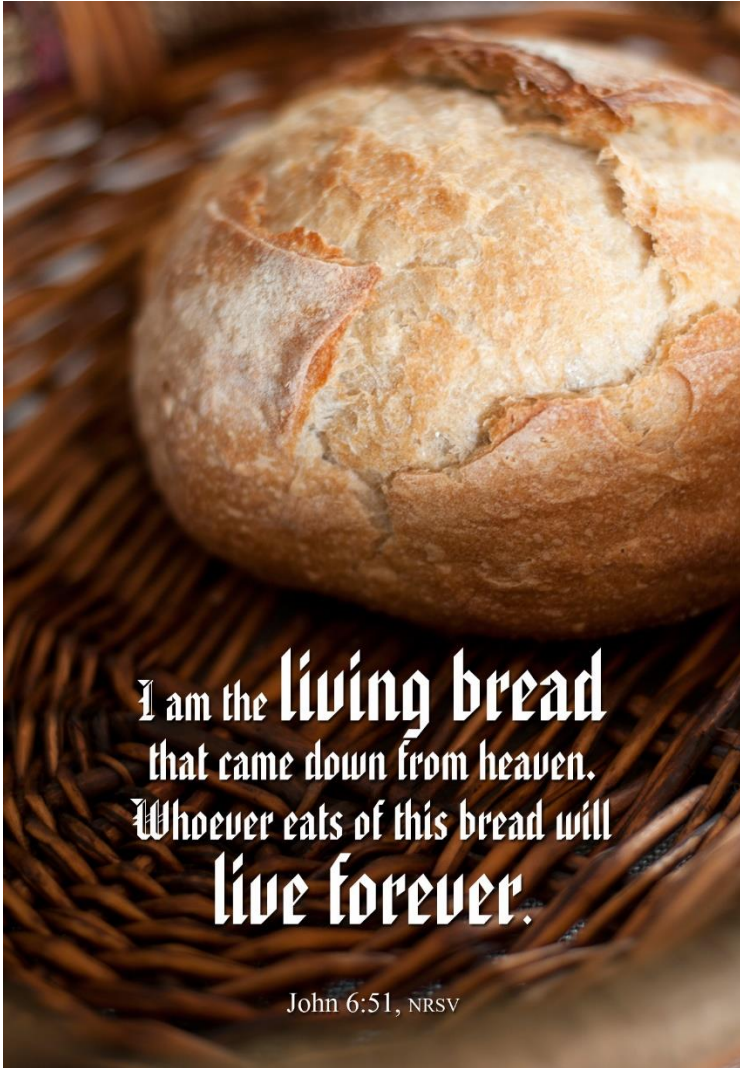


Faith Lutheran Church

August 19, 2018



I am the **living bread**
that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats of this bread will
live forever.

John 6:51, NRSV

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517)349-0620



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
.. we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
.. we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
.. we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ
-



Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

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

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

Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ www.faithlutheranokemos.org
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

Hungry for Meaning

The account of Viktor Frankl's survival in Nazi death camps, written in his famous memoir, *Man's Search for Meaning*, tells about the relentless days of wretched suffering. But most remarkable are his words about finding meaning in a grim wasteland of loss, the discovery of something that gives life in an existence pulsing with cruelty and death. Few of us face such horrors, but many of us do know what it is to rise into mornings that drift into hollowed out nights, days of empty passages.

During a long stretch of loneliness, the man paced vacantly through once joyful corridors that had become a maze of confused anguish. For anyone and no one to hear, he cried, shouted, "This is no life!" He wanted neither to live nor to die. Nothing—shopping, traveling, eating, drinking, going, coming, playing, working, hoarding, shedding—nothing had meaning.

Today, Jesus speaks of himself as living bread from heaven, his flesh for food and his blood for drink. The Gospel of John offers no details of the Lord's supper, no instructions spoken over bread and wine, no "Do this for the remembrance of me." Instead, here, Jesus' invitation is to share in his way of abundant life, in a word, "abide."

Abide. You are not alone. Abide. Jesus is with you. Abide in communion with the one who hugs lepers, expels demons, breathes with the dead, rescues the far gone, goes to prison, wants the unwanted, loves the shamed, forgives the guilty, serves the servant, blesses the thieves, welcomes aliens, cancels debts, listens to children, gives the blind kaleidoscopes, the deaf symphonies, and the voiceless a song. May this be our prayer today: "When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me" (ELW 629).

