

# Welcome to Faith Lutheran

October 1, 2017



Pastor Ellen Schoepf  
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4515 Dobie Road  
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517-349-0620



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- 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
- 



## Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26)  
We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God's love and grace to be our help and guide.

### Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

### Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

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>

## Word Games

We have all experienced the sting of broken promises, the pain of unfulfilled commitments, and the failure of human words to reassure us. We know just how cheap talk can be in the face of our hardest challenges. Today's gospel revolves around the fickleness of words and labels. When some community leaders try to catch Jesus in a malicious and dishonest verbal trap, he seizes the opportunity to point to the gracious word of God that cuts through such word games with a power that is realized in action.

God makes promises with words that are not cheap but costly, bought with the sacrifice of God's only Son. In baptism, the words of God's commitment to us are placed over all who are baptized into Christ's death and raised with him to a new and eternal identity. In the Lord's supper, we receive not just Christ's words of reassurance but his very body and blood. In worship, God calls us to use our voices to speak God's words of promise to one another and to use our gifts and abilities to serve God in acting on those promises for one another.

When we encounter others who are having a hard time or need our help, it can be easy to give them words of reassurance. Yet Christ calls us to participate in the power of a word that is realized in action, to look even for some small way to demonstrate our care and concern for others—spending extra time with them, helping with a meal or task, or paying an expense for them. As you gather around the table with your sisters and brothers, receive the God who sent the Word in the flesh to save you, and ponder how God is sending you in the flesh to help those around you.

**Sunday, October 1, 2017**  
17th Sunday after Pentecost

**Introduction to the day**

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

*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**

“Lord Whose Love in Humble Service”

arr. Janet Linker

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## GATHERING

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

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,  
the one who fashions us,  
the one who heals us,  
the one who reforms us again and again.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.  
Source of all life,

**we confess that we have not allowed  
your grace to set us free.  
We fear that we are not good enough.  
We hear your word of love freely given to us,  
yet we expect others to earn it.  
We turn the church inward,  
rather than moving it outward.  
Forgive us. Stir us.  
Reform us to be a church powered by love,  
willing to speak for what is right,  
act for what is just,  
and seek the healing of your whole creation.  
Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us  
and to empower our lives in the world.  
Our sins are forgiven,  
✠ God's love is unconditional,  
and we are raised up as God's people  
who will always be made new,  
in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*God Is Here!*

***ELW #526***

## 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.**

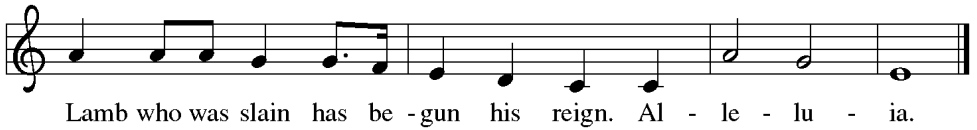
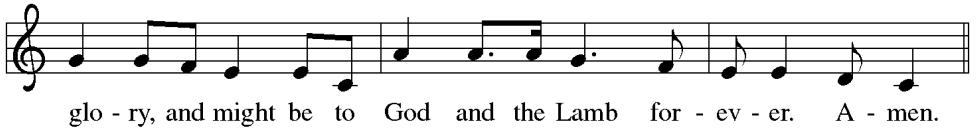
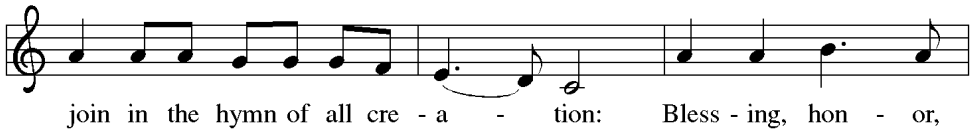
## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the  
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be  
peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and  
*Refrain*  
hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of  
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-  
le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

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## WORD

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*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ’s selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*



A reading from Philippians.

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,  
<sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### At the Name of Jesus



At the name of Je - sus, at the name of Je - sus.



1 Ev-'ry knee shall bow in the heav-ens and earth, and ev-'ry  
2 Ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je-sus Christ . . is Lord, . . . to the



tongue con-fess that Je - sus is Lord, he is Lord!  
glo-ry of God, to the glo - ry of God the . . Fa - ther.

