



Forecaster



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH * FEBRUARY 2022



There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.[d] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. ~ Luke 2:36-38 ~

Dear faithful friends and fellow children of God: Faith and focus, patience and perseverance.

God's presence continues to remain true and needed in our lives this year as the pandemic has progressed. Fortified by God's promises of accompaniment and hope, our congregation has adapted, innovated, and stubbornly marched on in faith this last year. We give thanks for God's continued presence and we persevere on, continuing to do God's work with our hands. Some highlights of what our congregation has done this year are:

- ❖ Registered our youth and began planning for the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN July 2022.
- ❖ We adapted our worship style to continue worshipping, transitioning from worshipping in-person in our parking lot to returning joyfully and safely inside to our sanctuary. We had our Reopening Indoor Worship on May 9.
- ❖ We resumed many ministries face to face and drew closer together as we reacquainted ourselves with our fellow faith members as well as new friends including two new member classes.
- ❖ Several members and I participated in a multi-church education program called "Dialogues on Race," where we engaged faith with fellow Lutherans in facing the problem of racism. One of the immediate results has been the reinvigoration of Outreach and how we can be more welcoming to more people.
- ❖ We had two baptisms, the first ones I have presided over. I had the joy and honor of baptizing baby Linus Butler on Palm Sunday and Andrew Quinn on Easter Sunday. I also officiated my first wedding in Arizona in November.
- ❖ On Reformation Sunday, we welcomed new members and we heard Martin Luther (who looked very similar to David Moe) read his speech from the Diet of Worms.
- ❖ And we have begun two large, exciting possible ministry opportunities. The first is refinancing our mortgage to make large repairs and improvements to our church property and building. The second is working with our city to explore selling the dirt lot behind the church. The lot would become a park and the proceeds of the sale would allow us to dream and expand current and new ministries.

All of these events, actions, and ministries have proved our perseverance and persistence in faith in the face of the ongoing pandemic. We have proved that the pandemic cannot keep us from praising God or living in ministry. We have chosen to adapt, to change, even to postpone some of our "normal" activities in the cause of loving our neighbors and promoting proper safety. However, even those paused activities are what we are hoping to resume this year, as long as we can do them safely. We hope to take further steps towards normalcy in fellowship, music leadership, and other

ministries which have seen less activity in the pandemic. Faith and focus, patience and perseverance. This is our way, this is what God has taught us and our ancestors in faith. Ancestors like the new testament prophet Anna.

The story of Anna is seemingly small, only a couple of verses long and nestled into many other, seemingly bigger stories. However, there is much we can learn from those 3 verses. Namely, after so much happening in her long life, she still praises God and finds her vocation in helping and leading at her house of worship. She does not let widowhood, the loss of her partner, distract her. Instead, through faith and focus, she dedicates her life to helping others in faith and, in doing so, she finds her Savior. We cannot all be prophets like Anna, we cannot all live exactly as she did, in fact, we are not meant to live “exactly” as anyone else. But Anna gives us a vision, a prophecy if you will, for the future - our future. Her vision and lessons for you and me today are ones of perseverance, hope, and not letting societal expectations around experience or age or gender or relationship or anything else hold you back from leading and contributing in faith. Anna did not let anyone tell her: “Oh, you’re just an old widow who doesn’t know anyone or go anywhere, you can’t do this job at the temple.” No, Anna broke through those barriers, she met new people every day, she learned new ways to help every day, even into her advanced years. And she kept doing it and giving thanks to God and eventually became one of the first proclaimers of the Gospel message that Jesus, the Redeemer of Jerusalem and the world, had arrived on Earth to save us all.

Anna’s faith and focus, patience and perseverance pay off and God rewards her faithfulness with more faithfulness. Anna sees the advent of God’s ever-presence, Jesus’ arrival, the beginning of his time to change and save us all. And so God and Anna are speaking to you right now, offering you the same advice of faith and focus, patience and perseverance as well as the same opportunity which Anna had, to serve in faith and help those around you in new and old ways, in new and old people. This is our vision for the coming year in ministry. Anna proves that at any time in life, you can defy expectations, you can overcome loss and grief, loneliness, and advanced age - to do all of this and do God’s extraordinary work with your own actions. As another pastor wrote in response to Anna’s story: “God is always faithful. God might call us to a new vocation at any age. God will use the whole path of our lives to help bring in God's kingdom.” In this theological mindset, I offer this prayer: O God, give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be strict and conscientious in the discharge of every duty; pure and temperate in all enjoyment, gracious and generous and courteous toward all; so that the mind of Jesus Christ may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples; in whose name we pray. Amen.

