

# Welcome to Faith Lutheran

November 26, 2017



Pastor Ellen Schoepf  
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org  
4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864





# 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/>

## **The Coming Kingdom**

Jesus' vision of glory is really a humble one. His kingly activity is not concerned with parading around royally, or associating with the powerful or wealthy, or affiliating himself with military might and authority. The pronouncements made from his throne are not ones issued for the sake of protecting his own power. Instead, he is concerned with one question in particular: How do the vulnerable fare?

As we celebrate Christ the King at the ending of another church year, we are challenged to see an expression of political power that is far different from that which makes our governments tick. Jesus welcomes his followers into an alternative way of life, one that puts love of neighbor at the center of our daily actions.

To get a sense of how the vulnerable have fared on our watch, we could look at our budgets, advocacy efforts, social interactions, even our charitable donations. At the heart of Jesus' teaching is an invitation to see one's neighbor with renewed vision. There is an expectation when honoring Jesus' kingship that our attention turns outward, away from ourselves. Similarly, the celebration of the Lord's supper redirects our attention toward Christ and our neighbor.

When we receive the meal, we are not coming forward for a private snack. Instead, we come as people who are shaped by this gift of God. In this gift Christ himself reminds us of the common need we have, and as we partake in the meal we are invited to see it as a central expression of Christ's kingdom. In so doing our idea of neighbor expands and we rehearse an economy that God desires, one where vulnerable people matter. We share this meal with God's family throughout history and around the world. And this is how the kingdom comes.

**Sunday, November 26, 2017**  
Christ the King / Proper 29

**Introduction to the day**

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

*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 King of Love My Shepherd Is”

arr. Dale Wood

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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, ✝ one God,  
who calls us into an everlasting hope,  
who guides us to springs of the water of life,  
who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.

**Amen.**

One with the communion of saints in all times and places,  
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

O God, our merciful redeemer,  
**we confess the ways we live only for ourselves.**  
**We fail to see you in our neighbor's face.**  
**We turn our ears from voices that cry out.**  
**We pass by the hungry and the oppressed.**  
**In your great mercy, forgive our sin**  
**and strengthen us for service to all in need;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for you,  
and for ✝ his sake,  
God forgives you all your sin.  
Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad,  
beloved people of God.

**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

*ELW #855*

### 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

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final 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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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.*

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## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

*Since Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save



my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

A reading from Ephesians.

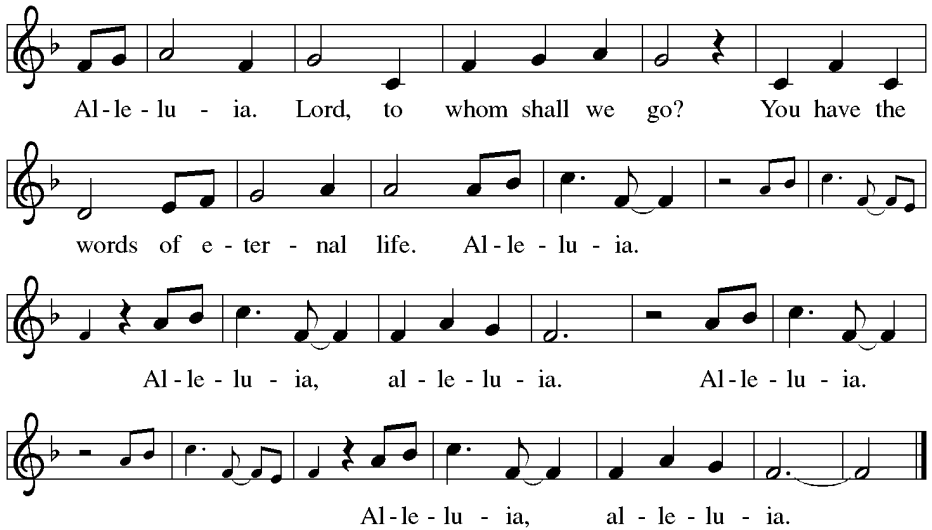
<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will

answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’<sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’<sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’<sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’<sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’<sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’<sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’<sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us*

***ELW #431***

## **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**

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray  
with people of every time and place.