Text: Philippians 2:10–11, adapt. Richard Webb  
Music: AT THE NAME, Richard Webb

## GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or

was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

***ELW #712***

## **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**

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.  
**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.*

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## MEAL

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

## OFFERING

"Jesus, Clear the Temple"

(Choplin)

Chancel Choir

## Jesus, Clear the Temple

Jesus, clear the temple; come and make it clean and bare.  
Purge the needless clutter, make this place a house of prayer.  
Cast out all distractions that would take our eyes from You.  
Jesus, clear the temple; make our worship true.

Jesus, clear the temple; chase away our prayerless pride.  
Strip away pretenses, places where our sin can hide.  
Scour every corner where temptation draws us in  
Jesus, clear the temple; make us clean again.

Drive out self-ambition, cast out the petty things.  
Break down the divisions and the conflict that they bring.  
Overturn the tables of our selfishness and greed.  
Break our hearts to minister to those in need.

Jesus, clear the temple; let your Spirit fill this place.  
Immerse us in Your power, transform us by Your wondrous grace.  
Let this place be sacred, where your healing may be found.  
Jesus, clear the temple; make this holy ground.

## OFFERING RESPONSE

### Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

The musical score is written on six staves of a single treble clef in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me."

Music: Liturgy of Joy, James M. Capers, b. 1948 Music ©Augsburg Fortress  
Music printed under OneLicense.com license #A-708005

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of life,  
you give us these gifts of the earth,  
these resources of our life and our labor.  
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,  
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of  
everlasting life.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the 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 given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body 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.**

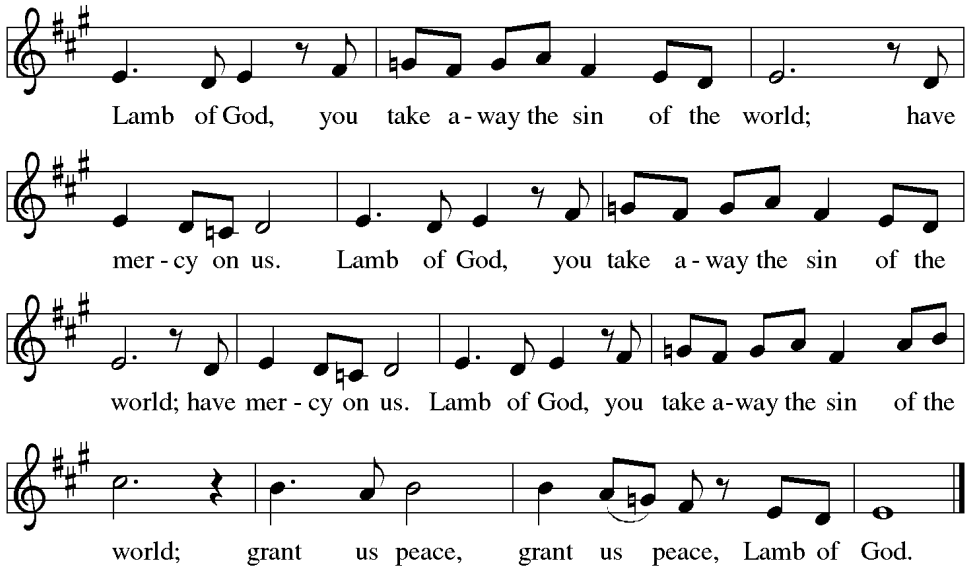
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
and make us one with you.

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

***ELW #818***

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*I Come with Joy*

***ELW #482***

*The assembly stands*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and compassionate God,  
in bread and wine you give us gifts  
that form us to be humble and courageous.  
May your words come to life  
in our serving and in our witness,  
that we might speak a living voice  
of healing and justice to all the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

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

### **BLESSING**

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;  
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;  
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:  
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG**

*Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun*

*ELW #557*

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Sound the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

“Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow”     arr. Michael Burkhardt

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“O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you,  
I will praise your name; for you have done  
wonderful things” (Isaiah 25:1, NRSV).

Pastor	Ellen Schoepf	<a href="mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org">prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org</a>
Secretary	Katie Love	<a href="mailto:kllove@faithlutheranokemos.org">kllove@faithlutheranokemos.org</a>
Director of Christian Education		Katie Love
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

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September 17, 2017 Attendance: 90

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Serving Faith	October 1	October 8
Acolyte	Owen Kadrofske	
Altar Care	Rich Weingartner & Melinda Schultz	
Communion Assistants	Owen Kadrofske	Austin Jones
	Kim O'Brien	Walter Kopf
	Brenda Kopf	Gus Lulis
Greeters	Brian & Michelle Ransom	Harold Sollenberger
Lay Assistants	Kim O'Brien	Walter Kopf
Readers	Brenda Kopf	Gus Lulis
Ushers	Jon & Elaine Harrison	Hirt Family
Nursery	Jennifer Coe	Heidi Bowers

