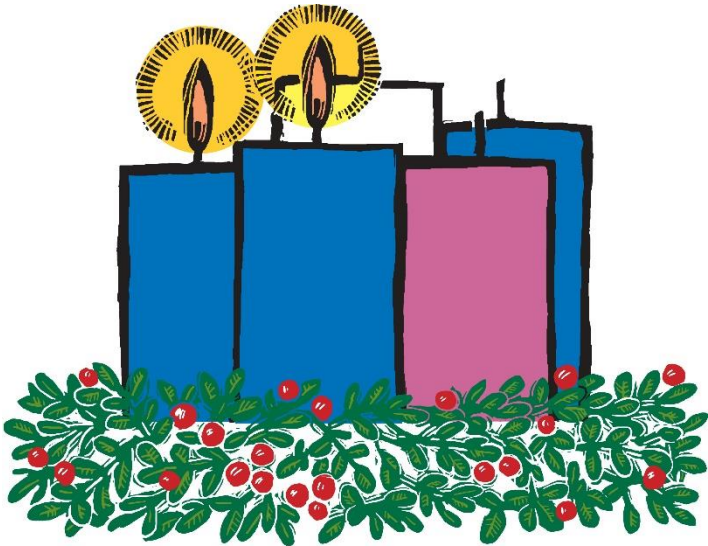


Welcome to Faith Lutheran

December 10, 2017



— SECOND SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

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
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ www.mittensynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ www.elca.org

Facebook

facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

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

Wayfinding

When discouragement is so thick that we can't see a way forward, what helps us to move once again? What can rekindle our hope? God led the Israelites out of Egypt the long way around. When we can't see ahead, we may need a voice that creatively pulls us outward, or backward.

The earliest generations of Christians, like their enslaved and exiled ancestors, were surrounded by self-congratulatory nonsense. The Roman world was awash in announcements of the “good news” of imperial victories, favors, and festivals. One widely copied text celebrated the birthday of “our God” Caesar as “the beginning of good news for the world because of him.” Gospel writers reached outward to take up the Roman empire’s language and bend it. The title of Mark’s gospel, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,” took something familiar and made it startlingly new.

God led the Israelites out of Egypt through the sea. Centuries later, the prophet Isaiah reached back to that story to proclaim a new exodus, out of Babylon through the desert. And centuries later, John the Baptist reached back to Isaiah’s fulfilled promises to say a new thing. “All” the people of Jerusalem and people from the “whole” countryside responded. That’s a lot of people! Whatever their numbers, they could act knowing that they were not alone. Community provided comfort and strength. Those who broke routine to trek out to the desert, confess their sins, and be plunged into the River Jordan were retracing the routes of their ancestors by going back to the waters and symbolically crossing again— together.

In Advent, our countercultural season, we also reach out and reach back. Together we begin our church year by returning to the beginning of our life in faith: holy baptism. In Isaiah and Mark we hear voices speaking comfort, crying out, heralding good tidings. And then, even in wilderness, we begin to find and make a way.

Sunday, December 10, 2017

2 Advent

Introduction to the day

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

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

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

arr. Pachelbel, Langlois

GATHERING

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



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – Advent 2

Reader One: Isaiah the Prophet reassured the people, God is sending words of comfort to you, speaking tenderly to you. God promises that your hard labor is over, your sentence has been served and your penalty has been paid. You are forgiven not once but double all that is needed.

Reader Two: Go up to a high mountain, and call out the good news! Lift your voices up with strength and call out the good news! Do not be afraid! Your God is coming.

Reader One: Our God is mighty, but our God is also gentle. God loves the flock and will feed it just the way a shepherd would, holding us close like lambs and guiding us, old and young.

Reader Two: We wait for God's peace and live in God's hope as we light these candles.

(Please pause as we light two candles, then respond.)

All: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!

GATHERING SONG

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW #256

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.

Christmas

PLAY BY PLAY



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SONG: Christmas Play by Play

SPEAKING PARTS:

Co-Captain 1: Austin Jones

Co-Captain 2: Kate Magyar

Joseph: Sean O'Brien

Mary: Atu Ngasala

Narrator #1: Zachary Hereza

Narrator #2: Juliana Lewis

Angels: Paige Lewis

Calvin Kadrofske

Rachael Ngasala

Maddie Webb

Isaac Webb

Leah Kaczanowcke

SONG: When We're Feeling Low

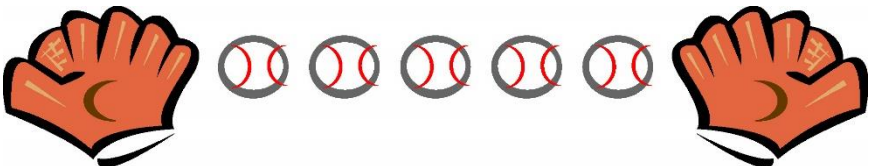
Shepherds: Serena Ngasala

Sofie Love

Aidan O'Brien

Abigail Steinke

Angel: Olivia Love



Christmas

PLAY BY PLAY



SONG: Best Day of Your Life

Wiseman: Kaden Steinke

Destiny Hinamanu

Samantha Magyar

Star: Ciara Cooper

Letter Carriers: Makayla Marquardt

Jaelyn Marquardt

SONG: Give God All We Got

Thanks

FOR PITCHING IN!



