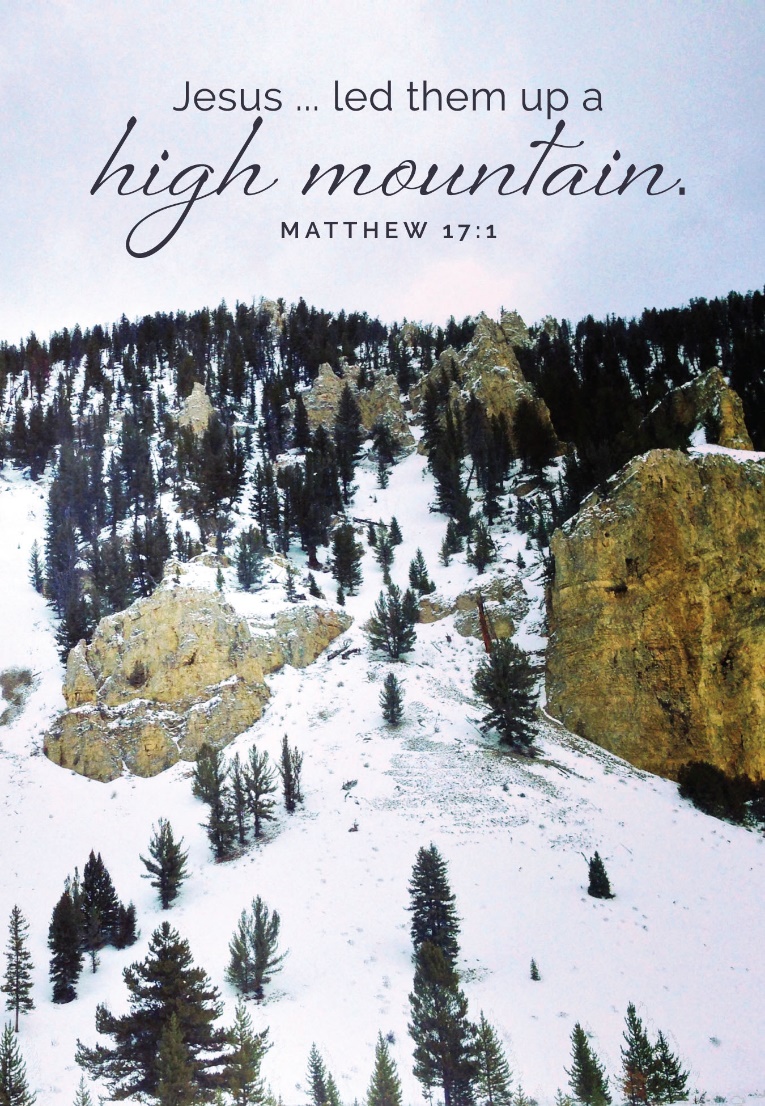
Welcome to

Faith Lutheran

**February 26, 2017**

****

4515 Dobie Road

Okemos MI 48864-2203

517-349-0620

Pastor Ellen Schoepf

prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

**February 26, 2017**

**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

**Transforming Journey**

Only a week before today’s gospel reading begins, Jesus tells his disciples that he must suffer, die, and be raised. Peter is shocked that Jesus would even think something like that. He rebukes Jesus: “God forbid it, Lord!” Jesus responds to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things” (Matt. 16:22-23).

Six days later, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain where they encounter God’s voice and Jesus transfigured with God’s glory. Peter moves from being a stumbling block one week to a witness of Jesus’ transfiguration the next. Jesus doesn’t write Peter off when he doesn’t understand the depth of Jesus’ mission. Instead, Jesus gives Peter an experience of moving from denier to witness—from Good Friday to Easter before it actually happens!

Later in Matthew’s gospel, after Jesus is arrested, Peter three times denies that he even knows Jesus (Matt. 26:69-75). But Jesus doesn’t write Peter off. After his resurrection, Jesus will meet Peter and the other disciples in Galilee to entrust his ministry to them.

Jesus practices what he preaches—forgiveness. Jesus embodies what he preaches as he takes our sin upon himself on the cross in order to free us and raise us up. He is God’s beloved Son. We are to listen to him because he is God’s “I love you” in the flesh.

Jesus doesn’t write you, or anyone else, off either. Jesus still embodies forgiveness in bread, wine, and the words, “Given and shed for you.” As Jesus took Peter from the Good Friday of his sin to the mountaintop of Easter forgiveness, may Jesus take you from death to life in holy communion today.

**Sunday, February 26, 2017**

Transfiguration of Our Lord / Last Sunday after Epiphany

**Introduction to the day**

Today’s festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On the mount of transfiguration Jesus is revealed as God’s beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem.   
  
