



Forecaster

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH * MAY 2023



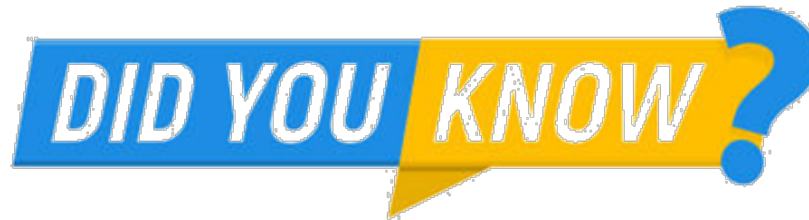
“Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

Oh, come, let us worship Him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.”

~Good Friday liturgy of the Procession of the Cross ELW pgs. 264, 265~



Hi friends! Your Pastor here,

Lent is done, Easter is here, Jesus is Risen, He is Risen indeed, hallelujah!!! Now that we are reveling in the Resurrection, especially by discerning the Stations of the Resurrection each Sunday Worship in Easter, there is a question that perhaps comes up: what do we do with the **cross**?¹ Let's take this time to ponder that question and how the old rugged cross became a symbol of faith and hope! So, *did you know that*: "The cross is the central furnishing of an altar, symbolizing atonement and humankind's redemption. But more than that, the cross is the central symbol of our Christian faith."¹

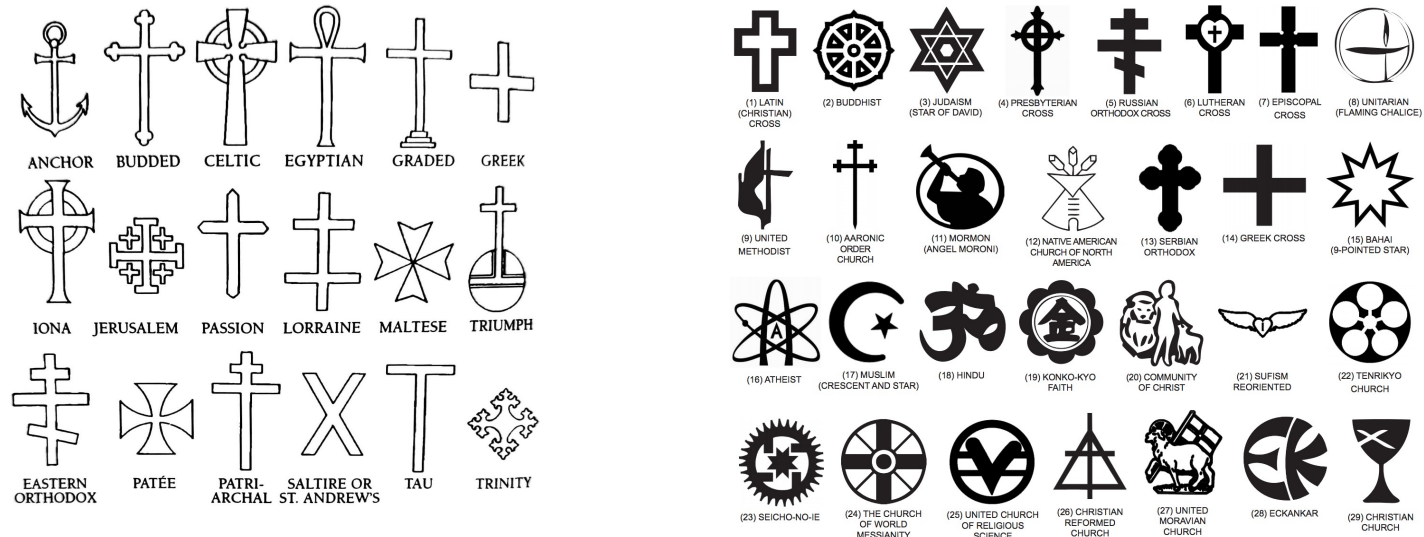
You probably knew that part, but it is worth stating again and again. It is also important to remember the full reality of the cross, that before it was transformed and redeemed along with humanity, that it was an instrument of terrible, horrific, imperial execution.

