

# Faith Lutheran Church

March 10, 2019

FIRST  
SUNDAY



IN LENT

Pastor Ellen Schoepf  
[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto: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](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.

Faith Lutheran live streams it’s services. No names of participants are broadcast.

## **Wilderness Encounter**

The devil did not make him do it! No, it was not the Evil One who put Jesus on the path to the wilderness. Imagine the scene in this gospel story. Listen beyond the hissing sun and the howl of silence while you contend with this detail: It wasn't the devil's hand that tugged Jesus into the wilderness. No, it was not the diabolical villain of Eden's paradise nor the conniving accuser in Job's tragic saga that took him to taste loneliness and hunger. It was the Spirit! (Luke 4:1).

In a seemingly wretched epilogue to the grand scene by the river, Jesus, clean from the water of his baptism in the Jordan, goes to the wilderness. And yes, no surprise, in the wilderness the devil, the Great Deceiver, arrives with an unholy trinity of deceptions that offer nothing more to a hungry world than scraps that will not do. The Deceiver offers nothing more for empty lives than knock-off royal pedigrees that are cruel illusions, nothing more for unsteady nerves and faint hearts than a mockery of faith that bears no truth.

But the Spirit is there too, in this seemingly desolate place. There Jesus, the beloved Son, claims for himself more than name and ancestry; he reveals for us the holy work of God's mysterious Spirit. The same Spirit that descended on him at his baptism sustained him in the wilderness, and that very Spirit is wildly, graciously, probingly loose in the church and in the world today.

In our own wildernesses, where faith and doubt often collide, we can be sure that Jesus goes with us. The one who was led, accompanied, and followed by the Spirit in the wilderness surely does not abandon us to our doubts and fears. In places we are deeply afraid to go, Jesus waits for us with bread for the journey in his wounded hands.

**Sunday, March 10, 2019**

First Sunday in Lent

**Introduction to the day**

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

*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**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

(Jackson, arr. Berry)

Joyful Noise

Gwynne Kadrofske, flute

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## GATHERING

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

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us,  
anoint us,  
and make us new.  
**Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin,  
and receive God's promise of mercy.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God at the margins,  
**We have wandered far from your home;  
again and again, we lose our way.  
We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.  
We forget that you have saved your people before  
and promise to do so again.  
Do not remember the deeds of our past,  
but turn our faces toward the future,  
where your forgiveness is sure,  
your welcome is clear,  
and your love overflows.  
Amen.**

Like a hen who gathers her chicks,  
God embraces you in tender care.  
Like manna in the desert,  
God feeds you with surprising mercy.  
Like a loving parent,  
God runs to meet you again this day,  
forgiving your sins for the sake of ✚ Christ,  
leading you from death into life.  
**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

***ELW #321***

## 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



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.  
1, 3 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
2 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927  
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated*

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## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

*The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshippers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.*

A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

*Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.*

A reading from Romans.

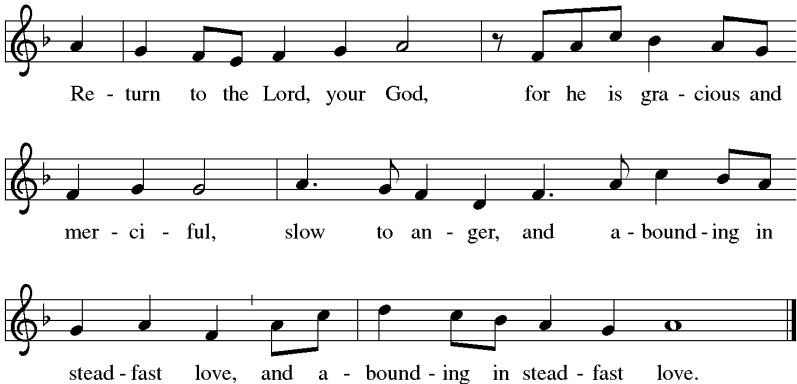
<sup>8b</sup>“The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.



## **GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

*After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup>and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Out in the Wilderness



1 Driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;  
2 Tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;  
3 An - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;  
4 "You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.



driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;  
tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;  
an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;  
"You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.



when the Spir - it says, "Go," you can't say, "No."  
though you try to be strong, it's been so long.  
you are far . . . from home where wild things roam.  
When you were . . . bap - tized, you re - a - lized



You lis - ten for the voice when you're bend - ed low;  
He whis - pers in your ear and you know he's wrong;  
There's dan - ger ev - 'ry - where but you're not a - lone;  
you'd heard the voice of God from the o - p'ning skies:



driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness.  
tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness.  
an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness.  
"You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.

