Welcome to

Faith Lutheran

**November 27, 2016**

****

4515 Dobie Road

Okemos MI 48864-2203

517-349-0620

Pastor Ellen Schoepf

prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

**Salvation is Nearer**

A thief, a flood, life suddenly taken: about that future day and hour that will snatch our breath away, no one knows, says Jesus. “Keep awake therefore” (Matt. 24:42). But lying awake anticipating trouble wears down body and soul and can signal post-traumatic stress. What are we to make of these words?

We remember that these words are part of a larger story, where “sleeping” and “waking” evoke dying and rising with Christ, and the end is the victory of God’s love. Whatever shocks the future may hold, the promise is finally joyful.

Today we read the words of Jesus alongside those of Paul. No one knows what future day or hour the Messiah will break in to break apart the ordinary, but we do know what time it is now: the moment to wake from sleep. “For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers” (Rom. 13:11). Imagine: time and space have shifted. Joy is closer than we realize.

We hear these words on this day, the first of a new church year and the “candled seasons” of Advent and Christmas. The colors have changed to blue, shades of the northern hemisphere’s deepening night skies. Though winter is only beginning, “the night is far gone, the day is near” (Rom. 13:12). We see that darkness surrounds us, but dawn is just over the horizon.

In baptism we have been raised with Christ, whom we put on daily like a sheltering garment, an armor of light. We and our companions illuminate the path for one another. We awaken, or keep awake, by living fully in each present moment, clinging to the promises, practicing hope. We resist gloom. We rise and walk together in the light of Christ, drawn by the vision of a peaceful city. Nearer to us now is glory breaking up the night, announcing the birth of the Savior.

**Sunday, November 27, 2016**

1 Advent

First Sunday of Advent

**Introduction to the day**

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today’s readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord’s coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

*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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.*

*Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

Prayer Requests

PRELUDE

*The pre-service music signals the beginning of the worship service. Silence during the*

*pre-service music enables worshipers to prepare for worship through quiet meditation.*

“The King Shall Come,” arr. Anna Laura Page

**Gathering**

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

*The assembly stands*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,*

*as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who comes to wake us from sleep,

who leads us into the light of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord

by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection*

God of all time,

**we confess that we have not prepared**

**for your merciful reign among us.**

**We ignore our neighbors in need**

**and fail in the labor of justice and peace.**

**In your mercy forgive us.**

**Grant us wisdom to welcome your light**

**and to seek the things that will endure**

**until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people,

says your God.

In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven

and all things are made new.

Rejoice in this good news!

**Amen.**

****Gathering Song*#242***

*Test and Music printed under OneLicense.net license A-708005*

**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**



Music printed under OneLicense.net license A -708005

**Candle Lighting Litany**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You call all nations to walk in your light

and to seek your ways of justice and peace,

for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Rouse us from sleep,

that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes.

and welcome him into our hearts and homes,

for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

**Amen**

We light the first advent candle, the candle of hope, as we sing Verse 1 of Hymn 253, “He Came Down.”

****

arrangement printed under OneLicense.net license A-708005

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father 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: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: “Let us walk in that light of that Lord now!”*

A reading from Isaiah.

1The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
  
 2In days to come  
  the mountain of the Lord’s house  
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
  and shall be raised above the hills;  
 all the nations shall stream to it.  
  3Many peoples shall come and say,  
 “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
  to the house of the God of Jacob;  
 that he may teach us his ways  
  and that we may walk in his paths.”  
 For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
  and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
 4He shall judge between the nations,  
  and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
 they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
  and their spears into pruning hooks;  
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
  neither shall they learn war any more.  
  
 5O house of Jacob,  
  come, let us walk  
  in the light of the Lord!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.*

A reading from Romans.

11Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**** Text and music: Jerry Sinclair Text and music © 1972 Manna Music, Inc

Text and music printed under OneLicense.net license A-708005

**Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] 36“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Children’s message**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day #436**

****

****

**Presentation of new members**

**and Holy baptism**

*Candidates for baptism and sponsors gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:*

We present Erika and Everett for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses candidates who*

*are able to answer for themselves:*

Erika, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Everett baptized into Christ?

*Response:* I do.

As you bring Everettto receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,

bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in his hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture him in faith and prayer,

so that he may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made,

and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Everettgrow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Erika and Everett in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support Erika and Everett and pray for themin their new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

**Profession of Faith**

*The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:*

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:*

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:*

I renounce them.

*The assembly stands.*

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

**Thanksgiving at the Font**

*Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving.*

*At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

**Baptism**

Erika, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Everett, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**You belong to Christ,**

**in whom you have been baptized.**

**Alleluia.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized,*

*the minister prays for each:*

Sustain Erika and Everett with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

Erika child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

Everett child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

**Welcome**

*A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:*

Let your light so shine before others

that they may see your good works

and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly.*

*A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized and our newest members to this community of faith.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:**

**join us in giving thanks and praise to God**

**and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*The presiding minister concludes the*

*prayers, and the assembly responds:*

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

**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.*

**Meal**

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

**OFFERING**

Chancel Choir “I Was Glad” (Hallquist)

**Offering Prayer**

Savior of the nations, come.

Make your home here in us.

Feed us with your love,

that our faith shine ever new

and our lives reveal your light.

**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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,

through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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**



**Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,

our Salvation and our Hope,

we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,

you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love

and to heal all the suffering 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 his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share:

strengthen our faith, increase our hope,

and bring to birth the justice and joy 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**

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**

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

Share in the feast of salvation.

*The assembly is seated*

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**communion song**

**congregatinal song #260**

Arrangement printed under OneLicense.net license A-708005

**congregational song #438**

*The assembly stands*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

Strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

**Prayer after Communion**

God for whom we wait,

you come to us

in the broken bread and the cup we share.

Make us ready always

to welcome Christ into our hearts,

and send us forth to be your people in the world,

announcing your coming among us

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you

and scatter the darkness from before your path.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

****

**Sending Song*#439***

Text and Music printed under CCLI license # 720217

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

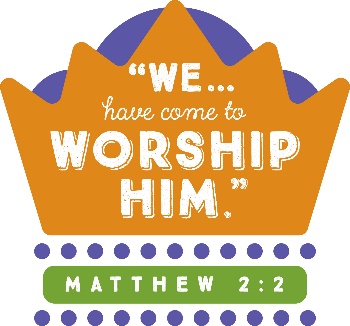
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Wake, Awake for Night is Flying” arr. Paul Manz**

Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000803.New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Welcome to worship as we start preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.



Pastor Ellen Schoepf prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Secretary Katie Love klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

Director of Christian Education Melinda Schultz

Director of Music Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams

November 20th Attendance:130

Serving Faith November 27 December 4

Acolyte Zachary Hereza Clayton Wenzel

Altar Care Brenda Kopf & Kay Showers

Karen Whitmeyer & Brielle Bowers

Communion Assistants Zachary Hereza Clayton Wenzel

Jim Crum Alyssa Magyar

Brenda Kopf John McCracken

Greeters Ken & Karen Whitmyer Dick & Sally Knoll

Lay Assistants Jim Crum Alyssa Magyar

Readers Brenda Kopf John McCracken

Ushers Ken & Karen Whitmyer Dick & Sally Knoll

Nursery Melinda & Lauren Schultz Mark & Jody Marquardt