We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

*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**

Faith Bells “Thy Word” (arr. Bettcher)

*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.*

**Gathering**

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

**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 stretches out the heavens,

who sends light to the nations,

who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin

in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned from your way**

**to follow our own ways.**

**Forgive us for the times**

**we have spoken or acted too quickly;**

**we have not spoken or acted at all;**

**we have hurt those closest to us;**

**we have hurt those we have yet to know;**

**we have thought more about ourselves than others;**

**we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.**

**Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,**

**so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.

Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.

God’s love never runs out.

God never tires of calling us beloved children.

Hear God say to you now:

Your sins are forgiven,

for the sake of ☩ Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song**

***Alleluia, Song of Gladness ELW #318***

**Greeting**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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.**

**Canticle of Praise**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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: Exodus 24:12-18**

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

A reading from Exodus.

12The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” 13So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”  
  15Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. 17Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

*At the transfiguration, God’s voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God’s voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

A reading from 2 Peter.

16For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” 18We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.  
  19So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9**

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to his disciples in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 5While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” 6When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” 8And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.  
  9As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Children’s message**

**Sermon**

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**Hymn of the Day**

****

Text and music printed under onelicense.net license #A-708005

**Creed**

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

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God’s justice, peace, and healing.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*The presiding minister concludes the*

*prayers, and the assembly responds:*

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Meal**

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

**offering**

Make Me a Channel of Thy Peace (Arr. Hayes)

**offering response**

****

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

**Offering Prayer**

Merciful God,

receive the gifts we bring,

ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

Through this meal unite us as your body,

shining with the light of your justice and mercy;

for the sake of him who gave himself for us,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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;

who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,

that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.

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**

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance 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**

We who are many are one body,

for we all partake of the one bread.

Come. Be filled with light and life.

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**communion song** **

**congregational song*Beautiful Savior ELW #838***

**congregational song**

***How Good, Lord, to Be Here! ELW #315***

*The assembly stands*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

Strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

**Prayer after Communion**

O Morning Star, fair and bright,

you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.

You are our dearest treasure.

Go with us now—

today, tomorrow, every day—

that we tell the story of your never-ending love

and sing your praise both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

The God of glory dwell in you richly,

name you beloved,

and shine brightly on your path;

and the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**sending song**

***Shine, Jesus Shine ELW #671***

**Dismissal**

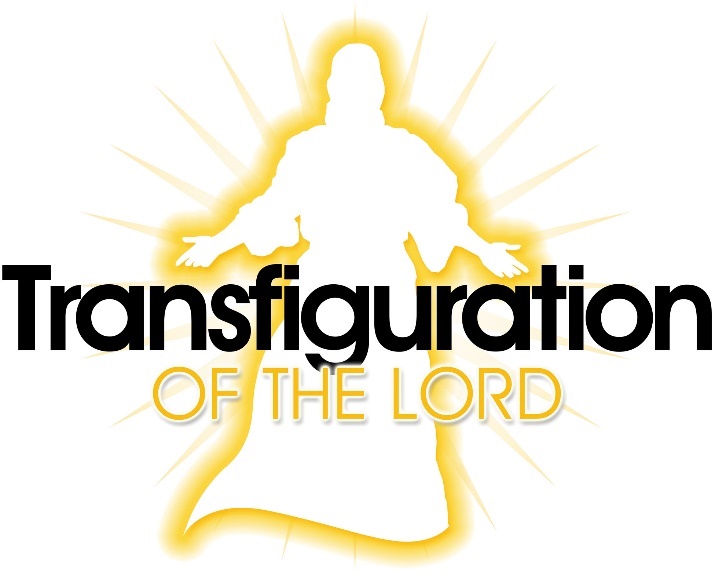
Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

“Shine Jesus Shine" Jerry Ray

Copyright © 2017 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! In the words of the psalmist, let us “exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool” (Psalm 99:5, NIV).

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

February 19, 2017 Attendance: 93

Serving Faith February 26 March 5

Acolyte Clayton Wenzel Zachary Hereza

Altar Care Elaine Harrison & Peggy Crum

Michelle Ransom & Pam Williams

Communion Assistants Clayton Wenzel Zachary Hereza

Rich Weingartner Alyssa Magyar

Warren Heilman Gus Lusis

Greeters Chris & Jean Lewis Mike Eschelbach

Lay Assistants Rich Weingartner Alyssa Magyar

Readers Warren Heilman Gus Lusis

Ushers Jon & Elaine Harrison Bill & Pam Williams

Nursery Connie Nelson Jennifer Coe

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FaithFamily&Friends3

**February 26, 2017**

*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

***April Faith Family News newsletter*⎯**

**Please submit by Monday April 20**

Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Please lift up in prayer this week:

🕆 Members—Mildred Thorn, Max Ambs, Lowell Barricklow, Ellen Milne,

Harry Nawrock, Harold Sollenberger and Ken Whitmyer.

