**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FaithFamily&Friends3

**December 4th, 2016**

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

**DEADLINES**

Sunday worship folder announcements⎯Tuesday of each week

Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

***January Faith Family News newsletter*⎯**

**Please submit by Monday December 19th**

Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Please lift up in prayer this week:

🕆 Members—Max Ambs, Lowell Barricklow, Ellen Milne, Harry Nawrock

and the Barry family.

🕆 Friends and family—

Pat Belonga, Chris Cotter, Lil Jennings, Terrie Becker, Allie, Heather,

Al, Lilly, Sai Eshwar Lingamgunta, Jenn Leitch, Jeanne and Leonard, Tom

Brown, Susan Heft, Pat Hillberg & Family, Dennis Cobler, John Joseph

Lanzetta and Bethany Robison. Please pray for Erika Engel, her brother David

and mother Edwina Engel upon the death of Erika’s brother Jerry.

🕆 Our mission partner congregation⎯Lansing Redeemer Lutheran Church

🕆 Those in military service⎯Jon Schoepf, Lani Yearicks,

Melody and Adam Wright and Joe Galvin.

🕆 Samaritas children who seek adoption— Giovanni, Jessica, LeeAnn and

Valerie. Pray for each to be adopted and for Jesus to be their lifelong friend.

**NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER**

As Jesus calls us to be one, even as he and the Father are one, please include

Pastor Cheryl Johnson and the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church of Barton City, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by. . .

Walter, Brenda, Katy, Austin, and Ciare in celebration of Becca’s 29th birthday.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Weekly Offering 11/27/16**  Year-to-date as of 09/30/2016

General Fund $4805.00 Income $219,713.88

Loose Cash 120.50 Expenses 228,998.75

Loose Checks 5.00 Net Income (-9284.87)

Shirley Jirele Memorial 15.00

Thanksgiving Eve 1431.75

Flowers 70.00

Velma Weil Memorial 250.00

World Hunger 55.00

Youth Spaghetti Dinner 305.00

Chili Dinner 331.00

Grocery Bags 15.00

Education 10.00 Memorial Envelopes available

In the narthex.

Total **$7413.25**

THIS WEEK’S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS



**TODAY Today is the LAST day to order your Poinsettias!! .**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. WORSHIP

