

# Welcome to Faith Lutheran

January 7, 2018



Pastor Ellen Schoepf  
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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

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## 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](mailto: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

## **Always a New Beginning**

Sometimes life feels like a dead end. We get stuck. Bad things happen and things don't get better. Long awaited change seems like it will never come. What do we do when life feels like a dead end?

The story of Jesus' baptism in Mark is about a radically new beginning. Mark describes the baptism like this: "And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him" (Mark 1:10). All the signs are there, telling us that whatever dead end the world has hit, Jesus is a new beginning.

In Genesis 1 we read that the Spirit moves to form the new creation, and a dome is placed over the newly created land, with water above and below it. Later, in Genesis 7, we read that the flood comes when windows in the dome are opened and water pours in from above and below. In both stories, a new creation is formed out of the old through water and Spirit. Now in Mark we hear again that the heavens are opened, and there is water, and there is Spirit pouring out. In Jesus' baptism, God is creating again. Jesus is God's new beginning for all who face dead ends.

Today is a day to remember your baptism, and to do so along with all your brothers and sisters gathered around font, word, and table. This is a day to give thanks that in Jesus God created a new beginning for all persons, all humanity, and all creation, a fresh start poured out of the open windows of God's loving heart. Today is a day to contemplate all the ways we face dead ends in life, even in death itself. Today we remember that God's Spirit creates us anew out of God's free flowing grace in the new life that is Jesus Christ.

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

Baptism of Our Lord

1st Sunday after the Epiphany

**Introduction to the day**

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision 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**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Arr. Raymond Haan

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## GATHERING

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

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.  
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his  
family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into  
freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the  
Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.  
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG

*Love Has Come*

*ELW #292*

## 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-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, 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.

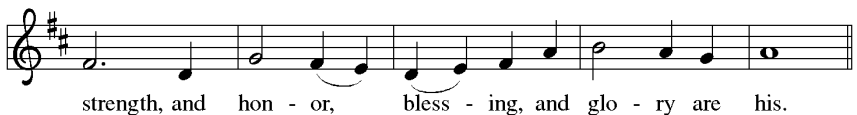
*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 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.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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: Genesis 1:1-5**

*Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the primeval darkness, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for any person living in the chaos and darkness of despair. God created and continues to create new life.*

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

*In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptized them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and empowered them with gifts of the Spirit.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

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.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11**

*Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Crashing Waters at Creation*

**ELW #455**

## **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**

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*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:*

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.*

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## MEAL

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

## OFFERING

"Winter Carol"

(Lovelace)

Chancel Choir

## OFFERING RESPONSE

### We Give Thee but Thine Own

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

receive the gifts we bring,

our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Through this meal unite us as your body,  
shining with the light of your justice and mercy;

for the sake of him who gave himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who 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. 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 in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is a simple, melodic line with a steady rhythm.

# THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

# INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## 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.

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*Baptized in Water*

***ELW #456***

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*Baptized and Set Free*

***ELW #453***

*The assembly stands*

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

**Amen**



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O Morning Star, fair and bright,  
you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.

You are our dearest treasure.

Go with us now—

today, tomorrow, every day—

that we tell the story of your never-ending love  
and sing your praise both now and forever.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,  
name you beloved,

and shine brightly on your path;

and the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

*ELW #304*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Let all Together Praise our God”

arr. Paul Manz

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Sisters & brothers 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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December 31, 2017 Attendance 77

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| Serving Faith        | January 7                   | January 14               |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Acolyte              | Kaden Steinke               | Owen Kadrofske           |
| Altar Care           | Carol Towl & Cecelia Kramer |                          |
| Communion Assistants | Kaden Steinke               | Owen Kadrofske           |
|                      | Doug Hirt                   | Walter Kopf              |
|                      | John McCracken              | Karen Whitmyer           |
| Greeters             | Barrickows/Hirts            | Ken & Karen Whitmyer     |
| Lay Assistants       | Doug Hirt                   | Walter Kopf              |
| Readers              | John McCracken              | Karen Whitmyer           |
| Ushers               | TBD                         | TBD                      |
| Nursery              | O'Briens                    | Melinda & Lauren Schultz |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Faith Family & Friends

