

Faith Family News

From the Pastor's Pen...

Dear Friends,

As we begin the month of April, we near the close of the Lenten season. Lent is a time when we have literally been experiencing increased light in the world as days become longer with more sunshine. And, Lent is a time when we have figuratively been experiencing increased light in our lives as we prayerfully prepare ourselves for Easter. Lent is a time when we re-discover love, when we again fall in love with a God who has always been there for us, a God who has **always** been present loving us.

Lent is a time that culminates in **the pinnacle week** of the church year, a week filled with drama, longing, and amazing love. So, come, be present for the experiences of Holy Week. Come, be present, as we wave our palm branches and shout our hosannas. Come, be present, as we break the bread and share the wine on that fateful Thursday evening. Come, be present as we put away the candles and strip the altar. Come, be present, as we journey to the foot of that rough, wooden cross. Come, be present, and sit in the shadows and the silence. Come, be present – **and find love**. Come, be present, and **be embraced by the greatest love the world has ever witnessed**.

As we move into Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday on April 14, I invite you to order your lives around that which provides the richest, deepest, most treasured, life giving message around. I invite you to order your lives around the deepest love the world has ever seen and known. Join us for the Holy Week experience and be bathed in the love that has always been there for you, for us as a community, and for all. Here is our Holy Week schedule:

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Faith Lutheran Church
 4515 Dobie Road
 Okemos, MI 48864
 Office Hours: 9am-1pm
 Monday-Friday
 Phone: (517) 349-0620
 Fax: (517) 349-5822
www.faithlutheranokemos.org
faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Ministers

All Members of the Faith Family

Pastor

Ellen Schoepf

prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

High School Leader

Katie Love

Middle School Leader

Maddie Wosinski

Director of Music

Deb Borton-McDonough

Instrumental Worship Leader

Bruce Williams

Church Secretary

Katie Love

klove@faithluthernokemos.org

Newsletter Editor

Katie Love

Mission Partner Congregation

Redeemer Lutheran Church

President	Paul Hereza
Vice President	Ryan Thompson
Secretary	Molly DeHate
Treasurer	Gwynne Kadrofske
Financial Secretary	Tom Schrote
Members-at-Large	Chuck Spanburg
	Kurt Steinke
Past President	Kim O'Brien

Committee Chairs

Caring	Pam Williams
Evangelism/Outreach	Brenda Kopf & Ellen Lewis
Human Resources	Lori Webb
Media/Technology	Chris Lewis
Membership Development	Jean Lewis & Michelle Ransom
Mutual Ministry	Linda Hirt
Parish Ed	
Property	Bob Nelson
	Rick Baderstadt
Stewardship	Kim O'Brien
Worship & Music	Diane Hill

ACOLYTES

April 7	Marla Holle
April 14	Ken & Karen Whitmyer
April 21	Mike Eschelbach
April 28	Jeff & Melinda Schultz

To sign up to acolyte please use the following link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094caaa623a3f49-acolyte>

ALTAR CARE

Gail Barricklow & Linda Gerard

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

See Acolyte, Lay Assistant and Reader.

GREETERS

April 7	Mike Eschelbach
April 14	Ken & Karen Whitmyer
April 21	Marla Holle
April 28	Jeff & Melinda Schultz

LAY ASSISTANTS

April 7	Korine Warwzynski
April 14	Passion Play
April 21	Kim O'Brien
April 28	John McPhail

READERS

April 7	Gus Lusia
April 14	Passion Play
April 21	Brian Ransom
April 28	Melinda Schultz

USHERS

April 7	Walter & Brenda Kopf
April 14	Bill & Pam Williams
April 21	Jeff & Melinda Schultz
April 28	Kadrofske Family

NURSERY

April 7	Williams
April 14	Heidi Bowers
April 21	Jennifer Coe
April 28	Lori Webb

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Sunday, April 14 – Palm Sunday – 10:00 AM

This service marks the beginning of Holy Week. Be present to discover your own rootedness in the drama which is Christ's passion, a drama that has no audience. As we begin this holiest of weeks, this is a drama in which we are participants. Come and allow the Passion story to embrace you, name you, shape your very being and become your story!

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – 7:00 PM Worship

Jesus is making his journey to the cross. That journey includes time with the disciples at that upper room meal where Jesus gives us a new commandment and greets us with his very life and blood. Be present in the quiet as the altar is stripped and we follow Jesus' journey to Gethsemane.

Good Friday, April 19 – 12:00 Noon Worship at Okemos Community Church 7:00 PM Worship Service at Faith Lutheran Church with the choirs of Faith Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran presenting the cantata, *Once Upon a Tree*

Once Upon a Tree is a musical version of Luke's account of Jesus' passion. This will be a deeply meaningful experience.

Easter Sunday, April 21 – 10:00 AM Easter Worship

Come, rejoice with us in worship as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Our alleluias will again be proclaimed as we share the joy of the Risen Christ.

Come and join us for this life-changing, life-giving journey.