*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:*

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O  
God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

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## MEAL

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

## OFFERING

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

(Harrison)



## OFFERING RESPONSE

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



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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,  
you made everything, and you provide for every need.  
The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you.  
As we eat and drink with thanksgiving,  
fill us with your love;  
let that love flow through us to others;  
and join us to the saints before us  
in a holy and boundless communion;  
through 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 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

The musical score is written on five staves of a single melodic line in treble clef. The key signature consists of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

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.**

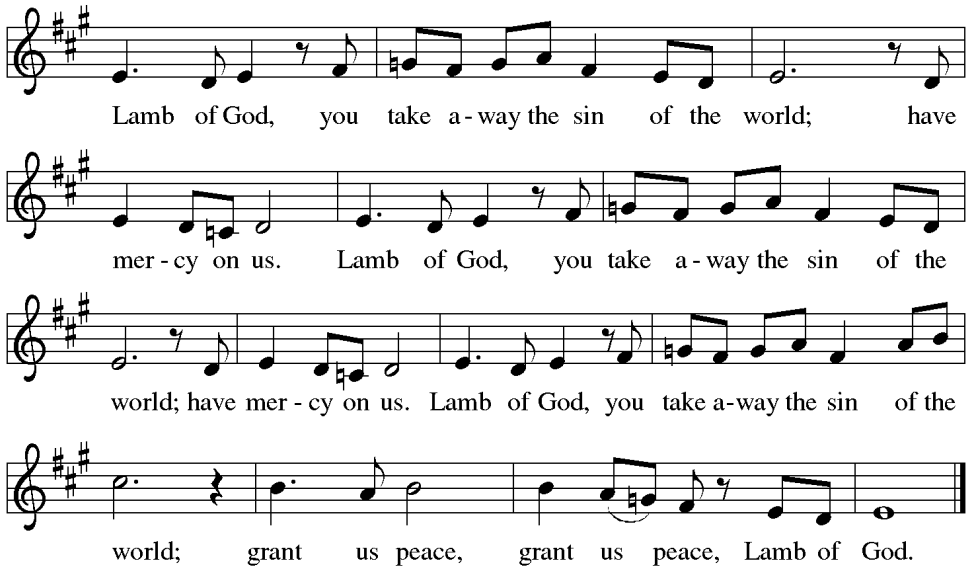
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Hunger no more. Thirst no more.  
Come to the banquet of life.

## **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.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

“Appalachian Hymn”

(Newbold)

Rachael Ngasala, Violin

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

***ELW #502***

# O Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—  
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing  
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

The first system of music features a treble clef staff with a melody line and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, corresponding to the three parts. The melody includes a repeat sign at the beginning and ends with a fermata.

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;  
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;  
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three lines. The melody features a long note with a fermata at the end of the phrase.

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,  
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing  
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three lines. The melody includes a repeat sign at the beginning and ends with a fermata.

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:  
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:  
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

The fourth system concludes the piece with the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three lines. The melody ends with a long note and a fermata.

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,  
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—  
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;  
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;  
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,  
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:  
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.  
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.  
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith b 1926  
 Music: Irish Tune. Arr. John Barnard © 1982 Hope Publishing  
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*The assembly stands*

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

**Amen**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Sovereign God,  
in this meal you give us a foretaste  
of the great feast to come.  
Keep us faithful to you,  
that we, with all your saints,  
may at length celebrate  
the marriage feast of the Lamb,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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### **SENDING**

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

### **BLESSING**

The love of God surround you;  
the grace of ✝ Christ release you;  
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength,  
now and forevermore.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG**

*Jesus Shall Reign*

*ELW #434*

### **DISMISSAL**

Led on by the saints before us,  
go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”

arr. Alice Jordan

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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Sisters and brother in Christ, welcome to  
 worship! May your time in the Lord be rich  
 and blessed.

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

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November 19, 2017 Attendance: 113

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Serving Faith	November 26	December 3
Acolyte	Sami Ransom	Paige Lewis
Altar Care	Brenda Kopf & TBD Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers, Brielle Bowers	
Communion Assistants	Sami Ransom Ken Schoepf Jack Dingledine	Paige Lewis Dane Webb Brendan Guenther
Greeters	Brian & Michelle Ransom	Mike Eschelbach
Lay Assistants	Ken Schoepf	Dane Webb
Readers	Jack Dingledine	Brendan Guenther
Ushers	TBD	Boyers/Whitmyer
Nursery	Heidi Bowers	Lori Webb

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Faith Family & Friends

November 26, 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)