Bake Sale Immediately Following worship

11:30 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting

11:30-1pm Sunday Pageant Rehearsal

Monday, December 5th

Tuesday, December 6th

Worship folder announcements deadline

12:00 p.m. Lectionary study in Pastor Ellen’s office

Wednesday, December 7th

7:30 a.m. Men’s Study Group in the Library

9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION

5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

6:00 p.m. T&C

6:30 p.m. Faith Bells

6:30 p.m. Membership Development

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 8th

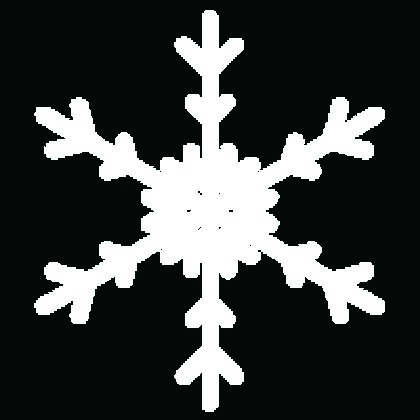
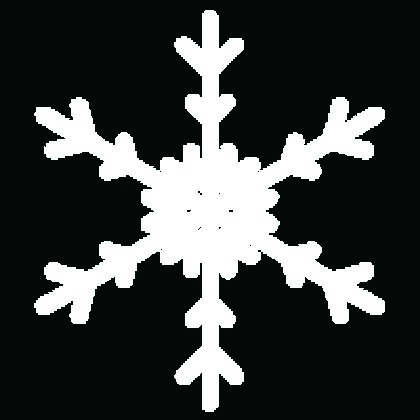
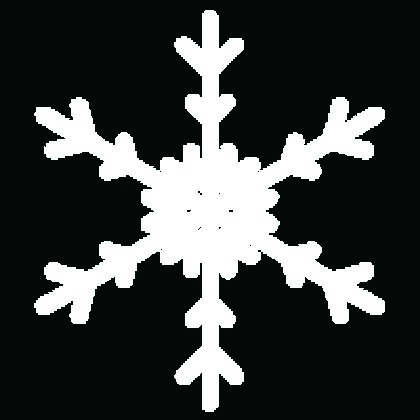
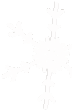
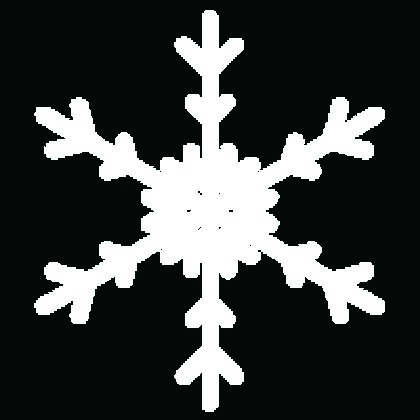
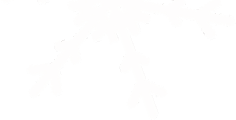
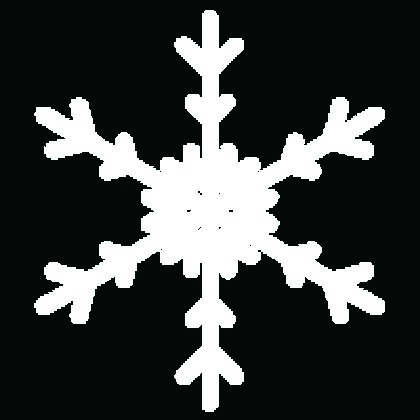
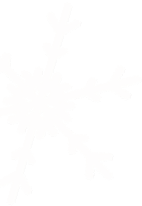