“Essentially, the cross is a tortuous means of criminal execution, analogous to our noose or electric chair... Yet so often we no longer see the suffering, the death, the stench, the terror that is the cross... Looking ahead to his own death, Jesus once told a crowd of Jews and visiting Greek gentiles, "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). He understood that it was through the cross that God would be glorified and all people would be reconciled to his holiness. Early Christians realized that following Jesus Christ meant embracing the cross. Paul wrote to the Christians in Galatia, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me," (Gal. 2:20a) and later, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world," Gal 6:14). Through this instrument of death has come life, life as it can flow only from God: fresh, vibrant, and unending. The cross has been transformed, redeemed if you will, from an instrument of destruction into the sign of our glorious King, whom we worship and exalt."¹

Here are some visual examples of crosses. On the **left** is a selection of the different styles of crosses, pictured in Worship Without Words. You can find some of the pictured crosses explained in more detail below the pictures. The **right side**, bold symbols are a selection of the Crosses (amongst

¹ *Within these articles, I will frequently use information from the book Worship Without Words ~The signs and symbols of our faith~ by Patricia S. Klein. Think of this sort of like a "Word Collage."

other religious emblems) allowed by the Veterans Administration on military headstones. These are 29 out of the total 66 religious emblems.



Anchor. The top part is shaped like a cross and the bottom like an anchor, symbolizing Christ as our anchor, our hope. "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (Heb. 6:19).

Budded. A Latin or Greek cross with trefoil ends representing the Holy Trinity. This type is often found at the top of the staff of a Christian flag.

Calvary. Sometimes called a **Graded Cross**. A Latin cross with three steps at the base representing faith, hope, and love, from 1 Corinthians 13:13: "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." The cross symbolizes redemption, with Christ risen from the dead and reigning from the throne in heaven.

Celtic. Similar to the Latin cross, but with a circle signifying eternity surrounding the center of the cross. One of the most ancient of cruciform, this cross was used by the Celtic Christians in Great Britain and Ireland. Also called the Irish Cross, Cross of **Iona**, or Wheel Cross.

Crucifix. A cross on which there is a representation of the body of Christ. The carved figure of the body of Christ attached to the cross is called the corpus (Latin for "body").

Eastern Orthodox. A cross of early Christianity. Shown with three horizontal bars crossing one vertical bar. The top bar represents the inscription posted by Pilate above the head of Christ and the tilted lower bar represents a footrest. Various explanations are given for the tilted lower bar, but the most likely is that it echoes the cross of Saint Andrew, who is said to have brought Christianity to Russia. (Also called Byzantine Cross, the Eastern Cross and the Russian Orthodox Cross.)

Egyptian. A cross with a loop at the top like a handle appeared in hieroglyphics and meant "life." It was adopted by the Coptic Christians because Christ is the "Tree of Life."

Greek. Four arms of equal length, like a "+" sign. One of the oldest forms of the cross.

Jerusalem. Four **tau** crosses that meet in the center. with a small Greek cross in each of the four corners. The tau crosses are said to represent the Old Testament law, and the small Greek crosses represent the fulfillment of the law in the gospel. Also called a fivefold or Crusader's cross.

Latin. An upright cross with the lower portion of the vertical twice as long as the upper part above the crossarm. This was the form of the true cross and with the Greek Cross, it is one of the oldest forms of the cross.

Lorraine. Similar to the Latin cross, but with two horizontal arms, the longer one being near the base.

Maltese. All the arms are equal in length and broadened at the ends to make two points each, or a total of eight. Its eight points represent the eight Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10).

Passion. The Latin cross with points at the end of each arm, representing the suffering of Christ at his crucifixion.

Patee. Similar to the Maltese cross, but with curved arms.