*January Faith Family News newsletter—*

**Please submit by Monday, December 18**

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 Dale Halvorson.
- ✠ Friends and family—  
Harriet, Pat Belonga, Todd Barricklow, Marilyn Belanger, George Bach, 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, 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.
- ✠ Our mission partner congregation—Lansing Redeemer Lutheran Church
- ✠ Those in military service—Jon Schoepf, Lani Yearicks,  
Melody and Adam Wright and Joe Galvin.
- ✠ Samaritans 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 William Huether and the congregation of Bethany Lutheran Church of Lansing, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

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**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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<b>Weekly Offering</b>	<b>11/19/17</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of 10/31/2017</b>	
Loose Cash	\$ 64.00	Income	\$224,661
Loose Checks	\$ 25.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$242,195</u>
Vision 2020	\$ 1,000.00	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-17,584</b>
National Gathering Dep.	\$ 150.00		
Spark Bibles	\$ 250.00		
Loaves & Fishes	\$ 15.00		
Wednesday Dinner			
Stewardship	\$ 55.60		
Youth	\$ 55.59		
Flowers	\$ 45.00		
Tanzania Water Project	\$ 582.00		
Samaritas Cards	\$ 10.00		
World Hunger	\$ 65.00		
General Fund	\$ 3,595.00		
Subtotal	\$ 5,912.19		
Simply Giving	\$ 2,826.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$8,738.19</u></b>		

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**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

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

Vase 1: Harry Nawrock, Carl and Kathy Richardson and Emily and Justin Brown in memory of Rose Marie Nawrock

Vase 2: Becca, Katy, Austin, & Ciara in celebration of Walter and Brenda's 34th anniversary

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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

Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

2:00 p.m.      Women's Study

Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

No Noon Study

Wednesday, November 29<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: Membership Development



6:30 p.m. Faith Bells  
6:30 p.m. Trinity & Confirmation  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
7:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:30 a.m. Help decorate the Church for Christmas

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**The Executive Committee is calling a special congregational meeting for Sunday, December 3, following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss ways in which we as a Faith community might help to support Samaritas kids.**

**Congregational Meeting**



**GOING ON NOW**

## **Reverse & Reach Out**

*(see more information further in bulletin)*

*Week 1 & 2- November 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>: - **What food would they need for their journey to Bethlehem?** Place non-perishable FOOD ITEMS in a bag for those living with food insecurity. Talk about the role of food in your own life. Pray for the families in our community who are living with food insecurity. The food collected will be given directly to families in **Meridian Township**.*

Possible Items: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Snack Bars, Pop Tarts, Muffin Mix, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Fruit, Boxed Cereals, Oatmeal, Mac & Cheese, Boxed Meals (hamburger helper, soup, boxed crackers, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce). Cash Donations can also be made to help purchase eggs, milk and bread for each family. Thank you for your donation!

**REMINDER POSTCARDS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE ADVENT TABLE!**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Order forms are available in the narthex. Please drop in the church office or in Katie Love's mailbox. Deadline Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

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### **CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Therefore, after much thought and conversation, we have decided to cancel the Sunday



morning service and only hold our traditional Christmas Eve services, one at 4:00 PM and one at 10:00 PM. Please note that there will be **NO SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE on December 24.** If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Ellen or one of the Worship Committee members.

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Mark your calendar and join us Saturday, December 2 at 9:30 a.m. We will be putting up the Christmas trees and other decoration to make the building look festive for the Holiday



Decorating Party

Season! Pastor Ellen will supply donuts and coffee! Come and enter into the Holiday spirit with us!

**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 Rob Bell Nooma Series
- 7:30 – 8:00 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 7:30 – 9:00 Chancel Choir

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

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

December 13<sup>th</sup>: Pizza Party

**Wednesday evenings**, adults will be able to participate in a **new educational opportunity**. Beginning at 7:00 PM we will be offering the educational **NOOMA series by Rob Bell**. Every week participants will view one of Rob Bell's NOOMA series short films, each followed by discussion. These films explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. **NOOMA** is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. In these films, Bell talks about the way in which Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God's work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. We invite you to come for dinner, view the short film and join in the discussion.

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

Starting November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017



# Reverse & Reach Out

Turn your “*want list*” into someone else’s “*need list*” as you focus this Advent season on the journey to Bethlehem.

In a time of uncertainty, Mary and Joseph gathered what they had and traveled to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. What would they eat? Would they be warm? What did they need for themselves & a baby?