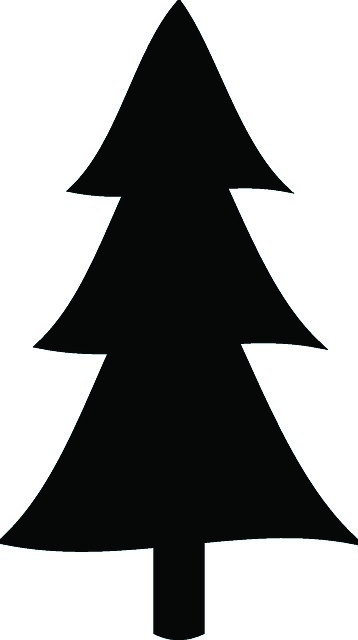
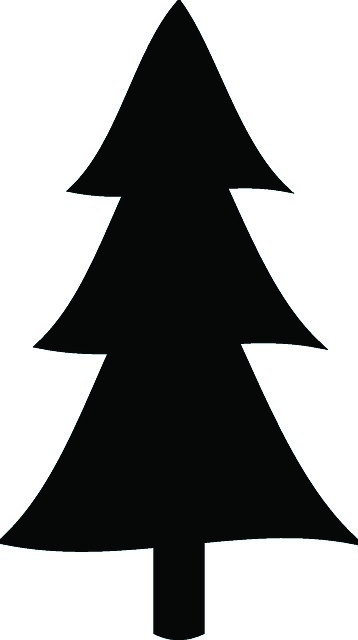
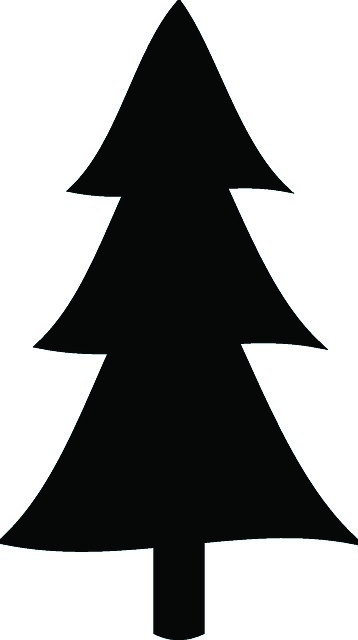
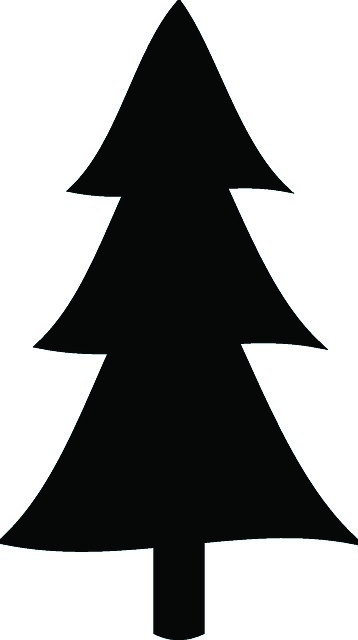
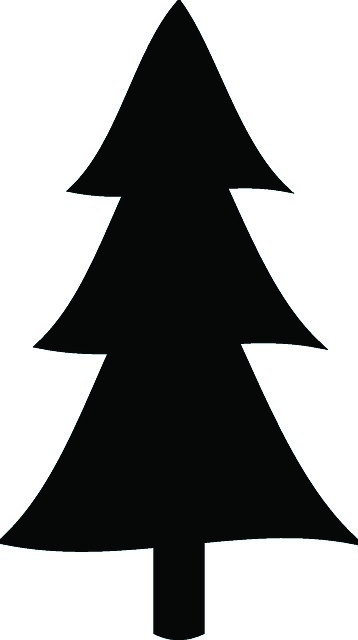
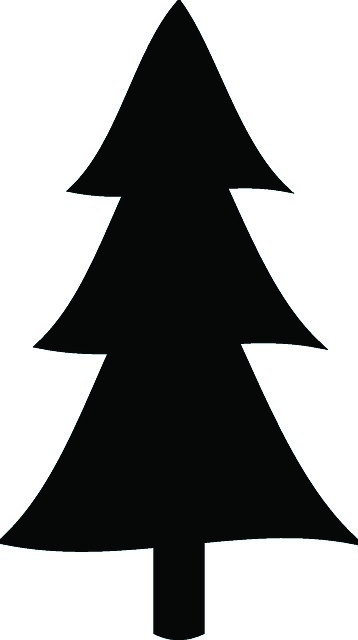
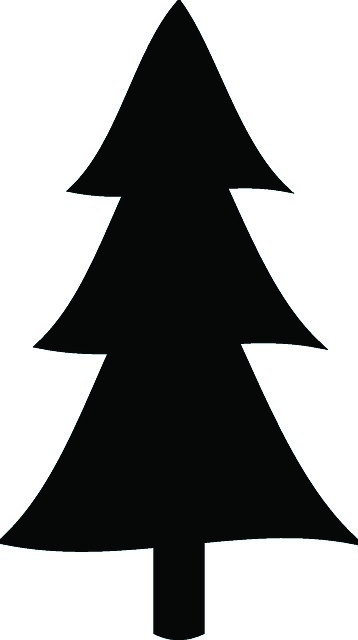
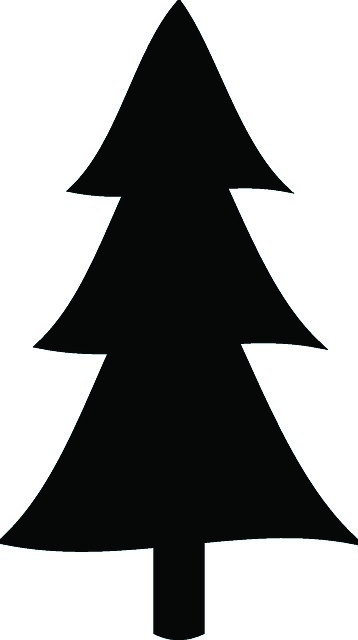
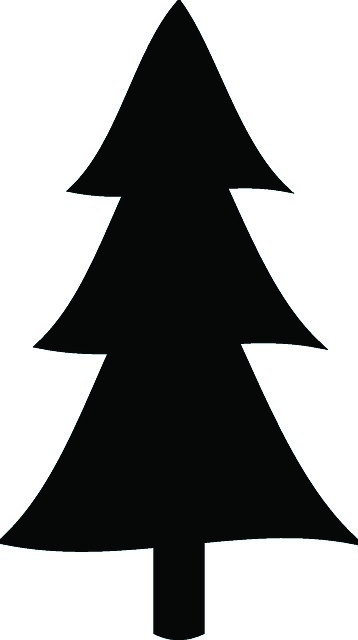
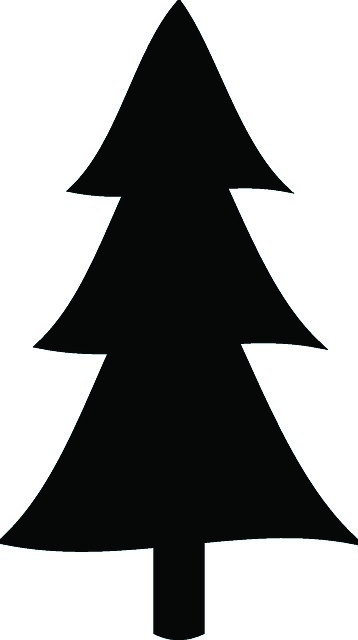
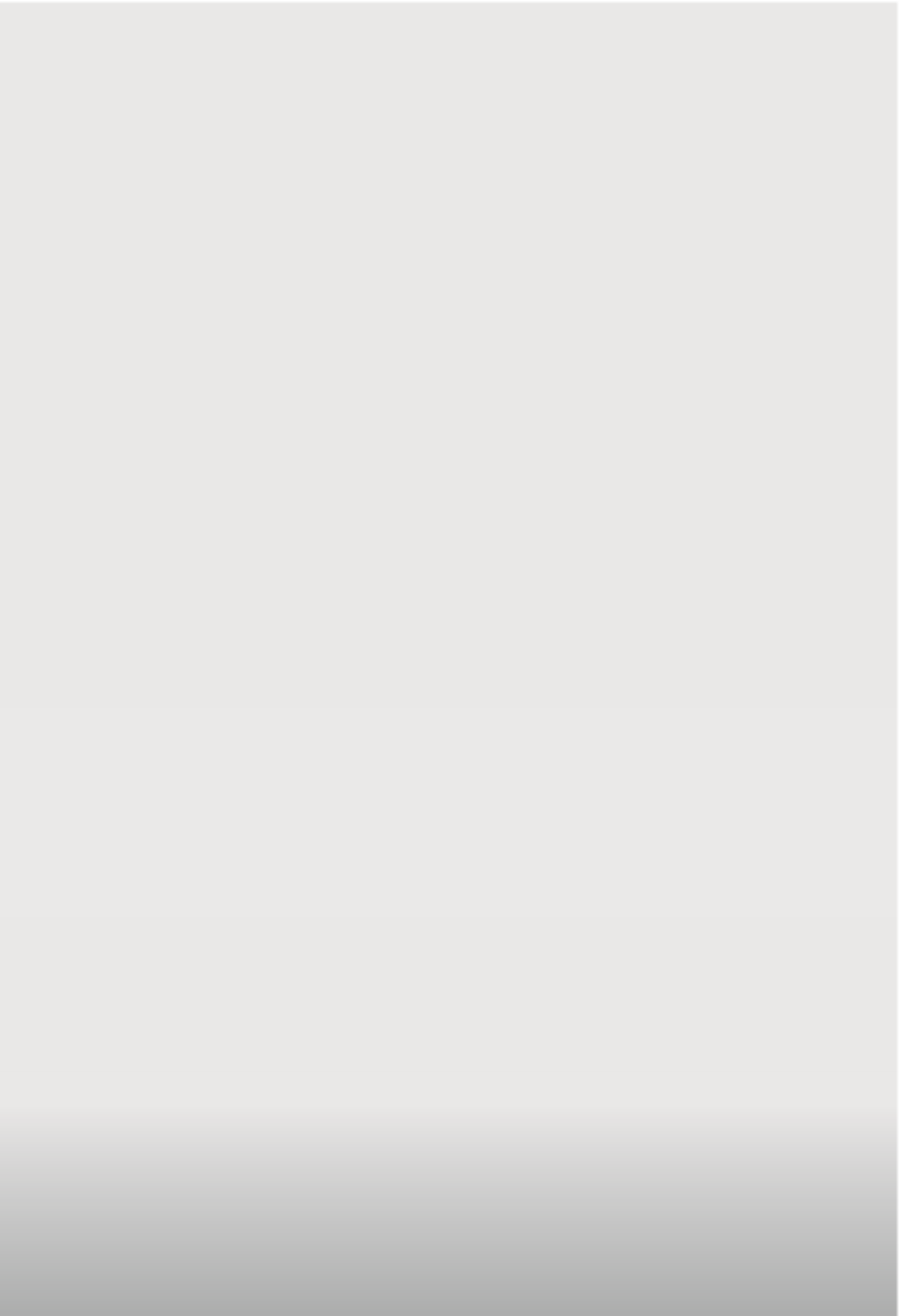
11:30 a.m. Caregivers Meeting

