

Faith Lutheran Church

March 24, 2019



Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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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.

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

To See Beyond

The fruit truck, sagging under loads of Florida oranges, careened, its brakes impotent. A dumbfounded man on morning errands curled into stilled silence inside his crushed Oldsmobile. Doctors looked but saw no hope: “It’s time to give up.” Steadfastly, every day into the barren seasons, the sound and touch of love attended him.

From sweltering southside projects to heatless northside slums, into streets at night and alleys by day, the child, more sad than angry, carried desperation until he was carried to prison. There, forgotten, he became more angry than sad. Guards looking at him saw no worth in him. But, piercing the hardbound walls, there came the faith of ones who refused to turn their faces away.

Pacing for hours day after day, ignoring sunshine and rainfall, the woman hunched and twisted inside layers of coats over jackets on top of sweaters. She repeated aimless steps outside the treatment center, chatting as if she had more company than her cigarette. Looking through windows, aides nodded: “She’ll never change.” A girl in jeans ran up to her, taking her hand. They walked together.

The buzzing at the door fell silent, and impatient knocking replaced it. A young man, shamefaced, slid a chain and turned the deadbolt. “You’re late again. Always the same with you!” Then the ultimatum: “Your rent now or you’re out!” Wobbling, the young man closed the door and sat, wooden-faced, holding his cat. Then the phone rang—“I have an idea.”

“See here! . . . I have come looking . . .” (Luke 13:7).

“It’s time to give up.”

And they saw no worth in the boy.

And they nodded, “She’ll never change.”

And he said, “Always the same with you.”

Yet the audacity of grace looks to see beyond barren seasons. The courage of hope looks to see beyond hardbound walls. The nerve of faith looks to see beyond aimless pacing. The boldness of mercy looks to see beyond shamed faces.

“Sir, . . . one more year” (Luke 13:8).

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Third Sunday in Lent

Introduction to the day

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

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

"As the Deer Runs to the River"

arr. Mark Himmelman

GATHERING

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

There is a Redeemer

E♭ B♭/D E♭ A♭/C B♭⁷/D E♭ B♭/D E♭ A♭/C B♭ E♭ B♭

1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son.
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;

E♭ B♭/D E♭ A♭ E♭/G Fm⁷ B♭⁷sus E♭ A♭/B♭

pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my king for - ev - er, in that ho - ly place.

Refrain

E♭sus² E♭ Gm⁷ A♭ E♭/G Fm A♭/B♭ B♭⁷ E♭ B♭⁷sus B♭⁷

Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and

E♭ B♭/D E♭ A♭/C E♭/B♭ A♭ Fm⁷ B♭⁷sus B♭⁷ E♭

send - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

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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.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

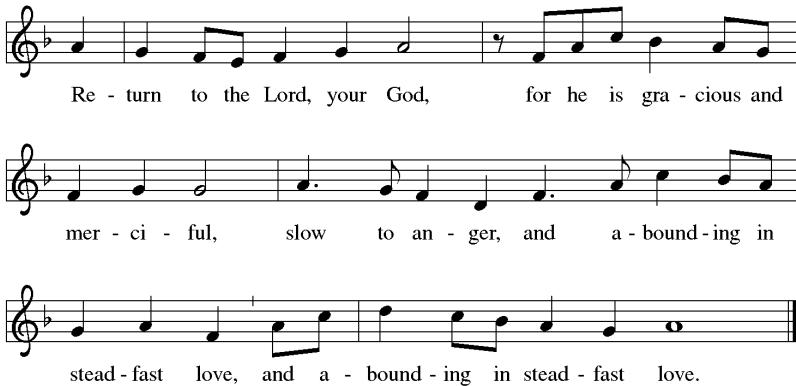
⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Tula Ngasala

Today, Tula Ngasala shares with us more news about the water project in Tanzania. Faith Lutheran has been instrumental in the development of this project. Tula will update us on the work that has been done and what still needs to be done. This project represents one of the ways our congregation is participating in giving life to a community as well as working to diligently be good stewards of our earthly environment.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

As the Deer Runs to the River

ELW #331

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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

“Come to the Water”

(Foley)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Musical notation for the first line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

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

Musical notation for the second line of the hymn, featuring a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

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

Musical notation for the third line of the hymn, featuring a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

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

Musical notation for the fourth line of the hymn, featuring a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

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

Musical notation for the fifth line of the hymn, featuring a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW #335

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW #779

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.

SENDING

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

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW #339

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

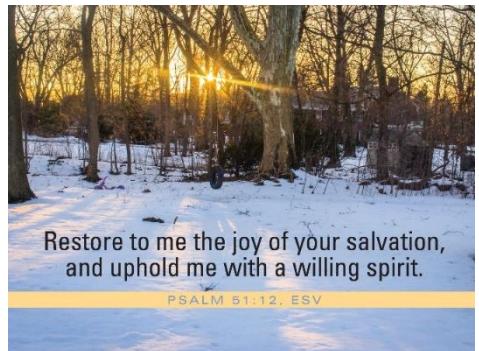
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Fantasia in A minor”

Jan P. Sweelinck

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.

March 17 Attendance: 114

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Serving Faith | March 24 | March 31 |
| Acolyte | Austin Jones | open |
| Altar Care | Tammy Heilman & Melinda Schultz | |
| Communion Assistants | Austin Jones | open |
| | Gus Lusis | John McCracken |
| | Doug Hirt | Walter Kopf |
| Greeters | Doug & Linda Hirt | Mark & Molly DeHate |
| Readers | Gus Lusis | John McCracken |
| Lay Assistant | Doug Hirt | Walter Kopf |
| Ushers | Jeff & Melinda Schultz | Doug & Linda Hirt |
| Nursery | Melinda & Lauren Schultz | Marquardts |
| Coffee Hosts | open | open |

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, March 24

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bob & Mary Ann Scheuerman in celebration of the gift of children.

Altar Flowers are provided by Al-Lins of Okemos

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Weekly Wednesday Night Soup Suppers and Lenten Services

We will 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 Service |
| 7:45-8:15 | Cantata Rehearsal |
| 8:15-9:00 | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |

Maundy Thursday Service – April 18

7:00 PM Service at Faith Lutheran

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.

Okemos Community Church: 4734 Okemos Rd, Okemos

7:00 PM Service at Faith Lutheran Church

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