God gives us the gifts of faith and focus, patience and perseverance. I believe through these gifts, we can fill this next year with joy, we can satisfy more of our desire to return to normalcy, and we can forge more what faith looks like in our new day in age. In all of this, we ask God to help and guide us.

I continue to give thanks for all of you, for your continued faithfulness, and for the great honor of serving as your pastor. So, until we see each other again: *“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24-26).*

Yours in Christ, Pastor John Barton

Worship Schedule

FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Worship feeds our souls every week and All are welcome! The Season after Epiphany continues ending with the Transfiguration of Our Lord the 27th. Come worship with us and bring a friend.

- February 6** In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am.
- February 13** In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
- February 20** In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
- February 27** In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
Transfiguration of Our Lord

Those hesitant to be in larger crowds may continue to worship by choosing one of the following alternatives:

- Radio:** in our parking lot still broadcasted **live** on 98.9 FM
- Online:** at our website, any time after 2:00 pm each Sunday

-The Worship & Music Committee



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Power Point
6th: Marlene Rosselli	6th: Bill Brauer	6th: Judy Appel	6th: Lynn Bennett
13th: Harold Whitford	13th: Valerie Holmes	13th: Annie Misko	13th: Marlene Rosselli
20th: Marlene Rosselli	20th: David Moe	20th: Kandie Hulme	20th: Sarge Hunter
27th: Roderick Sinclair	27th: Pat Adams	27th: Judy Appel	27th: Mike McGavran
Greeters (all month): Sharon Seims Attendance (all month): Peggy Westby		Altar Guild (all month): Kay Espe and Lynn Bennett	



February is going to be another busy month! We should mention Valentine's Day, our traditional day of Love is February 14th. Just as the Bible Verse states: *Love is patient, love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

This is something I saw on the internet, and I wanted to share with everyone.

Sometimes I just want it to stop. Talk of Covid, protests, looting, brutality. I lose my way. Become convinced that this "new normal" is real life. But then I met an 87-year-old who talks of living through Polio, diphtheria, Vietnam, protests and yet is still enchanted with life. He seemed surprised when I said that 2020 and 2021 must be especially challenging for him. "No", he said slowly looking me straight in the eyes, "I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines, I see the world through the people that surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big. Therefore, I write my own headlines. "Husband loves wife today". "Family drops everything to come to Grandma's bedside". He patted my hand "Old man, makes new friend". His words collide with my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with renewed spirit. My headline now reads "woman overwhelmed by the spirit of kindness and the reminder that our capacity to love is never ending."

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is February 27th. Our annual reports will be in your mailboxes on Sunday, February 13th. Your report could also be picked up from your mailbox Monday, February 14th through Thursday, February 17th from 9:30 am 5:00 pm or 9:30 am to 12:00 noon on Friday, February 18th. If you are unable to pick up your report, we will either deliver or mail it to you on February 22nd.

Cheerfully in Christ, Kandie Hulme

Mark your calendar and save the date!