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Faith Family & Friends

October 1, 2017

Log onto Faith's website [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org) 24/7 for updates

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### DEADLINES

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Sunday worship folder announcements—Tuesday of each week  
Submit to Katie at [klove@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org)

*November Faith Family News newsletter—*

**Please submit by Monday, October 23**

Submit to Katie at [klove@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org)

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### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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Please lift up in prayer this week:

- † Members—Max Ambs, Lowell Barricklow, Ellen Milne, and Harry Nawrock
- † Friends and family—  
Harriet, Pat Belonga, Todd Barricklow, Greg Beckwith, Carol Coyer, Kay Coker, Chris Cotter, Terrie Becker, Allyson, Heather, Erin, Al, Sai, Jeanne Hicks, Eshwar Lingamgunta, Robert Bordt, Jenn Leitch, Brian Johnson, Meredith, Jeanne and Leonard, Tammy Heilman, Susan Heft, John Joseph Lanzetta, Johnathon Manitta family, Loretta Milne, Bethany Robison, Jean Smith, Scott Seeley, “Little Zee” (3 yr. old daughter of a friend of Brenda Kopf’s), Virginia Tashner, Max Whitmyer and the White family. Please keep Rich Weingartner’s 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.
- † Samaritan children who seek adoption. Pray for each to be adopted and for Jesus to be their lifelong friends

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### NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

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As Jesus calls us to be one, even as he and the Father are one, please include Pastor Matt Deames and the congregation of Mamrelund Lutheran Church of Kent City, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

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**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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<b>Weekly Offering</b>	<b>09/24/17</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of 08/31/2017</b>	
Loose Cash	\$ 96.00	Income	\$183,883
Loose Checks	\$ 30.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$199,882</u>
Capital Repairs	\$ 875.00	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$15,999</b>
Youth: National Gath.	\$ 150.00		
Falling Upward Study	\$ 12.00		
Vision 2020	\$ 113.00		
Music	\$ 300.00		
World Hunger	\$ 5.00		
General Fund	<u>\$ 1829.00</u>		
Subtotal	\$ 3410.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3410.00</b>		

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**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

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Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Faith Lutheran Church.

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**THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS**

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Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Beer & Hymns at Williamston Pub & Grill

Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 9:30 a.m. Ingham County Play Group

Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Noon: Study in Pastor Ellen's Office: All are Welcome

Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Study
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritas ACTION
- 5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise
- 5:45 p.m. Meal is Served: Provided by the Faith Bells
- 6:30 p.m. Faith Bells
- 6:30 p.m. Trinity & Confirmation
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 p.m. A Community Forum to Discuss Addiction

Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



## First Communion Classes

This year we will be offering two opportunities for children to participate in 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Classes. The first opportunity will take place this October with classes held on two Sundays following worship. For these children, their first communion will be during worship on Sunday, November 5.

The second opportunity will be in January with a series of four consecutive classes on Wednesday evenings, beginning January 10 at 6:30 PM. First communion in worship will then be on Sunday, February 4.

If your child is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade or older and has not participated in classes, we are inviting you and your child to come to one of these offerings. The classes are designed in such a way that parents participate in the training with their child.

Please let Pastor Ellen know if you wish to have your child participate in one of these class offerings.



Join us for  
**Beer & Hymns**  
**TONIGHT**  
Upstairs at  
**Williamston Pub & Grill**  
**5:30 PM**

## **BREAD FOR THE WORLD SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 15**

Bread for the World Bread is an organization that provides a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, Bread volunteers advocate for a world without hunger. Working with churches across the country, Bread's goal is to help end hunger by 2030. It believes that everyone must play a part in ending hunger, especially our federal government. Bread works to change the policies and conditions that allow hunger to persist. Bread seeks long-term solutions to hunger and advocates on legislation that addresses the root causes of hunger. On October 15, we will again sign letters that will be sent to congressional leaders asking them to work to end hunger at home and abroad.

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## **ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE**

On Sunday, October 22, we will again receive your annual Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets during a special offering within the worship service. All that we have is gift. And, we are all called to share the gifts we have been given. We encourage you to prayerfully consider what you will give to the mission and ministry of this congregation over the next year. Your gift is important as we continue to participate in God's reconciling work in this community and the world.