Sunday, August 19, 2018

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

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

“I Am the Bread”

arr. Ron Schmoltze

GATHERING

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

GATHERING SONG

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

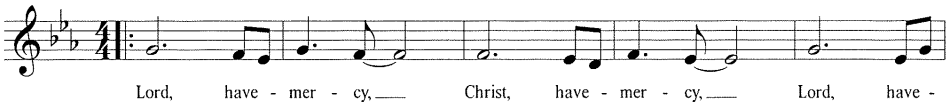
ELW #836

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.

KYRIE



Lord, have - mer - cy, — Christ, have - mer - cy, — Lord, have -



mer - cy, have mer - cy on - us.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God, we give you
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's
A - lone, O Christ, you on - ly



thanks and praise; of heav' - nly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
on - ly Son, you bore for us the load of this world's sin. —
are the Lord, at God's right hand in ma - jes - ty most high:



We wor - ship you, to you our hearts we raise, —
O Lamb of God, your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, —
who, with the Spir - it wor - shipped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - migh - ty Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
re - ceive our pray'r, grant us your peace with - in. —
with all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy. —

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

A reading from Proverbs.

- ¹Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!”
To those without sense she says,
⁵“Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from Ephesians.

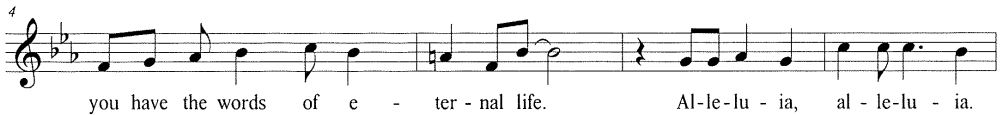
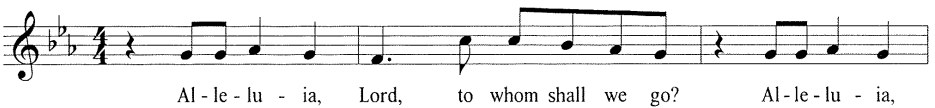
¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Eat the Bread of Teaching

ELW #518

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

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are 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:*

Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through 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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

"I Want to Be Like Jesus"

(arr. Fettke)

Diane Hill and Bob Nelson, duet

OFFERING RESPONSE

Let The Vineyards

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful Lord, and

5 fill to the brim our cup of bles - sing. Gath - er the har -

10 - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the

15 bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u -

21 nite them in the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta -

26 - ble with your pres - ence, Lord, and give us a fore -

30 - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

you open wide your hand

and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us.

Open our hands to receive it.

Open our hearts to embrace it.

Open our lives to live it.

We pray this through 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.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,

you pour out the fire of your Spirit,

uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

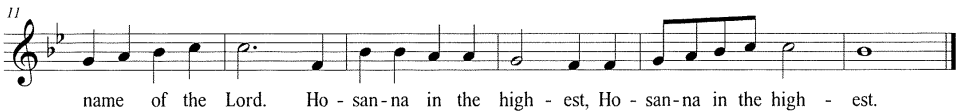
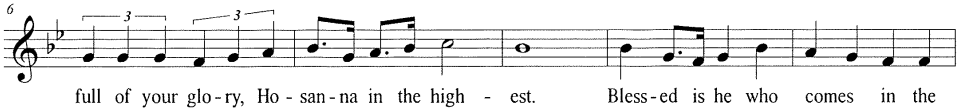
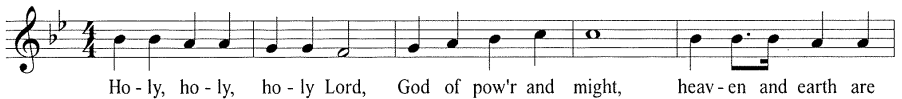
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of
the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Breath of life and Fire of love, with a mighty wind you brought creation into being, and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom. We praise you for the gift of your Son, who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.