January 7, 2018

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)

*February Faith Family News newsletter—*  
**Please submit by Monday, January 22**  
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, 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, Rod Kaschner, Eshwar Lingamgunta, Jenn Leitch, Brian Johnson, Meredith, Jeanne and Leonard, John Joseph Lanzetta, Johnathon Manitta family, Loretta Milne, Bethany Robison, Karen Smiley, 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

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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 the Pastor Ryan Prondzinski and the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church of Michigan Center, Michigan in your prayers of intercession this week.

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**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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**Weekly Offering**      **12/24 & 12/31 NA**      Year-to-date as of 11/30/17

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Income            | \$245,586        |
| <u>Expenses</u>   | <u>\$270,417</u> |
| <b>Net Income</b> | <b>-24,831</b>   |

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**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

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Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Doug & Kay Showers in celebration of the New Year.

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**THIS WEEK'S CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS**

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Today

10:00 a.m.      Worship

11:15 a.m.      Worship Committee Meeting

5:30 p.m.      Beer & Hymns at Williamston Pub & Grill

Monday, January 8

Tuesday, January 9

No Noon Study

Wednesday, January 10

7:30 a.m.      Men's Study

9:30 a.m.      Quilting and Samaritas ACTION

5:45 p.m.      Meal is Served: Pizza provided with Free Will Offering

6:30 p.m.      T & C

6:30 p.m.      Activities for kids Pk-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

6:30 p.m.      Faith Bells

7:00 p.m.      Book Study

7:30 p.m.      Chancel Choir

7:30 p.m.      Additional Activities for kids

Thursday, January 11

11:30 a.m.      Caregivers Support Group

Friday, January 12

Saturday, January 13

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship.



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

## Altar Care help needed –

Ever wonder where all those little cups of wine come from? Or how the paraments get changed so the colors match the liturgical season? If so, we have a wonderful opportunity for you. We have some openings in the Altar Care schedule and could use some more able hands. This usually involves some time on Saturday to set things up and then clean-up on Sunday. We can pair you with someone experienced in this important task so you don't have to go it alone. We generally sign folks up for a month at a time, but will work with you on times you can assist. Please contact Elaine Harrison or Peggy Crum if you are willing to help.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



### Altar Flowers

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**The 2018 Altar Flower Chart is up and ready to be filled. Please leave your flower dedication sheets in the office or in Mary Ann Scheuerman's or Katie Love's mailbox.**

*Thank  
You*

**A HUGE THANK YOU** from the Caring Committee to the members at Faith Lutheran who helped support the Reverse Advent Food Drive. To everyone who brought in food, donated money for perishables, helped pack the food, and those of you who delivered the food to the 20 families in Meridian Township, we couldn't do it without your help. You are making a positive difference in our community with your support and the care you are demonstrating for others.

We also want to express our thanks to GREAT HARVEST BREAD COMPANY in Okemos for their amazing and overwhelming donation of more than 60 loaves of bread and 4 dozen cookies, each family received at least 3 bakery items. When you stop in the store, please tell them how much Faith Lutheran appreciates their continued and very generous support in this important ministry.

## Wednesday Night Live will resume on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

On **Wednesday, January 10, at 7:00 PM** we begin a new book study by Walter Brueggemann. The book we will be looking at is ***The Bible Makes Sense***. This is a “how to” book of an unusual kind. Brueggemann proposes that Christians should approach the Bible, not as a collection of ancient documents, but as our partner in an ongoing dialog about our life here and now. He explains how to enter into this dialog, how to listen, and how to respond. This book is about the Christian way of approaching the Bible as the life-giving word of God addressed to us. It has much to offer all of us who are called to live by it and proclaim it in our life and actions. If you want to be part of this life-giving opportunity, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 5:30 – 6:00 | Joyful Noise choir rehearsal                                       |
| 5:45 – 7:00 | Meal served: Pizza provided with Good Will Offering                |
| 6:30 – 7:30 | Trinity, Confirmation, and <i>activities for younger children!</i> |
| 6:30 - 7:30 | First Communion Classes (Jan. 10-31 <sup>st</sup> )                |
| 6:30 – 7:30 | Bell Choir rehearsal   |
| 7:00 – 8:00 | “ <i>The Bible Makes Sense</i> ” Book Study                        |
| 7:30 – 8:00 | Additional Activities for Kids                                     |
| 7:30 – 9:00 | Chancel Choir  |