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

### What are those Laundry Baskets for?? ARROW TREE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you so much for being so generous over the past few months! Arrow Tree apartments are very thankful for your donations. Residents there are very appreciative. Suggested items needed:

SOUP, MAC & CHEESE, CEREAL, OATMEAL, PASTA, PEANUT BUTTER, HEALTHY SNACK BARS, TUNA, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ETC. Personal need items are also helpful. Toilet paper, toothbrushes/paste, feminine products etc.



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### NOTECARDS BY SAMARITAS

As we continue to support the work of Samaritas, we are selling notecards. The covers of these notecards display artwork done by refugees who have come to the United States through the work of Samaritas. Notecards are available for \$5.00 per bundle of 6. If you are interested in purchasing a bundle of notecards, please place your \$5 in the box next to the display in the Narthex. If you write a check, please make the check out to **Samaritas**



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!**

**Wednesday Night Live!**

**Every Wednesday! Meal Starts at 5:45 p.m.**

**Faith Lutheran Church is the place to be!**

We will be offering a meal for anyone in the congregation who wishes to come to church to eat (meals much like the Lenten suppers). The meal will be served from 5:45 – 7:00. We will be offering activities for all ages! Wednesday will be family night at Faith! The evening schedule will include:

5:30 – 6:00 Joyful Noise choir rehearsal  
5:45 – 7:00 Meal served  
6:30 – 7:30 Trinity, Confirmation, and *activities for younger children!*  
6:30 – 7:30 Bell Choir rehearsal  
7:00 – 8:00 Book study for adults (*Falling Upward with Harold Sollenberger*)  
6:30 – 8:00 Movies of interest for adults and older youth  
7:30 – 8:00 Additional activities for kids  
7:30 – 9:00 Chancel Choir

***Thank you to all the groups who signed up to provide the  
Wednesday Night Meals!***

September 13<sup>th</sup>: Trinity & Confirmation

September 20<sup>th</sup>: Church Council

September 27<sup>th</sup>: Choir

October 4<sup>th</sup>: Faith Bells

October 11<sup>th</sup>: Trinity

October 18<sup>th</sup>: Worship Committee

October 25<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation

November 1<sup>st</sup>: Pastor Ellen

November 8<sup>th</sup>: Evangelism and Green Team

November 15<sup>th</sup>: OPEN

November 22<sup>nd</sup>: Pie Fest/Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 29<sup>th</sup>: Membership Development

December 6<sup>th</sup>: OPEN

December 13<sup>th</sup>: OPEN

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week...

### Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

6:30-7:30: Trinity and Confirmation

6:30-7:30: Activities for younger children.

7:30-8:00 p.m. Additional Activities for Kids



### Looking Ahead October:

1<sup>st</sup>: Sunday School (Pk-6<sup>th</sup>)

4<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live *(T&C College Care Packages)*

8<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School (Pk-6<sup>th</sup>), Teens Study (7-12 grade) at Katie Love's Home (6-8pm).

11<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live

**14<sup>th</sup>: F.G.H Auction 6-11 p.m.**

15<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School (Pk-6<sup>th</sup>)

18<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live

22<sup>nd</sup>: Sunday School (Pk-6<sup>th</sup>), Teens Study (7-12 grade) at Katie Love's Home (6-8pm).

25<sup>th</sup>: T & C Halloween Fun Night

27<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group Activity (Haunted House, Time TBD)

**All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited for dinner and a short study from 6-8 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's at the Love's house. 4548 Seneca Drive (directly behind the church). Come for the whole time or stay as long as you can! Next Meeting is Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**



## *2017 F.G.H. Auction (Faith Goes to Houston)*



### SAVE THE DATE

The Youth of Faith are excited to announce that their F.G.H. Auction for their 2018 ELCA National Gathering trip will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 6:00-11:00pm at Spag's in Williamston.

The cost of the ticket is \$25 each, and we will be offering hearty hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, and dessert. A cash bar will be available. Tickets will be on sale every Wednesday and Sunday before the event at the church, and will also be available at the door



### DONATIONS

We have approximately 90 members, so if each member donated at least one item (physical or monetary), we would have an amazing auction!!!

Also, we need volunteers to make this a spectacular success. There are many different ways to assist:

1. Item Donations – We need these from all of you so that we have many items to auction off. Here are some suggestions: providing a dessert a month for 6 months, Spa gift cards, movie gift cards, lawn services, you pick/I knit, famous potluck recipes, etc. Please take some of the donation forms located on the narthex board to any vendors that you use regularly and ask them to donate. Also, items can be personal services or talents that you can supply. We would really appreciate your support.