Pastor Ellen

Prayers for Health & Healing

Members of the congregation:

Ellen Milne, Janice Taschner & Ken Whitmyer

Friends & Family:

Tarri Anderson, Harriet, Michael Bennett, Todd Barriklow, Bill Baker, Carol Coyer, Kay Coker, Chris Cotter, Terrie Becker, Brian Fent, Allyson, Heather, Al, Lilly Sai, Rod Kaschner, Eshwar Lingamgunta, Jenn Leitch, Brian Johnson, Meridith, Jeanne and Leonard, Jonathon Manitta family, Kiersten, Loretta Milne, Patricia Rinehart, Bethany Robinson, Karen Smiley, Jean Smith, Lisa & Scott Seeley, & the White family

Prayers of Intercession

- Our Mission Partner congregation: Lansing Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Those in Military service: Jon Schoepf, Lani Yearicks and Melody, Adam Wright and Joe Galvin.

Please contact the church office at faith@faithlutheranokemos.org or 349-0620 to update the prayer list.

The website for **Prayer Ventures** is <http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/prayer-ventures>
Prayer Ventures is a guide to daily prayer for the ministries of the church produced by ELCA Communication Services on behalf of the whole church.

Beer & Hymns

Beer and Hymns is cancelled for April. Please join us at the next meeting on Sunday, May 5th.



Come and join us for fun, fellowship and singing! You purchase your own meal and beverage and we supply the music and lead everyone in songs. Beer and Hymns is on the first Sunday of every month at Williamston Pub & Grill in Williamston.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, May 5th

Sunday, April 28

Celebrate Earth Day - On **Sunday, April 28**, the Green Team will be leading worship as we celebrate Earth Day and the gift of creation that we have been given. During the worship service, you will have the opportunity to see a new video the ELCA has produced which shows how ELCA congregations and other denominations are collaborating to encourage people to become good stewards of creation and work for the healing of creation.

Quarterly Meeting – The Quarterly Meeting will take place immediately following worship on **Sunday, 4/28**.

Church Yard Clean-Up – Following the Quarterly Meeting on **Sunday, April 28**, all who are able are invited to stay and work on clean-up of our church grounds. Pastor Ellen will provide a simple lunch for all who are able to participate and lend a hand.

Sunday, May 5

Graduation Party for Tula Ngasala – Tula will be graduating from MSU on Friday, May 3, receiving her Doctorate in Environmental Engineering. Her parents and other members of her family will be coming from Tanzania to celebrate this occasion with her. **On Sunday, May 5, following worship, the Green Team will be hosting a Luncheon Graduation Party for Tula.** We invite you to come downstairs after worship on that day and celebrate this milestone with Tula and her family.

Faith Lutheran Golf League

This summer, our Golf League will again hit the tees. Our league will play on **Thursday evenings at Wheatfield Valley Golf Course**. We tee off at **5:30 each week** and **all are welcome**, even if you are not a great golfer. *(Just watch Pastor Ellen!)* Our first night of golf will be **Thursday, May 23**, and we will play for **18 consecutive Thursdays**, with our last day of play being **Thursday, September 19**. The cost for the season will be \$234 per player, due the first night of play. ***If you are only able to come on occasion, we still welcome you, and you can pay only for those nights when you are able to make it. The cost per player for one evening is \$13 per person.*** We play a scramble so you can invite someone to join you. If you are interested in playing, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you should have any questions, please speak to Pastor Ellen or Ken Schoepf.



GREEN TEAM NEWS – Throughout the month of April, the Green Team invites you to sign your name to a postcard message (*postcards are in the narthex*) and place the postcard in a basket in the Narthex. The message on these postcards is one that encourages our senators to respond to the ecological and economic crisis facing our country and the world by supporting legislation that will bring healing to creation. At the end of the month, these postcards will be forwarded to Interfaith Power & Light and the organization will then send them to our senators. Also, for those who are interested in joining the national network of people of faith concerned about global warming, there is a sign-up sheet on the board in the narthex. Please feel free to add your name and you will receive climate news and updates on these critical issues.

GREEN TEAM TIP OF THE MONTH...

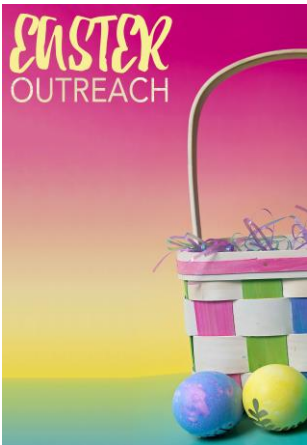
Easy ways to improve your food lifestyle

- Beef's carbon footprint is twice that of pork and four times that of chicken. Choose wisely
- Use meat for flavor rather than making it the whole meal
- Consider observing "meatless Monday"
- Reduce food waste by planning ahead and storing food correctly
- Use smaller plates – you will probably eat less and be healthier too
- Eat ugly food – lumpy and weird shaped can be delicious, too
- Donate leftover food – food banks can't take cooked food, but many shelters can
- Eat what's in season – it tastes better and needs less energy



Taken from Interfaith Power and Light, 2019

CARING COMMITTEE NEWS



Going on NOW!!

The Caring Committee will be filling Easter Baskets again for about 20 local families. We will be packing food on April 10 and delivery will be April 14. We will need helpers.