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on

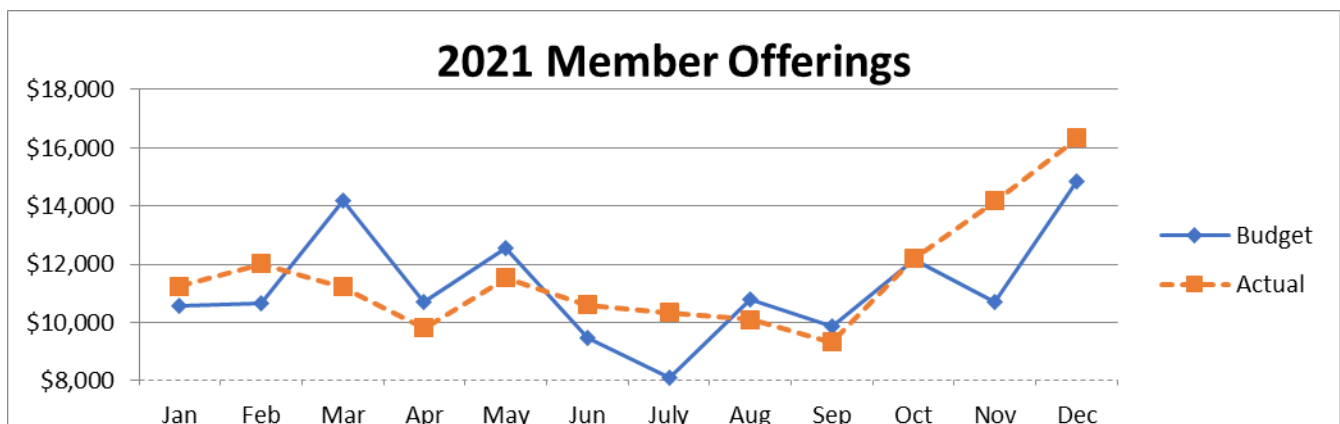
February 27, 2022



FINANCIAL REPORT

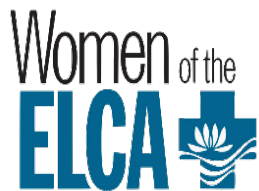
Ending December 31, 2021

- a. **Offering Envelopes**
 - i) **For the month**, over budget at 110.2% (\$16,339 vs \$14,831).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, slightly above budget at 104.2% (\$138,432 vs \$132,858).
- b. **Total Income**
 - i) **For the month**, slightly below budget at 98.3% (\$20,906 vs \$21,261).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, above budget at 112.8% (\$191,358 vs \$169,532).
- c. **Expenses**
 - i) **For the month**, over budget at 111.0% (\$17,111 vs \$15,414).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 98.3% (\$182,422 vs \$185,571).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, below expected at \$3,795 vs. the expected surplus of \$5,847.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, significantly better than expected with a surplus of \$8,936, vs. the budgeted loss of \$16,039.
- e. **Checking balance**
 - i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$24,934.
 - ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$21,127.
- f. **Comments**
 - i) Thanks to our faithful members, we finished the year in great shape! Instead of a significant deficit, we finished with a sizable surplus with which to start the new year. What a blessing!



Prayerfully submitted by Mike McGavran, Treasurer





Greetings, dear women of Faith!

Welcome to you all. The second month of 2022 is here already and many of you are already busy participating in the activities of the church.

We would like to extend an invitation to all women of the church to join us at one of our Circle Bible Studies. Lydia Circle meets at the church on the second Tuesday of each month. Mary Circle meets at the church and on Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month. Please note below the new time for Lydia Circle. If mornings are difficult for you, we will now have an afternoon circle meeting at 2:00 pm starting February 8.

Our Winter study consists of four parts and our **February study is "The Kingdom of God: Mysteries of the Kingdom: Parables, Banquets and Children"**. This month we will consider "kingdom parables" and ask how the kingdom of God is like a net or a treasure or a pearl or whatever. We will also look at an "acted parable" in which Jesus dramatizes the "kingdom" as a banquet where honored guests include misfits and outcasts. Then we will discover (or recall) who we should regard as the greatest in the kingdom and the most important members of any church.

Select the Circle Bible study time listed below that is best for you and join us!

For the coming year we are thinking positive and have set a tentative schedule for our W-ELCA gatherings at Faith Lutheran. They are as follows:

- Thursday, March 17th, 10:00 am
- Saturday, June 25th, 10:00 am (Fundraiser)
- Thursday, August 11th, 10:00 am (All Circle Bible Study)
- Thursday, September 22nd, 10:00 am
- Saturday, December 3rd, 10:00 am (Christmas Gathering)

Stay tuned for further details in the coming months.

Our synodical women's organization, Pacifica Women of the ELCA, puts out a newsletter each month entitled *Pacifica Partners*. There's always a message from their President, Jackie Severa, filled with info about upcoming events, articles and promos from congregational units and individuals, a Synodical Board contact list and more. To subscribe, email your request to: pacificapartnerswelca@gmail.com.

In the past we have had Prayer Partners. Due to COVID that program was put on hold. We would possibly like to start that up again if there is enough interest. At our upcoming General Meeting those who are interested would select someone to pray for and remember during the year. Prayer Partners would be revealed at our December gathering.

Coming Up: Pastor John Meets with Circle Bible Study Leaders: Wednesday, Feb. 2nd, 9:30 am
Lydia Circle Bible Study: Tuesday, Feb. 8th, 2:00 pm at the church (**new time**)
Mary Circle Bible Study: Wednesday, Feb. 9th, 10:00 am at the church and on Zoom
W-ELCA Board Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 16th, 10:00 am at the church
March General Meeting: Thursday, March 17th, 10:00 am at the church

Bea Olsen, W-ELCA President



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

February 2, 2005
February 20, 1941

Deane Meckler
Bea Olsen



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

February 14, 1970

Randy & Kandie Hulme



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please notify the church office so we can add you to our list!

Endowment Board Scholarships

On an annual basis, the Endowment Board accepts scholarship applications from students who are entering the fields of education and/or pastoral ministry. Between February 1, 2022, and May 1, 2022, the Endowment Board will accept applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Please encourage students who are pursuing the indicated fields to apply for a scholarship by accessing the scholarship application form online at faithmenifee.com. Recipients of the scholarships will be notified by June 1, 2022. Each scholarship will have a minimum value of \$500. Thanks for helping to spread the word about this opportunity.

Pat Adams, Chair of the Endowment Board

Hunger Never Rests!