2. Monetary Donations – If you do not feel comfortable asking vendors to supply items, we would truly appreciate a cash donation to help defray the event costs so that all the auction proceeds go to the Youth.

3. Solicitation at local establishments or calling vendors we have already contacted to follow-up with their progress.

4. Decorations – Helping prepare baskets for the auction and also decorating the facility for the event.

5. Attendance - Please attend the event and BRING your family and friends. Adults only please.

If you have any questions, please contact Melinda Schultz at [mrsjas305@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrsjas305@sbcglobal.net) or put the completed donation forms, located in the Narthex, in the Schultz Family mailbox.

## F.G.H. Auction Booklet

Three (3) Thomas Kincaide prints – Paula Johnson

Hand Stitched and Sewn Quilt – Faith Quilters/Action for Samaritas

Harbor Springs Vacation Home Weekend – Schultz Family

A weekend of Child/Dog/House Sitting (whatever you need) –

Melinda Schultz

Reserved Christmas Pageant seating – Parish Education

An evening of background piano music for a private party – Ellen Schoepf

Homemade pies (dates to be arranged) – Mike Eschelbach

Hand Knit Blanket – Mabel Anglin

Bicycle tune-up and organized bike tour for up to four people –

Kim O'Brien

Gift Certificate for 2 tickets to one of the first (3) shows of the

2017-18 season – Williamston Theatre

## Upcoming Caregiving Meeting

October 12<sup>th</sup>: An afternoon of sharing and caring

November 9<sup>th</sup>: Getting Through the Holidays (Grief Support Focus) with Kris Abbey, Chaplin/Spiritual Coordinator for Hospice of Lansing.

December 14<sup>th</sup>: Sharing and Caring

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## Oktoberfest Luncheon !

**Program: A Visit to Luther's Germany**

**Presented by John McPhail**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2017, 11:30 a.m.**

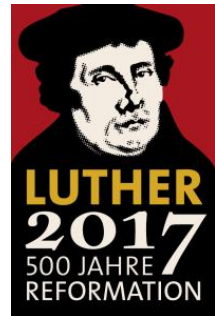
**(Note that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

**60 PLUS  
OR MINUS**

John and Sue McPhail toured Germany, "Lutherland," this summer during the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the Reformation. John will be sharing pictures and experiences from this history-rich trip.

Bratwurst and beverages will be provided, you sign up to bring the salads and desserts (German or American!).

Please sign up on the clipboard on the Faith @ Work display board in the narthex so we know how many brats to prepare and what dish you plan to share with us.



**Join us and Invite a friend!**

## A COMMUNITY FORUM TO DISCUSS ADDICTION

Thursday evening, October 5,  
from 7:00 – 8:30 PM



### Faith Lutheran Church

On Thursday evening, October 5, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos will be hosting a Community Forum to discuss addiction. Forum participants include Phil Pavona, Executive Vice President of **Families Against Narcotics (FAN)**, and The Honorable Donald Allen, Judge of the 55<sup>th</sup> District Court and President of FAN.

The opioid crisis is growing problem across our country. The FAN Mission and Vision is to raise awareness of the prescription opiate drug abuse epidemic, to reduce the stigma and change the face of addiction, to educate about the dangers of prescription and illegal narcotic use and to support those affected by drug abuse and addiction. FAN works to reduce the stigma attached to addiction and create an open forum for families and professionals to receive valuable insight. The organization educates to raise awareness and save lives by partnering with insurance companies, medical professionals, legislators, the legal community, public safety, schools, families and friends, facilitating change in the way addiction is viewed and treated. They work to make a difference one step and one life at a time.

Please join us for a much-needed community conversation on this critical topic.



*Capitol Conference Lutheran Churches*

PRESENT

# REFORMATION

## 500

A FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

FEATURING A

*Conference-wide mass choir leading  
Hal Hopson's A Festival of Hymns*

FOOD  
ART GALLERY  
KID'S ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER

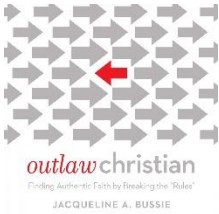
29

3:00PM AT  
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
549 EAST MOUNT HOPE AVENUE  
LANSING

The event is free; donations will be accepted for  
supper and an offering will be taken up for  
Samaritas

**Please sign up (in the narthex) for  
the FREE Lunch by October 15<sup>th</sup>**





## Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the “Rules”