## Reverse Advent: A Spiritual Discipline of Reaching Out

1. Gather 5 plain brown paper bags (one for each week of the Reverse Advent)



2. Decide as a family when and how you will practice this spiritual discipline of Reaching Out. You may choose to fill your bag and bring it in all at once or add one item each day during Advent. The choice is yours. (Note: Non-Perishable Food Items will be packed for delivery the week of December 10<sup>th</sup>).

3. At the end of each week (or Sunday morning), bring your filled bag (or monetary contribution) to worship and place it by the manger in the Narthex. Throughout the Advent season, our contributions will continue to fill the Stable with a special dedication Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Following the dedication, the items and money collected will be *distributed to our Mission Partners who are on the front lines in serving the needs of our community.*

Week 1 & 2- November 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>: - ***What food would they need for their journey to Bethlehem?*** Place non-perishable FOOD ITEMS in a bag for those living with food insecurity. Talk about the role of food in your own life. Pray for the families in our community who are living with food insecurity. The food collected will be given directly to families in **Meridian Township.**

Possible Items: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Snack Bars, Pop Tarts, Muffin Mix, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Fruit, Boxed Cereals, Oatmeal, Mac & Cheese, Boxed Meals (hamburger helper, soup, boxed crackers, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce). Cash Donations can also be made to help

purchase eggs, milk and bread for each family. Thank you for your donation!

Week 3 -December 3<sup>rd</sup> - **What did they need for warmth?** Place WARM CLOTHES (hats, gloves, scarves, socks) in a bag for the homeless served by **Loaves & Fishes**. Talk about the clothes you wear to stay warm in the winter. Pray for those who have little or no shelter from the cold.

Week 4-December 10<sup>th</sup> - **How would they care for a baby?** Place BABY ITEMS (bottles, diapers, wipes, etc.) in a bag for the infants and toddlers cared for by **Shared Pregnancy**. Talk about the many ways babies depend on their caregivers for basic needs. Pray for those who are learning to care for their infants and toddlers through the parenting classes and resources offered by Shared Pregnancy. Only New Items Please.

Week 5-December 17<sup>th</sup> - **How would they care for themselves?** Place BASIC TOILETRIES (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, shampoo, comb, brush etc.) in a bag for the housing insecure served by the **Lansing Rescue Mission**. Talk about the things you need each day to care for yourself. Pray for those who often have to choose between food and basic care items for survival.

**Items can be brought in out of order: Just note that Non-Perishable Food Items will be delivered the week of December 10<sup>th</sup>.**



MORE INFORMATION

**OPERATION GOOD CHEER**



**Thank you to everyone who signed up to sponsor children! The return date is Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**There is ONE child left to be chosen. If you are able, please go to the Samaritas Table for more information. Thanks!**



**Advent Calendars are available in the narthex.**

**Please take 1 per family.**

**Merry Christmas!**



**PLEASE NOTE:** Because of Thanksgiving, the Next Teen Meeting will be Sunday, December 10th. We will meet at Love's House. This is our

**Christmas PARTY!! Bring a white elephant gift and be prepared for FUN!!**

This week...

**November:**

26<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School PK-3<sup>rd</sup>, Trinity 4-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

29<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live: Trinity & Confirmation 6:30-7:30; Pageant Rehearsal 7:30-8.

**December:**

3<sup>rd</sup>: Sunday School (PK-6<sup>th</sup>) **11:30-1pm Lunch and Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant.**

6<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live: Trinity & Confirmation 6:30-7:30; Pageant Rehearsal 7:30-8.

10<sup>th</sup>: During Sunday School we will do our final rehearsal and get into costume. 10 a.m. **Christmas Play by Play Pageant.** Following the pageant, the children will go to the Sunday School room and can be picked up after worship.

13<sup>th</sup>: T&C and PK-3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Fun Night

17<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School (PK-6<sup>th</sup>)

20<sup>th</sup>: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

24<sup>TH</sup>: NO MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP

31<sup>ST</sup>: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

# November & December Sunday School Offering

Starting Sunday, November 5 - Sunday, December 10 the Sunday School offering PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade will go to ELCA World Hunger. *We are going to challenge ourselves and see how many animals we can buy to help families in need.* On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> we will add up our money in Sunday School and decide which animals to buy.



-Every Sunday School family at Faith will receive a barnyard bank to place their offering in. Bring your offering every week or your total offering on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

-If you would like to add to our total please drop a check in the offering plate and put *Sunday School Offering on the memo line!!*



How big can our Barnyard Get???