Friday, December 2nd

Saturday, December 3rd

Youth Group to District 5

**Invite your friends and neighbors to Christmas at Faith! Pick up Postcards in the narthex.**



JOIN US FOR

Christmas

AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

Worship at 10:00 am 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM Family Worship Service

10:00 PM Candlelight Worship

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM Lessons & Carols

Thank you to Christy Loewen for creating the postcard!

UPCOMING MEETINGS & STUDIES

***CAREGIVERS SUPPORT Group Meeting***

Join us at 11:30am for a light lunch and discussion. All are Welcome!

Thursday, December 8th: Kathy Mrozinski will be speaking. Kathy is the Marketing Manager for Senior CommUnity Care of Michigan PACE Program. The program is an all-inclusive care for the elderly in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties.

Thursday, January 12th: Angie Cantlon form CareLinc Medical Equipment will speak on how the Durable Medical Equipment World works. There is more offered then just a wheelchair and a walker!

Thursday, February 9th : Michelle Traill – Crosser from Caring Transitions will be speaking about downsizing.

**Bridging the Great Divide – An Evening of Conversation**

**December 12, 7:00pm**

This past presidential election has created division among people in our own community and in the lives of families within our faith community. In an effort to help create healing of that divide, enable people to listen to each other and converse with each other in a safe, hospitable manner, we are holding and evening of conversation at church on Monday, December 12, at 7:00 PM. When we stand at the foot of the cross, we stand on common ground. That is Christian community. When we gather at the foot of the cross we find a way to accept people who have experienced what theologian, Walter Brueggemann, calls “an alternative obedience”……a different lived-experience from our own in regard to matters of faith and obedience. Consider joining us for this evening of conversation.

**Annual Meeting- Sunday, January 22nd**

This year’s annual meeting will take place Sunday, January 22nd following the worship service. Committee annual reports are due to the church office by Monday, January 9th.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & STUDIES

**Water In Tanzania** - Tula Ngasala is one of our members and she is working on her Environmental Engineering degree at MSU.  During this time, she has also been working on developing water projects in her home country of Tanzania.  Working with Engineers Without Borders and WEES (another non-profit organization), she was able to construct a much needed well at her father's home congregation in Tanzania.  This well serves people in the surrounding community.  Now she is developing and working on a water project in another part of her home country.  On **Sunday, January 8**, during the morning worship service, Tula will be sharing information about these water projects and the way her faith informs her work.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

**Holiday Cookie Exchange\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

****

The Membership Development Committee will host a **Holiday Cookie Exchange** on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 pm. Please sign up to join us by December 4th on the message board and pick up a copy of the guidelines. Join us for yummy treats, fellowship and take home an assortment of delicious cookies to share with your holiday guests!

Holiday attire is encouraged and door prizes will be given!

**Samaritas Operation GOOD CHEER!!\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Thank you for your amazing generosity!! All of the children’s names were selected! Please drop off your gifts today or tomorrow. They will be picked up this week.***

***Thank you!!!***



**Poinsettia Order**

Today is the last day to order your Poinsettias! Order forms are available in the narthex. Please drop in the church office or in Katie Love’s mailbox.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED CONT.



**Stuff the Stocking Food Drive**

**Caring Committee News**

The Faith Lutheran Caring Committee was asked by the Meridian Township Human Services Director if we could provide support to families during the Christmas/Winter school break. There is a need for food items during this two week break from school because children are at home during this time and do not get their breakfasts and/or lunches at school. Please look in the narthex for the grocery cart to appear and be ready to collect the donations for food items needed.

Needed Items…

Peanut butter, jelly, snack bars, pop tarts, muffin mix, pancake mix, syrup, canned fruits, boxed cereals, oatmeal, macaroni & cheese, boxed meals-example hamburger helper, soup, boxed crackers, rice, pasta and spaghetti sauce.

With your cash donations we will purchase one dozen eggs, one gallon of milk and a loaf of bread to be included with the food donations.

Thank you, Faith Family, for helping those in the community that have a need. Food collection for this project begin now and our delivery date will be Sunday, December 18.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED CONT.

**Help Decorate the Sharing Tree**

**Not with Ornaments and Tinsel....**

**.....but with baby items!!!**

Visit the Sharing Tree in the coffee fellowship area and select a paper “ornament” or two. On each ornament a specific layette item is indicated.  Take the ornament home, so it can be a reminder of what to purchase. *(Only new baby items, please.)*  Bring your unwrapped, layette items and tuck them into the Sharing Tree branches.  Your gifts will be given to Shared Pregnancy of Lansing, an organization that offers emotional and spiritual support to new moms.