### Five Week Book Study Group Opportunity

Here are two terrific opportunities to read and discuss a book by Jacqueline A. Bussie, former professor at Capital University and now, Director of the **Forum on Faith and Life** and professor of religion at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. The book is entitled ***Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the “Rules.”***

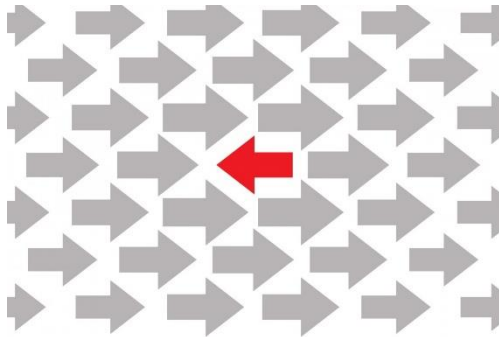
- **One book study will take place at Kim O’Brien’s home on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM.** This group will meet on: 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, & 11/16. Plan to come and maybe bring along a friend. Kim says you are also welcome to bring your kids and they can play in the basement during the conversation.
- **A second opportunity to discuss this book will take place at Coral Gables Restaurant on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM.** This group will include members of various area ELCA churches. If you would like to be part of this conversation, the Coral Gables group will meet on: 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7 & 11/14.

In her book, *Outlaw Christian*, Bussie talks about the unwritten “rules” of modern Christianity. She goes into depth about her experience and these so called “rules” modern Christianity seems to place upon people. She says that a faith governed by these rules is stifling, unsustainable, and dishonest. In her life experience, she was unable to overlook the suffering she saw around her – suffering in her friends, her neighbors and in her own life. She discovered that the only way she could keep her faith in the God she loved was to start breaking the rules, rules like *“Never get mad or argue with God.”* She calls this rule a “life-sucking narrative of the lie you should consider breaking without

shame or secrecy, especially if you are the kind of person who has already broken it a thousand tiny times within the recesses of your mind. Because hope is anger's mother, if you start breaking this law, I promise you will encounter hope along the road and she will never leave your side. Also, airing your authentic tears, concerns, and emotions in the sunlight rather than hiding them or apologizing for their existence will restore your humanity." (p.38)

Bussie draws from Scripture and her real-life experience and her book is a rallying cry to believers who care too much to not only let suffering go unquestioned but also care too much to let doubts go unanswered. Bussie calls for an authentic form of faith that laments, loves, laughs, longs, and lives, but never lies.

There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for both book group opportunities. Please consider being a part of this educational opportunity. And, look for future information regarding Jacqueline Bussie's speaking engagement right here at Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 17, 2018. She will be the featured speaker as we kick off the **Annual Holle Speaker Series**.



*outlaw*christian

Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the "Rules"

JACQUELINE A. BUSSIE

You are invited to a movie screening of National Geographic's *From the Ashes* at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, after the 10 am service. About one-third of Michigan's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. *From the Ashes* puts a human face on the issues tied to the "war on



coal." The movie covers topics such as the future of the energy sector, risks to people's health and livelihood, and the environment. Please join us in a close examination and dialogue of the complicated issues tied to coal production from multiple perspectives.

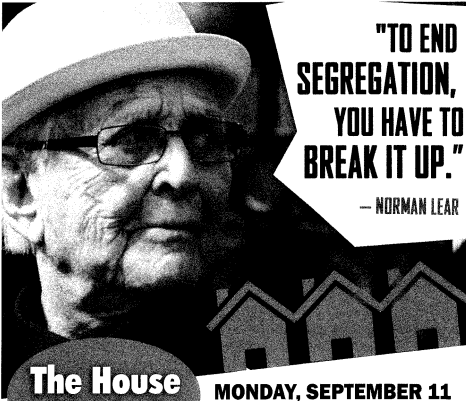
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Michigan Interfaith Power & Light Conference

Heading the call: Faith, Hope & Climate Change

October 6 from 9:30 to 3

For more information see the Green Team Bulletin Board Section



**"TO END  
SEGREGATION,  
YOU HAVE TO  
BREAK IT UP."**

— NORMAN LEAR

**The House  
Divided**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11  
FREE SCREENING & DIALOGUE  
7-9 PM**

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS  
4515 Dobie Rd, Okemos, MI 48864**

Questions: [angela@oneloveglobal.org](mailto:angela@oneloveglobal.org)

**AMERICA  
DIVIDED**

Produced by  
Radical Media  
Just  
ep X

COGL



BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER  
DANCING

Action  
Organizations

# DATE CHANGE!

Now Showing "The House  
Divided" on Monday  
October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.