A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who pitched in to help with this year's pageant!

Beth Ballegeer, Deb Borton, Brielle Bowers, Heidi Bowers, Adelle Dingledine, Laurie Hereza, Brenda Kopf, Owen Kadrofske, Jean Lewis, Lois Neves, Kim O'Brien, Lily O'Brien, Griffin Ransom, Michelle Ransom, Sami Ransom, Brenna Seeley, Nina Schrote, Lauren Schultz, Melinda Schultz, Pastor Ellen Schoepf, Bruce Williams.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

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:*

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

arr. Hayes

OFFERING RESPONSE

EMMANUEL

Musical score for "Offering Response: Emmanuel". The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, his name is called Em - man - u - el; God with us, re - vealed in us; his name is called Em - man - u - el." The chords are: C, C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B \flat (Staff 1); A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, G/B, C (Staff 2); C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B \flat (Staff 3); A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, F/C, C (Staff 4).

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

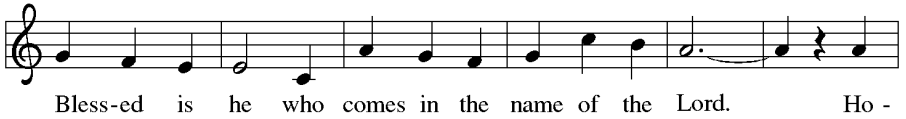
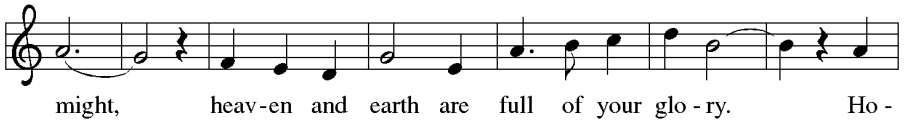
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

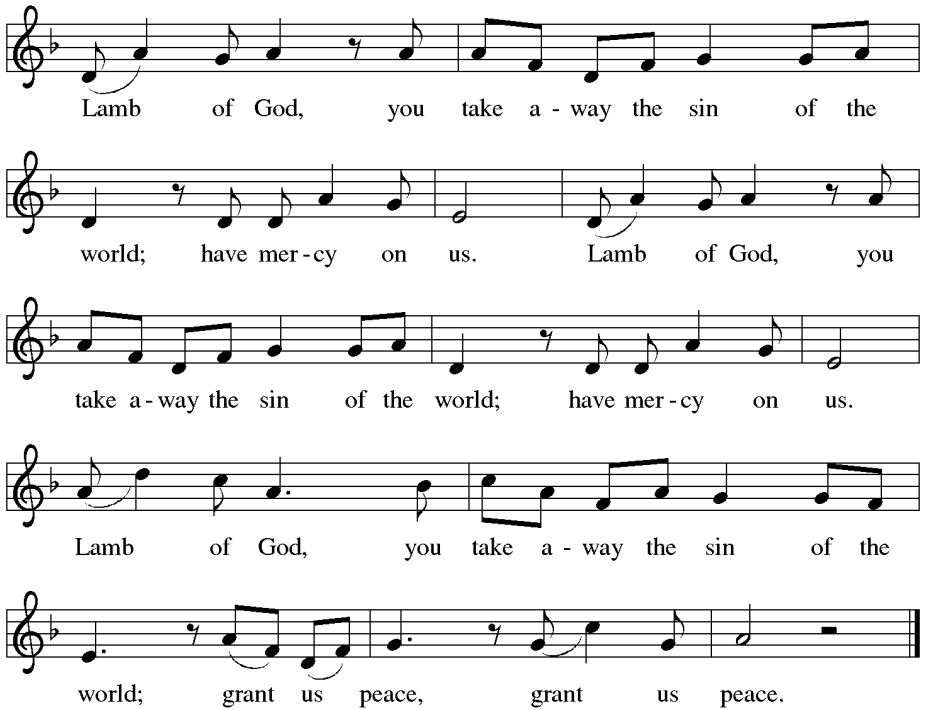
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.
Share in the feast of salvation.

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.