🕆 Friends and family—

Pat Belonga, Todd Barriklow, Chris Cotter, 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, Bethany Robison, and the White family. Please keep Rich

Weingartners mother, Sally Weingartner and his sister Lani Yearicks in your

prayers.

🕆 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 Terry Williamson and the congregation of Christ United Lutheran Church of DeWitt, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Weekly Offering 02/12/17**  Year-to-date as of 01/31/2017

Loose Cash $ 85.00 Income $28,328.54

Loose Checks $ 5.00 Expenses $24,028.33

Technology Fund $ 800.00 Net Income **4,300.21**

World Hunger $ 50.00

Tanzania Water Project $ 462.00

General Fund $ 2644.00

Subtotal $ 4046.00

Simply Giving $ 2826.00

Total **$ 6872.00**

**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS ­­­­**

Today’s altar flowers are given to the glory of God by…

Vase 1 & 2: the Belonga Family in memory of Beth’s mom, Lillian Jennings, in celebration of what would have been her 90th birthday.

THIS WEEK’S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

9:00 a.m. Adult & Children’s Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Mutual Ministry Listening Post in the Library.

Monday, February 27th

2:00 p.m. Women’s Study

7:00 p.m. Green Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 28th

Worship folder announcements deadline

Noon: Study in Pastor Ellen’s office

5:30-7p.m. Shrove Pancake Supper

6:30 p.m. Evangelism and Outreach Meeting

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir \*\*Note Date Change\*\*

Wednesday, March 1st

Ash Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Men’s Study

9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION

Noon: Worship Service

Following… Soup and Bread Lunch

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

\*\*Note: No Chancel Choir, Joyful Noise, T&C or Bells.

Thursday, March 2nd

Note\*\* Thursday Evening services will resume after Easter.

Friday, March 3rd

Saturday, March 4th

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Director of Children’s Education**

Melinda Schultz has informed us that she wishes to resign from her position as Christian Education/Youth Director. She has decided her last day will be June 1 of this year. We are deeply grateful for all the fine work she has done while serving in this position of ministry in the church. As Human Resources works to fill this position, we are accepting all applications, now through March 12. If you would like to apply for this position, please submit a letter of interest along with references to Pastor Ellen. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Ellen.

Mutual Ministry

We will be having two Listening Posts within the next few weeks. Sunday, February 26th and Sunday, March 12th in the Library following the worship service.

\*\*The Mutual Ministry Committee was created in March 2015. This committee was formerly called the Pastoral Support Committee. At the April 2015 Quarterly Meeting, the committee members were announced to the congregation. As noted in the By-Laws (approved by the congregation in November 2015), the Mutual Ministry Committee Chairperson shall be elected by the congregation to a two-year term in even-numbered years. The committee consists of 5 members, including 1 chairperson, and 1-2 come off each year. The description of the committee is to advise the pastor about the conditions within the congregational family and to hear pastoral concerns.\*\*

WAYS TO HELP

****

**EASTER BASKET FOOD DRIVE**

My children, we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring.

1 John 3:18

The Caring Committee is sponsoring the annual Easter Basket Food Drive. 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 Peanut Butter

Muffin Mix Boxed Desserts

Juice Easter Candy

Boxed Potatoes Easter Egg Coloring Kits

Tuna Mac & Cheese

Canned Fruits and Vegetables

Cash donations help with the purchase of the hams, eggs, and milk for the families. **The delivery date is Sunday, APRIL 9**. Please see the sign-up sheet on the information board in the narthex.

Thank you for your support, care for others and prayers as we do HIS work in the community.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & STUDIES

**Adult Sunday School** Going on NOW

Please join us at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Library as we will be studying Walter Brueggemann’s book “Embracing the Prophets”

Walter, arguably America’s leading Old Testament scholar and theologian, takes us on a wild ride through the poetic prophecy of Hebrew Scripture, identifying cultural contexts, putting a framework to Israel’s history, and, most significantly -and at times challengingly! - drawing connections between Israel’s sociological, economic and spiritual status and that of America today.

**CAREGIVERS SUPPORT Group Meeting**

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

Thursday, March 9th: Mike Harrison, Life & Business Coach. From Spectator to Spectacular: Living the Life YOU Want.