## Upcoming Caregiving Meeting

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Sharing and Caring Time  
come join us on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 for a lite  
lunch and discussion. all are welcome!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming topics:

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** – Cammi Robinson – Alzheimer’s Association – the  
different types of Dementia

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** – How to manage emotionally as the Caregiver  
when your loved one is placed in assisted living or long-term care  
facility. Speaker details – TBA

**Christmas Brunch at the State  
Room  
December 3, 2017**

**60 Plus  
or Minus**



December 3 is the first Sunday in Advent, a time to begin preparing for the Holy Season of Christmas. Join your 60 Plus or Minus friends for a Christmas luncheon at 12:00 p.m. on that Sunday at the Kellogg Center on Harrison Avenue on the MSU Campus. We will enjoy the delicious buffet brunch at a group of reserved tables in the State Room. The buffet features a complete selection from breakfast items to entrees and desserts. The cost, including tax and gratuity, is \$21.35 with free parking (under cover and attached to the Kellogg Center). We'll be paying individually on the day of the event.



As our name “60 Plus or Minus” suggests, we welcome friends and guests who have not yet reached that golden age! Be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex by November 30 so that we can reserve the proper number of tables.

If you arrive a little early or stay briefly after the luncheon, you can browse the festive seasonal decorations in the Kellogg Center, including the annual gingerbread house competition.



See you at the State Room on December 3!

***Looking ahead!***(Stay tuned via the Sunday morning bulletins, the Friday E-News, and our Website)

Our activities beginning in January include the following:

- \* A gathering for popcorn and a movie (suggestions for the movie are welcomed!)
- \* Soup and bread luncheon after Ash Wednesday daytime service. We look forward to sponsoring this luncheon and furnishing the food on Wednesday, February 14.

# **Urgent! Samaritas has an IMMEDIATE need for homes!**

Samaritas is in urgent need of caring homes for 5 youth who currently reside in the Jackson House and will age out of our refugee youth program this winter. Without a visa, they are only eligible for foster care services until the age of 18, however, due to delays caused by the reworking of the visa process by the current administration, they will not be able to receive their visa before the deadline. Unless homes are found for them, they will be moved to a detention facility or will be homeless for the duration of their immigration proceedings.

This is the first time in the 16 years Samaritas has been working with this population that youth in this program have been unable to receive their visa on time, and we are determined to do all that we can for these youth before their termination from the program. That is why we are reaching out to the greater community to find homes to care and provide for them after they leave the Jackson House. The 5 homes need to be identified by the end of November, and Samaritas will begin arranging opportunities for families and youth to meet and get to know each other before they move in. It is unclear at this time whether this is simply a very unfortunate delay in the visa process, or if the youth will ultimately be denied immigration relief. It should be known that a denial is not due to any action on the part of these young men—a year ago they would have received their immigration status without much fanfare.

Note: because the youth will have aged out of the foster care program, Samaritas will be unable to provide services to families and the youth, who have no medical coverage. Additionally, unless they receive their visa, the youth will be unable to work and so unable to pay rent or offer reimbursement to the families. However, families have no legal obligation to the youth, but will receive the opportunity to connect and develop a long-lasting relationship with a youth from another country, as well as know that they are making the difference in the life of someone in need!

If you are interested in hosting or learning more, contact Kayla Park at (517)827-5179 or [kpark@samaritas.org](mailto:kpark@samaritas.org).

Kayla Park  
Refugee Capacity Builder  
[Samaritas](#)

COMING IN 2018

## ELCA ADULT MISSION TRIP

**JANUARY 20-28, 2018**

WE WILL BE DOING SERVICE WORK IN FLORIDA, SPENDING THE WEEK ASSISTING IN CLEAN-UP, REPAIR AND REBUILDING FOLLOWING THE RECENT HURRICANE.

Several of our ELCA churches are working together to plan this Mission/Service Trip. We will be traveling to Fort Myers, Florida by bus & van. There will be space for 30 participants. At this point in time, the plan is to leave on Saturday morning, January 20, get to Florida on Sunday evening, January 21, and begin doing service work on Monday morning. We will work through Friday, then begin our return home on Saturday, January 27.

While the authorities in Florida are still working on assessing the destruction in various parts of the state, we know we will be going to Fort Myers, Florida. At this point in time it looks like the cost will be between \$500-700. We will know more as time goes by.

If you want to participate in this Mission Trip, please speak to Pastor Ellen or add your name to this sign-up sheet in the Narthex.