INSTUMENTAL

“Mary did you Know”

arr. Wolaver

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW #249

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW #264

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

arr. Manz

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Celebrate the Season



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

Pastor	Ellen Schoepf	prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Secretary	Katie Love	kllove@faithlutheranokemos.org
Director of Christian Education		Katie Love
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

December 3, 2017 Attendance: 138

Serving Faith	December 10	December 17
Acolyte	Owen Kadrofske	Isaac Webb
Altar Care	Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers, Brielle Bowers	
Communion Assistants	Owen Kadrofske	Isaac Webb
	Rich Weingartner	Diane Wilke
	Elaine Harrison	Warren Heilman
Greeters	Jeff & Melinda Schultz	Mark & Molly DeHate
Lay Assistants	Rich Weingartner	Diane Wilke
Readers	Christmas Play	Warren Heilman
Ushers	Bowers/Whitmyers	Bowers/Whitmyers
Nursery	Pam Williams	Lori Webb

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Family & Friends

December 10, 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

January Faith Family News newsletter—
Please submit by Monday, December 18
Submit to Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please lift up in prayer this week:

- ✠ Members—Max Ambs, Lowell Barricklow, Ellen Milne, Tammy Heilman, Dale Halvorson and Virginia Tashner.
- ✠ Friends and family—
Harriet, Pat Belonga, Todd Barriklow, 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, 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), 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

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 Domingo Shriver and the congregation of Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Ludington, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Offering	12/3/17	Year-to-date as of 10/31/2017	
Loose Cash	\$ 66.00	Income	\$224,661
Loose Checks	\$ 50.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$242,195</u>
Flowers	\$ 105.00	Net Income	-17,584
Vision 2020	\$ 3500.00		
Spark Bibles	\$ 250.00		
Facility Rental	\$ 300.00		
Staff Gifts	\$ 720.00		
Tech Dinner	\$ 75.00		
General	<u>\$ 3630.00</u>		
Subtotal	\$ 8446.00		
Simply Giving	\$ 2101.00		
Total	\$10,547.00		

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the Ballegeer & Steinke family in remembrance of Beth's sister, Christine Ballegeer Boeger who died from breast cancer December 11, 2011.

THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant

Monday, December 11

- 9:30 a.m. Meridian Township Play Group

Tuesday, December 12

- Noon: Study in Pastor Ellen's Office

Wednesday, December 13

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Study
9:30 a.m. Quilting and Samaritans ACTION
5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise
5:45 p.m. Meal is Served: Pizza purchased with Free-Will Offering
6:30 p.m. Faith Bells
6:30 p.m. All Kids Fun Night
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 14

Friday, December 15

Saturday, December 16

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Executive Committee is calling a special congregational follow-up meeting on Sunday, December 17, following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss and follow-up on ways in which we as a Faith community might help to support Samaritas kids.

Congregational Meeting



The Caring Committee needs your help packing & delivering the Reverse Advent food to Meridian



Food Delivery

Township Families. Packing will be Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. Delivery will be Sunday, December 17th following worship. Please sign-up for delivery in the narthex.

Thanks in advance!

Order forms are available in the narthex. Please drop in the church office or in Katie Love's mailbox. Deadline **TODAY**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.



As Winter Weather approaches please note that if OKEMOS SCHOOLS are cancelled, the church office will be closed. If Events or Services are cancelled it will be announced on Facebook and the website and emailed, if possible.



Pastor Ellen will be holding First Communion classes January 10, 17, 24 and 31st. First Communion will be Sunday, February 4th. If you are interested in your child participating please call the office or let Pastor Ellen know.

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

December 13th: Pizza Party: Last Meeting of this year.

**2018 WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL SIGN-UP IS IN
THE NARTHEX**

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 19th, 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 10th).

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 17th. 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 19th & 26th: - ***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 3rd - **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 10th - **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 17th - **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 must 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 10th.



**Next Teen Meeting will
be a Christmas Party
at the Love's House.**

TONIGHT from 6- 8

p.m. Please bring a gift

valued at \$5-10 for our gift exchange.



December:

Christmas Play by Play Pageant. Following the pageant, the children will go to the Sunday School room and can be picked up after worship.

13th: T&C and PK-3rd Christmas Fun Night!! Last meeting of the year.

16th: Teens to Volunteer Packing food at Bethlehem Church: Please see Katie for more information

17th: Sunday School (PK-6th)

20th: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

24TH: NO MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP

31ST: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Last Day to Give towards Sunday School World Hunger
Offering**

November & December Sunday School Offering

Starting Sunday, November 5 - Sunday, December 10 the Sunday School offering PK-6th 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 17th 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 10th.

-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!!*

Upcoming Caregiving Meeting

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

Mark your calendars for our upcoming topics:

January 11th – Cammi Robinson – Alzheimer’s Association – the different types of Dementia

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

**60 PLUS
or MINUS**

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.

COMING IN JANUARY

NEW Sunday Morning Book Study Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the “Rules”



Sign-Up in Narthex. Beginning on Sunday morning, January 7, at 9:00 AM, Kim O'Brien will be leading a six-week book study in the library. The book to be discussed is *Outlaw Christian* by Dr. Jacqueline Bussie.

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.

Also, in conjunction with this book study, plan to attend the kick-off of the **Annual R&H Holle Speaker Series**, a planned annual event to honor former Bishop Reginald Holle and the work he did as the first bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. This kick-off event will take place here at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos where he was a longtime member. The event will take place on **Saturday, February 17, and Dr. Jacqueline Bussie will be the featured speaker.**

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.

