

Faith Lutheran Church

December 16, 2018



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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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

The Good News Ax

It's the third week of Advent. The kids are practicing their pageant, Christmas carols are playing nonstop everywhere we go, and we are waiting for that precious babe to be born in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. But just as we are settling into that saccharin scene of Christmas sweetness, John the Baptist shatters it with his talk of an ax lying at the base of the tree and an unquenchable fire.

John's job is to give us a wake-up call: "People! The one you are waiting for is a whole lot more than just a cute little baby!" This Jesus for whom we wait is coming with power as sharp as an ax and as hot as fire, to prune away everything that holds us back from the fruit-bearing life we were born to express.

It may seem a bit too harsh and violent for our mid-Advent mood, but this ax is where things get good! Think of the things that prevent fruit from growing: guilt, shame, the hoarding of possessions, our fear that there isn't enough, the disease of sin. All of this will be chopped away and burned, making space for life to grow.

Think of the ways God chops back that which keeps us from new growth. We may be steeped in all kinds of internal poisons, prone to believing ourselves unworthy. But at the communion table, God cuts through those lies and says, "No, this is my body given for you." Through baptism we are equipped with words that can cut like a knife and truth as consuming as unquenchable fire: "You are God's child." Cleansed, nourished, and pruned, we can recognize ourselves as God's worthy and beloved children and begin bearing fruit.

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

Introduction to the day

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.
Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

PRELUDE

“Away in a Manger”

Traditional, arr. Wagner

Faith Bells

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.
Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.
To you, O God,
we lift up our souls.
You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways;
teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism:
your sin is washed away in the name of ✚ Jesus;
you belong to Christ;
you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads!
The reign of God is near.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW #257

Vs 1-4

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.



Candle Lighting Liturgy – Advent 3

The Lord your God is in your midst, rejoicing over you with gladness, renewing you in love. I will bring you home and restore your fortunes, says the Lord.

In this new light, we give thanks to the Lord.

With joy you will draw waters from the wells of salvation.

We will rejoice in the Lord always.

We light a third candle to reveal the pathway to faithfulness.

As a covenant people we will seek to live in the joy of the Lord.

Light One Candle

M.P.

Mark Patterson (ASCAP)

With purpose (♩ = 88)

2

1 Light one can - dle for hope,
 2 Light one can - dle for peace,
 3 Light one can - dle for joy,
 4 Light one can - dle for love,

5
 hope that the whole world needs.
 peace that the whole world needs.
 joy that the whole world needs.
 love that the whole world needs.

7
 Light one can - dle for hope,
 Light one can - dle for peace,
 Light one can - dle for joy,
 Light one can - dle for love,

9
 hope that the Sav - ior will bring;
 peace that the Sav - ior will bring;
 joy that the Sav - ior will bring;
 love that the Sav - ior will bring;

12
 hope that the Sav - ior will bring.
 peace that the Sav - ior will bring.
 joy that the Sav - ior will bring.
 love that the Sav - ior will bring.

2

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

READING:

John 1:1, 14

CONGREGATIONAL SONG:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283

vs. 1&3

READING:

A Reading about Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

SPECIAL MUSIC:

“Breath of Heaven”

Grant & Eaton

Emily Brown, soloist

READING:

A Reading about Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

CONGREGATIONAL SONG:

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW #281

All verses

READING:

A Reading about the Angels (Luke 2:8-20)

CONGREGATIONAL SONG:

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289

vs. 1&3

READING:

A Reading about the Shepherds (Luke 2:15-20)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

CONGREGATIONAL SONG:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW #279

vs. 1&2

READING: A Reading about the Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-15)

CONGREGATIONAL SONG:

Joy to the World

ELW #267

Our monthly noisy offering will be taken during the singing of this hymn.

CAST:

Readers: Maude Lewis & Rachael Ngasala

Mary: Serena Ngasala

Joseph: Sean O'Brien

Gabriel: Calvin Kadrofske

Shepherds: Austin Jones, Samantha Magyar

Isaak Nyquist, Abigail Steinke

Wisemen: Paige Lewis, Kaden Steinke, Jasper Wawrzynski

Helpers: Zachary Hereza, Juliana Lewis

Kate Magyar, Sami Ransom

Sheep & Angels are played by PK-2nd graders.

Special thanks to Shelia Urban for all or your help.

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

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

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

“What Child is This”

arr. Craig Curry



...you will find a babe
wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger.
Luke 2:12, NRSV

OFFERING RESPONSE

Emmanuel

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.

Chords: C, C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B^b, A, A/C[#], Dm, G⁷, G/B, C, C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B^b, A, A/C[#], Dm, G⁷, F/C, C.

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.

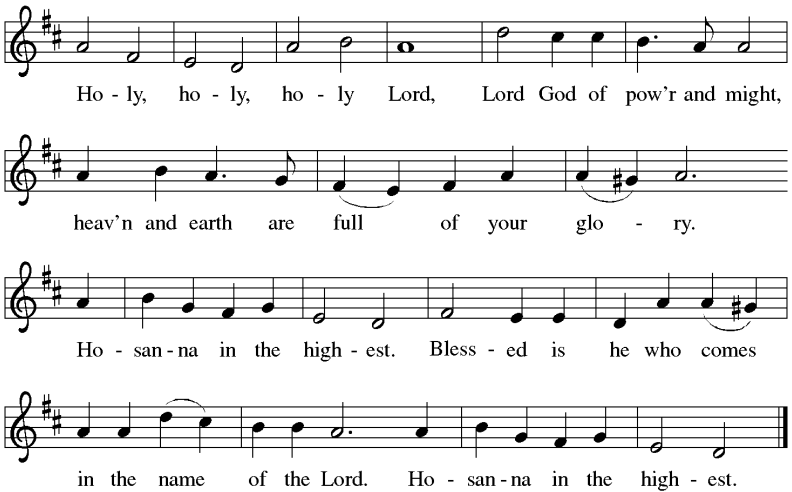
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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

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

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy 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

God fills the hungry with good things.
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, grant us peace.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Mary Did You Know”

arr. Bill Wollaver

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Bill Wollaver

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 God direct your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts
until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG

People Look East

ELW #248

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“People Look East”

arr. Dale Wood



Faith Lutheran will be welcoming new members
on Sunday, January 20th. If you would like to
become a member please contact Pastor Ellen or
Katie Love

prellen@faithluthernokemos.org

klove@faithlutheranokemos.org



Siblings 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
Trinity/Middle School Director		Maddie Wosinski
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

December 9, 2018 Attendance: 120

Serving Faith	December 16	December 23
Acolyte	Maude Lewis	open
Altar Care	Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers, Brielle Bowers	
Communion Assistants	Maude Lewis	open
	Elaine Harrison	Jack Dingedine
	Jim Crum	Mike Eschelbach
Greeters	Ken & Karen Whitmyer	Jeff & Melinda Schultz
Readers	Elaine Harrison	Jack Dingedine
Lay Assistant	Jim Crum	Mike Eschelbach
Ushers	Jim & Peggy Crum	Jim & Peggy Crum
Nursery	Melinda & Lauren Schultz	Marquardt's

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, December 16th:

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by...

Vase 1: the Schultz family in loving memory and joyful celebrations of all families this Christmas.

Vase 2: Keith and Beth Belonga in memory of their parents.



Christmas **EVE**

We invite you to join us on
Christmas Eve

Service Times

4:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.