**The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of
Flavored Instant Cereal and Cereal Bars for February!**

Your donations are still welcome and needed! You may 1) Drop your items off at The Cupboard at 26944 Cherry Hills Blvd (951/301-4414). 2) Call Pastor John (949/258-3452) for pick up and delivery! 3) Bring your donations to the church office during our regular hours. When you drop off your donations please inform the Community Cupboard you are from Faith Lutheran. If you are a Thrivent member you may wish to use your Thrivent Action Card to purchase up to \$250.00 of food for the Cupboard. For more information, call David Moe at (951) 230-8493.

Ruth Ditsch - Community Cupboard Liaison



Working with the Menifee Valley Community Cupboard Thrift Shop is a part of our Outreach program here at Faith. Beginning January 31st, the hours of operation are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday – Friday. Donations will be accepted 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Monday – Friday, by appointment.

There are no preferences for items donated, but china cabinet and buffet contents are always saleable, as well as clean couches and dining room sets. Furniture can be picked up from garages and driveways. Donations may be declined based on condition and sale ability. The thrift shop is unable to accept computers, TVs, and similar items with rechargeable batteries, large appliances, chemicals, children's toys, car seats, mattresses and entertainment consoles.

So, gather up those unwanted items and give them a call!



Menifee Valley Community Cupboard Thrift Shop
26944 Cherry Hills Blvd
Menifee CA 92586

Call: 951-672- 3078

Text: 951-745-0295

Email: mvthrift@verizon.net

Submitted by Ruth Ditsch

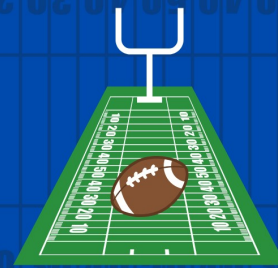
ARE YOU READY FOR SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY?

Whether you are a football fan or not, I think it's safe to say we're all fans of tackling hunger! Faith will be hosting the Soup-er Bowl beginning now through February 13th! Bring cans of soup to the church and put them in the container for the team you're cheering for! AFC? NFC? It doesn't matter! In our Soup-er Bowl everyone wins!!

P.S. Don't forget to bring instant cereal and cereal bars for the Cupboard, too!



SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY





Yes it rained in January, and yes we're spraying weeds again! Hopefully that will go away soon!

We are again getting estimates for the flat roof, A/C and heat units and the parking lot re-surfacing all in anticipation of the money becoming available.

We painted the Cross in the sanctuary with "gold leaf" spray paint. It had been damaged quite some time ago with tape (I think). That's a "No No" on a surface like that.

Looking forward to a great 2022!

Respectfully, Harold Whitford, Property Committee Chair



Faith Lutheran Church

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Menifee, CA 92586

Office Phone: (951) 679-1518 **Pastor John's Direct Phone:** (949) 258-3452

Email: FaithLutheranMenifee@gmail.com **Website:** www.faithmenifee.com

Church Office Hours:

Tues & Thurs 8:30am-5:00pm

Fri 8:30am-12:30pm

Our Staff:

Pastor: Rev. John Barton

Email: prfaithmenifee@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Lynn Bennett

Email: FaithLutheranMenifee@gmail.com

February 2022

February 2022							March 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
27	28						22	23	24	25	26	27	28

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5
Asst Min: Marlene Rosselli Lector: Bill Brauer 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome!	10:00am Mutual Ministry-Ruth's House 2:00pm Stewardship - In Person & Zoom	2:00pm Lydia Circle-In Person at Church	Groundhog Day (United States) 9:30am Bible Study Leaders Meeting	2:00pm Bible Study-In Person and Zoom	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Asst Min: Marlene Rosselli Lector: Valerie Holmes 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome!	10:00am Mutual Ministry-Ruth's House 2:00pm Stewardship - In Person & Zoom	2:00pm Lydia Circle-In Person at Church	10:00am Mary Circle-In Person & Zoom 2:00pm Outreach-In Person and Zoom	2:00pm Bible Study-In Person and Zoom	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Asst Min: Harold Whitford Lector: Valerie Holmes 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome!	Valentine's Day (United States) 1:00pm Exec Board-In Person & Zoom	10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group - Church	9:30am Hymn Planning-Zoom Only	9:30am Hymn Planning-Zoom Only	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Asst Min: Marlene Rosselli Lector: David Moe 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome!	Presidents' Day (United States)	2:00pm Endowment Board-Zoom	Forecaster Deadline 1:00pm Finance Team-Zoom	2:00pm Bible Study-In Person and Zoom	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5
Asst Min: Roderick Sinclair Lector: Pat Adams 9:30am Worship & Annual Meeting	1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom	Mar 1	2	3	4	5