****

**GREEN TEAM TIP OF THE MONTH**

Green Team tips for the holiday season:

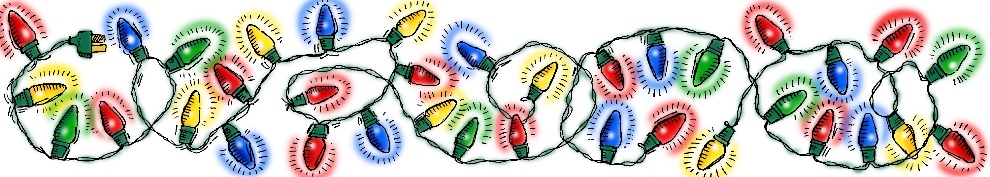
Recycle or reuse your wrapping paper & cardboard boxes

Switch older Christmas lights to LED's

Look for environmentally-friendly and sustainable Christmas gifts

Take your own mug when going to your favorite coffee shop

Recycle your live trees- look for free township drop off locations

Buy our Faith reusable grocery bags to use for all your Christmas shopping!

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Fundraising Totals – So Far!**

Your generous support has enabled the Youth to earn the following money for the 2018 Gathering and their Mission Work:

Reusable Grocery Bags - $139.00

Chili Chowdown - $285.77

Spaghetti Lunch - $210.32

**Candy Needed**  
Parish Education is in need of the following candies for gifts to the children at Christmas time. Individually wrapped little packages of: Candy Canes, Gold Wrapped Rolo, Dove, Starlight mint, Milky Way, Life Saver, Hershey Hugs, and Almond Joy. Thank you for all of your support.

**Youth Group Outing**On December 10th the Youth (grades 9-12) will be going to District 5 from 5:00-10:00pm. The cost is $6.50 for jumping and then money for pizza at Old Chicago. Please let Melinda know if you will be attending.

**Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule – “Christmas in a Box”**

**TODAY** we will have a dress rehearsal for everyone after church on December 4th from 11:30-1:00pm. We will feed the children and then rehearse. The pageant is Sunday, December 11th during the service. Hope to see everyone's family for our celebration of the birth of Jesus!

**Bake Sale**The Youth Group will be having a Bake Sale immediately following the Christmas Pageant on December 11th. Please come and check out our many goodies for sale!

**Thrivent Action Teams are needed!!!**  
Please apply to help your youth group in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Here are some suggestions for your Thrivent Action Teams: March Madness Meal and Quiche Meal, to name a few. Use this link to get started: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/> Please talk to Melinda if you have any questions.

**You Are Needed!!!**

I am in need of help in several different ways:

1. **DONATIONS NEEDED** – While you are out shopping and preparing for this Christmas season, please keep our auction in your mind. Ask your vendors and those people who you get services from for a donation to our auction. It only takes a quick ask, and many are happy to oblige as it also brings in new customers. Things you can ask for or may have access to:

Sports tickets, haircuts, massages, dry cleaners, vacation home, artwork, jewelry, oil changes, pet grooming, restaurant gift cards, sports memorabilia, landscaping, house cleaning, etc.

1. I need a Co-Chair for the auction which will take place on January 27th. We will be planning the dinner and obtaining the auction items with the help of the congregation.

**January 27, 2017 – 6:00-9:00pm**

The Youth, with the assistance of the Music Program, will be hosting a fun evening which will include entertainment, dinner, and multiple opportunities to win some great items. Please join us for this special event. Tickets will go on sale in January.

**Important Dates in December**4th - All Grades Pageant Rehearsal, 11:30-1:00, Lunch will be served.  
10th - Youth Group – District 5, meet at church at 5:00pm, go jumping and then to dinner at Old Chicago, $6.50 plus money for food.

11th - Christmas Pageant, 10:00am  
11th - Youth Group Bake Sale – Immediately following service.   
14th - Trinity & Confirmation Fun Night, bring White Elephant present.

**St. Olaf Christmas Concert - View Live Stream THIS SUNDAY, 12.4**

St. Olaf College has received a special donation to offer the live video stream of their concert free to all ELCA congregations on December 4 at 3:00 PM (CST).  This generous gift has been given to the ELCA in an effort to share the joy of the Christmas season together.  Enjoy the concert by visiting www.stolafchristmas.com and entering ELCACHRISTMAS during checkout.





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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Podcasts

ITUNES

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/your-faith-journey/id1085174663?mt=2>

STITCHER

<http://www.stitcher.com/podcast/dad-spotlight/your-faith-journey?refid=stpr>

You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship

Sermons

<http://faithlutheranokemos.org/sermons/>

Special music

<http://faithlutheranokemos.org/category/special-music/>