### SIGN UP!

Please take a look at the Dinner Sign-up sheet and sign-up your group or committee to host on a Wednesday Night!

## Upcoming Caregiving Meeting

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

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***SIXTY +/-***

***Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 1 p.m.  
In Faith’s Choir Room***

***Popcorn and a Movie: “The Shack”***

“The Shack” takes us on a father’s uplifting spiritual journey. After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips [Sam Worthington] spirals into a deep depression causing him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa [Octavia Spencer]. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.

Warm your spirit in Michigan’s cold January by sharing fellowship with your 60 Plus or Minus Friends as we watch this inspirational film.

### ***Looking Ahead:***

***February 14, Ash Wednesday:*** We will honor our tradition of providing a soup and bread lunch for all those who attend the noon worship service.



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.**



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**Thrivent Card Request:**

**The Youth at Faith is requesting a Thrivent Card to help offset the costs of the Shrove Dinner on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be a great time of fellowship and fundraising for the Youth going to Houston for the National Gathering. Please email or call Katie Love if you are able to supply a card.**

**January:**

- 7<sup>th</sup>: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8  
Confirmation  
First Communion Class
- 14<sup>th</sup>: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6  
6-8 p.m. Teen Night at Love's House
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8  
Confirmation  
First Communion Class
- 21<sup>st</sup>: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6  
11:15 a.m. Parish Ed Meeting
- 24<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8  
Confirmation  
First Communion Class
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation Review with Melinda 9-12 at Faith
- 28<sup>th</sup>: 9 a.m. Sunday School PK-3 and Trinity 4-6  
10 a.m. Joyful Noise Choir sings in Worship  
6-8 Gathering Study/ Teen Night
- 31<sup>st</sup>: Wednesday Night Live: PK-3 Activities, 4-6 Trinity, 7-8  
Confirmation  
First Communion Class

**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 \$300-400.

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.

## **Sunday, February 4 - ANNUAL MEETING – SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – DEDICATION OF HOUSE**

On Sunday, February 4, it will be a busy day at Faith Lutheran Church. Not only is it Super Bowl Sunday. That Sunday morning will include the following:

1. **Annual Meeting** – Our Annual Meeting will take place during lunch, following worship
2. **Souper Bowl of Caring** - The Annual Meeting will take place while you eat soup. Various kinds of soup will be served, and the freewill offering proceeds will go to furnish food for the refugees who will be living in the Parish House.
3. **Dedication of House** – After the Annual Meeting, we will walk over to the Parish House and dedicate the house for the purpose of ministry to the refugees. Please plan to join us for these events!



Thrivent Sunday  
Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>  
Lunch & Financial Workshop following worship.



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*Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. —1 Peter 4:10*

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## R&M Holle Speaker Series

Saturday, February 17, 2018

9:30 – 3:00 (Lunch provided)

Childcare Available

Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos

### Featured Speaker: **Dr. Jacqueline A Bussie**

You are invited to attend this kickoff event of the 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 at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos, MI where Bishop Holle was a longtime member and where his wife, Marla, continues to be an active, vital member of the community.

**Dr. Jacqueline Bussie**, a former professor at Capital University, is now Director of the *Forum on Faith and Life* and professor of religion at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She is the author of ***Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the “Rules.”*** In this book, 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.

This February 17 event is free to the public. A freewill offering will be taken to cover luncheon expenses. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you plan to attend so we know how to plan for lunch.