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 death, resurrection, and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit, we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth. Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal: anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love, that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to 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.**

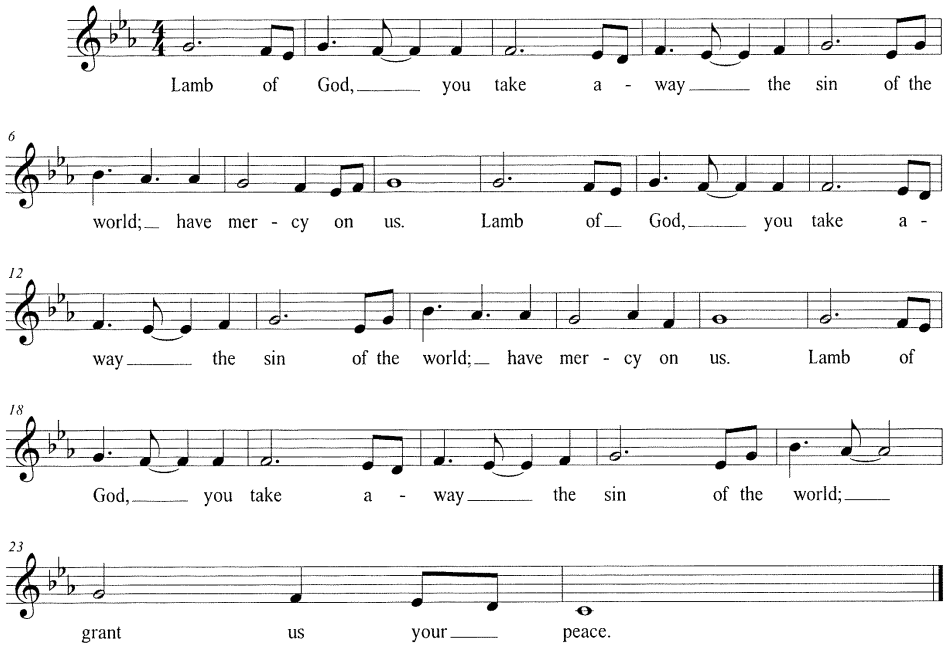
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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
6 world; _ have mer - cy on us. Lamb of _ God, _____ you take a -
12 way _____ the sin of the world; _ have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
18 God, _____ you take a - way _____ the sin of the world; _____
23 grant us your _____ peace.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Preludes, Op. 2, Op. 9, No.1, Op. 11. Nos. 4, 9, 13”

Alexander Scriabin

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
Filled again by these signs of your grace,
may we hunger for your reign of justice,
may we thirst for your way of peace,
for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW #542

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Variations on Hymn to Joy”

arr. Joseph Lowe

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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	klove@faithlutheranokemos.org
High School Director		Katie Love
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

August 12, 2018 Attendance: 104

Serving Faith	August 19	August 26
Acolyte	open	open
Altar Care	Michelle Ransom & Pam Williams	
Communion Assistants	open	open
	Elaine Harrison	Warren Heilman
	Kim O'Brien	Diane Wilke
Greeters	Bill & Pam Williams	Bob Scholle
Readers	Elaine Harrison	Warren Heilman
Lay Assistant	Kim O'Brien	Diane Wilke
Ushers	Schultz Family	Schultz Family
Nursery	Lori Webb	Alexis Hereza

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, August 19th

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Gail & Lowell Barricklow in celebration of their 40th anniversary and our family.



**COMMUNITY PICNIC
&
CONCERT**

FEATURING:

SUMMER OF SOL

**PULLED PORK SANDWICHES AND
HOMEMADE KETTLE CHIPS**

**CATERED BY
THE WATERSHED BAR & GRILL**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25
4:00 – 7:00 PM**

CONSUMERS ENERGY

Consumers Energy will be present, encouraging people to
have free energy audits done in their homes.

**Faith
Lutheran
Church**

4515 Dobie Rd.,
Okemos

*Enjoy free food and
live music on front
lawn of church*

August 25
4:00 – 7:00 PM

Corn Hole Contest,
games and prizes

Information on Free
Energy Audits

**FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Rd.
Okemos, MI

517-349-0620
www.faithlutheranokemos.org

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success!
Please see the sign-up table in the narthex after worship
or contact Brenda Kopf at bjktchr@sbcglobal.net
See you there!