of the One who is not only beyond time, but also the One who acts in time, the One who acts in history through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are presently making our annual Lenten journey, traveling with Jesus to the cross. The word "Lent" comes from an Anglo-Saxon, Old English word meaning "long." The Lenten experience began in the mid-fourth century when Christians began observing a time of preparation before their Easter celebration. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent lasts for 40 days, recalling and bringing to mind the 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai.

Lent is a time when we focus on preparation, simplicity, baptismal renewal, confession, prayer, fasting and service. Lent is a time when we literally begin experiencing increased light in the world as days become longer with more sunshine. And, Lent is a time when we figuratively experience increased light in our lives as we prayerfully prepare ourselves for Easter. Lent is a time when we re-discover love, when we again fall in love with a God who has always been there for us, a God who has **always** been present loving us.

Continued on page 3



Inside This Issue

- Parish Officers.....2
- Prayers3
- Lent & 60 +/-.....4
- News & Notes.....5
- Andrew Root.....6,7
- Holle Speak Series.....8
- Calendar9,10

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Monday-Friday
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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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

ACOLYTES

March 1	open
March 8	open
March 15	open
March 22	Kaden Steinke
March 29	open

To sign up to acolyte please use the following link

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

ALTAR CARE

Pam Williams and Beth Belonga

GREETERS

March 1	Ken & Karen Whitmyer
March 8	Jack & Natalie Dingledine
March 15	Lois Neves
March 22	Marla Holle
March 29	Gail & Lowell Barricklow

LAY ASSISTANTS

March 1	Mike Eschelbach
March 8	Korine Wawrzynski
March 15	Doug Hirt
March 22	Kim O'Brien
March 29	Bob Shorman

READERS

March 1	Linda Hirt
March 8	Elaine Harrison
March 15	Atu Ngasala
March 22	Brian Ransom
March 29	Natalie Dingledin

USHERS

March 1	Milne/Schoepf
March 8	Walter & Brenda Kopf
March 15	Ellen Holste & Todd Robinson
March 22	Kadrofske Family
March 29	Milne/Schoepf

NURSERY

March 1	Jennifer Coe
March 8	Heidi Bowers
March 15	Lori Webb
March 22	O'Briens
March 29	Brenda Kopf

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

March 1	Sheila Urban-Smith
March 8	Brenda Kopf
March 15	Heidi Bowers
March 22	Megan Nyquist
March 29	Ryan Edberg

Lent is a time that culminates in **the pinnacle week** of the church year, a week filled with drama, longing, and amazing love. This year, that pinnacle week – Holy Week – takes place during Spring Break. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 5, and it culminates on Easter Day, April 12. I do pray that those of you who are in the area will be able to participate in the deeply meaningful services of this pinnacle week in the church year.

Yes, time is a most precious gift. As we move through Lent, I invite you to order your lives around that which provides the richest, deepest, most treasured, life giving message around. Take the time to join us and soak up the message of a God who loves you and will always be walking with you through all your experiences in life.

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

Prayers for Health & Healing

Members of the congregation:

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

Friends & Family:

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

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.

Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers & Lenten Services

Plan to attend our weekly Lenten Services. 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. Join us each Wednesday evening for the Soup Supper at 6:30, followed by

our Lenten Service at 7:15.

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 – Faith Bells
- March 25 – Chancel Choir
- April 1 – Education & Evangelism

Join us as we make this journey together.

60 +/-



60 +/- An Afternoon at the Movies

When: Wednesday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall at Faith

Popcorn & beverages will be provided.

Three brilliant African-American women at NASA -- Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe) -- serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn (Glen Powell) into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world.



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.



Are you interested in taking a trip to the Holy Land?

Pastor Bill Uetricht from First Lutheran Church in Muskegon will be leading a trip to the Holy Land in January of 2021. If you are interested in being part of this tour, there is information in the narthex. You may also speak to Pastor Ellen to get more information.

Group name: First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tour Leader: Pastor Bill Uetricht
Agent: Tony Abuaita, Goodshepherd Travel
Itinerary: TIBERIAS (3 NIGHTS) – BETHLEHEM (6 NIGHTS)
Dates: January 11 - 21, 2021
Departure City: CHICAGO, IL (ORD)
Duration: 11 DAYS/9 NIGHTS DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY
Cost: \$3,590 per person



Easter Flower Order forms are available in the Narthex.

Please leave your order on Katie's desk or in her church mailbox.

Order Deadline: Sunday, March 29th



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 sign up in the narthex or fill out this registration form: <http://tiny.cc/lansingyouthevent>
- 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?



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 filling out the sign up sheet in the Narthex or by going to this link: <https://faithlutheranokemos.brushfire.com/events/463307>

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 Daylight Savings time 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 7:00 PM Council Meeting	17	18 Bells Serve Dinner 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 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 Middle School Retreat	21 Middle School Retreat
22 9:00 AM Book Study 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service Middle School Retreat	23	24	25 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

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 Alternative Worship Service 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	30	31 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	1 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 8:00 AM Large Fellowship Hall Rented
5 Palm Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service	6	7 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	8 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	9 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Faith	10 7:00 PM Good Friday Service at Faith	11
12 Easter Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service	13	14 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	15 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	16	17	18 9:30 AM Holle Speaker Series
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	20 7:00 PM Council Meeting	21 10:30 AM Meridian Play Group 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	22 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION 6:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	23	24 5:00 PM Large Fellowship Hall Rented	25
26 Green Team Leads Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 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 9:00 AM Large Fellowship Hall Rented	1	2