Text: Jay Beech

Music: OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, Jay Beech

Text and music © 1999 Jay Beech

## 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

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our  
prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of 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:*

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways  
to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

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

*The assembly is seated.*

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# MEAL

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

## OFFERING

“Mercy”

(Courtney)

Chancel Choir

## OFFERING RESPONSE

### Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the

joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12  
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

Arr. © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Generous God,**

**you feed us with the harvest of the land,  
and you provide for our every need.**

**Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,  
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,  
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.**

**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 call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the 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 your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

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

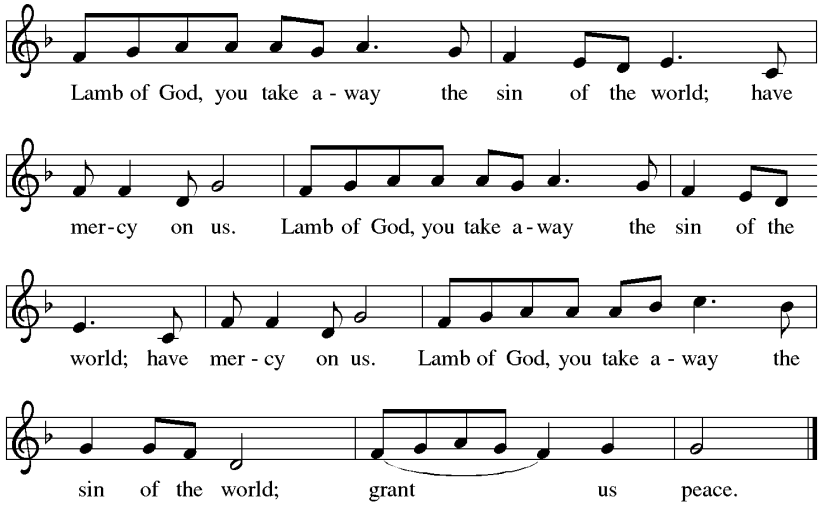
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has prepared the feast.  
Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

## **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.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“For Those In Peril On The Sea”  
“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

John Bacchus Dykes  
Hans Leo Hassler

Flutes of Faith

## LENTEN HYMNS

Bless Now, O God, The Journey  
Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow  
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Flutes of Faith

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

***ELW #471***

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

**Amen.**



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Tender and merciful one,  
at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing,  
turning our emptiness into joy.  
Filled with your abundant grace,  
send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,  
mending broken hearts, working for justice,  
and striving for peace among all people,  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

God, who fills the creation with abundance,  
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,  
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,  
✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

*ELW #326*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

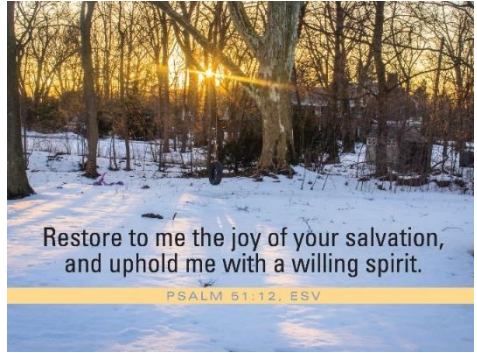
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Toccata and Fugue”

Joh. Phillip Krieger

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.**

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March 3 Attendance: 102, Ash Wednesday Noon: 25

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Serving Faith	March 10	March 17
Acolyte	Serena Ngasala	Atu Ngasala
Altar Care	Tammy Heilman & Melinda Schultz	
Communion Assistants	Serena Ngasala	Atu Ngasala
	Linda Hirt	Heidi Nussdorfer
	Jim Crum	Mike Eschelbach
Greeters	Rich Weingartner	Bill & Pam Williams
Readers	Linda Hirt	Heidi Nussdorfer
Lay Assistant	Jim Crum	Mike Eschelbach
Ushers	Bill & Pam Williams	Gerard/Milne
Nursery	Heidi Bowers	O'Briens
Coffee Hosts	Lee & Linda Gerard	Jeff & Melinda Schultz

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**Altar Flower Dedications:**

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**Sunday, March 10**

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Faith Lutheran Church.

*Altar Flowers are provided by Al-Lins of Okemos*

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

### Weekly Wednesday Night Soup Suppers and Lenten Services

Beginning on Wednesday, March 13, we will again hold weekly Lenten services at Faith Lutheran. We will worship as we sing the music of Holden Evening Prayer and experience the poems and reflections of *Forty Days: A Journey Through the Desert of Lent*.

#### Wednesday Eve Schedule 3/13-4/10

#### No Dinner or Youth Activities on 4/3

5:30-6:00	Joyful Noise Rehearsal
5:45-7:00	Dinner is Served
6:15-7:00	Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30-7:05	Pk/Trinity/Confirmation and Adult Classes
7:15-7:45	Lenten Services
7:45-8:15	Cantata Rehearsal
8:15-9:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Maundy Thursday Service – April 18

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Faith Lutheran, April 18

### Good Friday Services – April 19

12:00 Noon Service at Okemos Community Church

This will be a combined service with the following churches participating Okemos Presbyterian, Okemos Community, Faith Lutheran and Haslett Community Church. A joint choir will be singing at this service and the offering taken at this service will go to the local area food banks.

7:00 PM Service at Faith Lutheran Church

Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church will join us for this service as the combined choirs will sing *Once Upon a Tree*, a musical version of Luke's account of Jesus' passion. Join us for this deeply meaningful experience.

*Okemos Community Church: 4734 Okemos Rd, Okemos*

*Haslett Community Church: 1427 Haslett Rd, Haslett*