Food Collection is going on NOW in the Narthex.

The following items are requested.

Cereal, Juice, Peanut Butter, Soup, Muffin Mix, Boxed Desserts, Easter Candy, Boxed Potato Mixes, Tuna, Mac & Cheese, Canned fruits & vegetables, Egg coloring kits. Cash donation are also helpful to purchase ham, eggs, bread & milk. See Pam Williams or Lois Neves for questions.

QUILT AUCTION

Throughout the month of April there will be a hand quilted quilt on display in the Narthex. Our Quilting Group is auctioning off this item to raise money for quilting supplies. There will be a sheet near the quilt on which you can place your bid. Then, at the end of April, the highest bidder will receive the quilt.



April:

- 3: No Wednesday Night Dinner/Classes
- 7: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (PK-5th grade)
- 10: 6:30 p.m. Classes for PK-2nd grade, Trinity (3-5th grade) and Confirmation (6th-8th grade)
- 14: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (PK-5th grade) 6:00 p.m. High School youth group
- 17: No Wednesday Night Dinner/Classes
- 21: **Easter Sunday: No Sunday School**
- 24: 6:30 p.m. Classes for PK-2nd grade, Trinity (3-5th grade) and Confirmation (6th-8th grade)
- 28: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (PK-5th grade) 6:00 p.m. High School youth group



Grad Sunday

Graduation Sunday is planned for Sunday, June 9th. If your high school or college graduate would like to be recognized please contact Katie in the church office.

klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

VBS: June 24-27 from 5:30-8 p.m.

Mark your calendar for this year's Vacation Bible School!!

We will be ROARING into summer as we celebrate that life is WILD and GOD IS GOOD!!

VBS will be June 24-27 from 5:30-8 p.m. with dinner served from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Programming will be for PK-Middle School as well as classes offered for adults.

It takes a lot of work and volunteers to make a VBS happen. Please pray and consider how you might be able to serve this year at VBS! If you are able to volunteer for some days or all, please contact Maddie Wosinski at mwosinski@icloud.com



SPECIAL EVENTS



COVENANTAL RESTORATION: A 12 SESSION FILM SERIES ON FAITH AND RACE

Faith Lutheran Church's RIC Team and St. Paul's Lutheran Church join forces to learn about and address issues of race within our culture.

Racism and oppression have a long and painful past and present, it is an open, aching human wound that reflects a fracture in our relationship with God. Understanding how it was promoted and is still alive and acting out in the construct of our beliefs and systems and structures is the beginning of caring for this wound.

In this series on faith and race we pray God would bring you hope, renew your mind, enliven your spirit, and gift you with the virtues of the Divine's own heart. May God strengthen your stand, inspire your movement towards God's dream for humanity, and increase Kingdom square footage with each step you make in Love.

This 12 session film series continues to be offered on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday throughout this coming year. Beginning at 7:30 on the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month, a film will be shown at St. Paul's, and on the 4th Tuesday evening of each month, another film will be shown at Faith Lutheran. This is a listing of the scheduled showings:

Final Session

4/9 – at St. Paul's – SESSION 12 //Bring Your Fullness with Rashad Robinson

PLEASE JOIN US AT 7:30 ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY EVENINGS OF EACH MONTH FOR THIS MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE!

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Basket Food Collection 9:00 AM No Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	1 Spring Break	2 Spring Break 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	3 Spring Break 6:15 AM Faith Bells 9:30 AM Quilting 7:15 PM Lenten Services 7:45 PM Cantata Practice 8:15 PM Chancel Choir	4 Spring Break	5 Spring Break	6 Fellowship Hall Rented
7 Easter Basket Food Collection Easter Flower Order deadline 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM Memorial for Carol Towl	8 9:30 AM Meridian Play Group	9 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group 7:30 PM Film Series on Faith & Race at St. Paul	10 Packing Easter Baskets: Caring Comm. 9:30 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 5:45 PM Dinner 6:15 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Youth Classes 7:15 PM Lenten Services 7:45 PM Cantata Practice 8:15 PM Chancel Choir	11	12	13
14 Easter Basket Delivery Palm Sunday Quarterly Reports Due 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM Worship at the Willows 6:00 PM High School Youth Group	15 9:30 AM Meridian Play Group 7:00 PM Council Meeting	16 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	17 No Wednesday Dinner/Classes 7:00 PM Combined Choir Rehearsals	18 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Faith	19 12:00 PM Good Friday Service at OCC 7:00 PM Good Friday Service at Faith	20
21 Easter Sunday 9:00 AM NO Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service/Noisy Offering 11:30 AM Mutual Ministry 6:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	Church office Closed 9:30 AM Meridian Play Group	Fellowship Hall Rented 12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	9:30 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Youth Classes 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11:00 AM Dobie Road Service	Sanctuary Rented	Sanctuary Rented
28 Green Team Leads Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Quarterly Meeting 12:30 PM Spring Yard Clean Up	9:30 AM Meridian Play Group	12:00 PM Lunch lectionary study group	1 9:30 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Faith Bells 6:30 PM Youth Classes 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4