Thursday, April 13th: Allie Phillips – Self Empowerment Coach and master energy therapist. The place where energy laws and healing come together for people and pets.

**Stay Connected!**

Want to know what is happening at Faith Lutheran? Stay connected online:

Website - [faithlutheranokemos.org](http://faithlutheranokemos.org/)

Facebook - [facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](http://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

**Your Faith Journey Podcast**

* iOS - <http://bit.ly/faithios>
* Android - <http://bit.ly/faithandroid>

You also will find the audio available on the Faith Lutheran Website under worship:

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

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

**LENT BEGINS – Wednesday, March 1**

Join us for **Ash Wednesday Worship on March 1** as we again begin our Lenten journey to the cross.

* Noon Worship Service followed by a soup luncheon
* 7:00 PM Worship Service

Weekly Lenten Services 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, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, our midweek Lenten series will be built around Luther's Small Catechism.  Luther designed the Small Catechism as a teaching tool of the faith.  Please plan to join us every Wednesday during Lent for these midweek services.

Join us as we make this journey together.

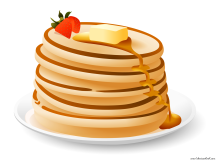
***An Invitation to members and friends of Sixty Plus or Minus…***

***Join us for mid-day lunch on Ash Wednesday, March1, 2017***

In keeping with our tradition, members of Sixty Plus or Minus are sponsoring a soup and bread lunch following the Ash Wednesday service scheduled for 12 noon on Wednesday, March 1. This mid-day worship service offers to those who do not drive after dark the opportunity to share in this beginning of six weeks of preparation and self-examination before we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter. Join us, and we encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors!

***Looking Ahead:*** We plan to gather on our usual third Wednesday in April, April 19. Save the date!

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 28th, 5:30pm - 7:00pm, Items Needed**The Youth would appreciate any donations of the following items for the upcoming dinner next month: (2) gallon milk, (2) gallons chocolate milk, (1) gallon orange juice, and (12) turkey sausage links. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex by the Youth Bulletin Board. We appreciate your help and look forward to serving you that evening.

**Scout Sunday, March 5th**Come one, come all Scouts for Scout Sunday, March 5th. We invite all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Daisies, Brownies, Girl Scouts, and Alumni scouts to participate in our church service. We also invite your dens and troops to visit our church on this special day to honor all of our scouts.

**Thrivent Action Teams are needed again!!!**  
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, Quiche Meal, or Faith Vacation Bible School. Use this link to get started: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/> Please see Melinda to get specific details or if you have any questions.

**Important Dates in February and March**   
28th - Shrove Supper, 5:30-7:00pm  
1st - NO TRINITY OR CONFIRMATION – ASH WEDNESDAY  
5TH - Scout Sunday  
5th - **Confirmation Review, 1:00-4:00pm**  
5th - Children sing during service.  
19th - March Madness Meal, 11:30-1:00pm  
24th-26th Confirmation Retreat, 5:00pm-6:00pm



**COMMUNITY FORUM**

WHAT: Community Forum – Race and the School to Prison Pipeline.

WHEN: Thursday evening, March 30, from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

WHERE: Faith Lutheran Church

4515 Dobie Rd.

Okemos, MI

Discussion panel participants include:

The Honorable Donald L. Allen, Jr. – Chief Judge, 55th Judicial Court

Nathaniel Lake, Jr – with Turning Point of Lansing

Moderator – Milton Scales

As we prepare for the Community Forum, Faith Lutheran Church is also sponsoring a showing of the acclaimed documentary:

13th

on Thursday evening, March 23, at 7:00 PM

13th is a 2016 American documentary by director Ava DuVernay. Centered on race in the United States criminal justice system, the film is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which outlawed slavery. DuVernay's documentary opens with the idea that 25 percent of the people in the world who are incarcerated are incarcerated in the U.S. and argues that slavery is being effectively perpetuated in the U.S. through mass incarceration. The showing of this film will also take place at Faith Lutheran Church. All are welcome to attend.

**SYNOD SPONSORED EVENTS**

**Synod Sponsored Event**

On Saturday, March 25, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod is hosting an event here at Faith Lutheran Church. The event is entitled **"Why Are Lutherans Political?" A Day of Conversation with Dr. James M. Childs, Jr.**

In our Nation today, the relationship between faith and politics is a highly-charged topic of discussion. Dr. James Childs, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics ad Trinity Lutheran Seminary, will guide us in exploration of this topic through presentations and conversation. This event will be held Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9:30am to 3:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos. All are welcome!  
You may register for this event by contacting Ann at the Synod Office (321-5066). Lunch will be provided for a modest fee.

Mark Your Calendars