Patriarchal. Two horizontal arms on one vertical with the top arm shorter than the second. The upper bar represents the inscription placed on the cross by Pilate. This ecclesiastical cross is carried by the patriarchs in Christian art and icons and was adopted by cardinals and archbishops as a hierarchical distinction. Similar to the **papal cross** which has three horizontal arms, each a little longer than the other, in descending order. This cross is used only in papal processions.

Saint Andrew. A leaning cross, shaped like an "X". According to tradition, Saint Andrew felt unworthy to be crucified like his Lord, so he begged that his cross be made differently. This national cross of Scotland is sometimes called the Cross Saltire.

Tau. Shaped like the Greek letter "T," which is called a tau. Said to be used by early Christians when Christianity was illegal and other forms of the c could bring unwanted attention.

Trinity. Four arms of equal length with three fleurs-de lis at each end."

Now when we see or wear the cross during worship or elsewhere, we can wonder in how this symbol has changed from one of death to new life, because our Savior gave his life that we would be freed from sin and have eternal life through him. Hallelujah! Let me know if you have questions about the altar, other parts of the church, worship, or faith in general. I invite you into these discussions and to be curious about your worship, worship space, and your faith- I am eager to talk with you!

*Now you know, thanks for your curiosity,
Pr. John Barton*

Bonus Theological Fact: from [A Theological Miscellany](#) by T.J. McTavish. pg 9

HOW DID THE MASS BECOME THE MASS?

In the oldest Roman liturgies, once the Communion was over, a deacon announced, "Ite missa est," or "Go, it's the dismissal." The response was, "Deo gra tias," "Thanks be to God." Because the words Ite missa est came at the end, they signified that the Holy Communion was complete. Hence the term missa came to stand for the entire rite of the Eucharist. In popular Latin it became messa and passed into Middle English in the form mæsse, or Mass.

If you are not currently receiving the **Forecaster via Email** and would like to, please email your request to the Church Office at FaithLutheranMenifee@gmail.com.

- If you would like to **receive Prayer Chain emails or phone calls**, please notify the Church Office.
- **To request prayer**, please contact Lynn Bennett at 909-553-5080 or faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com.



Dear Faith Family:

We have some Exciting News. The City of Menifee has officially announced that they received a grant of \$524,700 dollars to help fund their Sun City Park Project, and they will purchase some of our vacant land behind the church. The Grant is part of the State Urban Greening Grant Program funded by the California Natural Resources Agency.

We do not know how much money the church will receive, yet, for the sale of our land, because the City of Menifee has not given us any details regarding the purchase price of our vacant land behind the church.

Although we do not have all the details to share, the great news is that the Park Project will be moving forward.

We want to give a big thank you to Linda Blanche, for bringing our Church and the City together originally for this park project, and for her ongoing support.

The park will be a wonderful asset for our community. The Park project will be a new 1.87-acre park located behind our church. Key features include a quarter-mile walking path, solar walkway lighting, water-efficient landscaping, a rose garden, and covered age-appropriate workout stations. The park will also include benches, drinking fountains, and trash cans with dog bag dispensers.

The Park is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete from land acquisition to full construction.

The Church Council is looking forward to the sale of church land to the City of Menifee and getting this project officially underway.

In addition to this wonderful news, I would like to let everyone know that Faith Church has submitted three park name suggestions to the City of Menifee, in hopes that they will choose one of the names we have proposed. The park names we submitted in order of our preference are: (1)Sun City or Menifee Luther Park; (2)Sun City or Menifee Serenity Park; and (3)Portsmouth Park. Please hold good thoughts as to the naming of the park.

We will keep you informed as the park project moves forward and we receive more information from the City of Menifee.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. God Bless us all! Hallelujah!

Cheerfully in Service to Christ.

Amy Sinclair

Council President



Worship Schedule

FOR MAY 2023

We continue the 50-day Easter Season with a continued look at the fourteen stations of the Resurrection – two per Sunday. Feel free to take a closer look at the visuals posted around the sanctuary. Invite a friend to come have a look.

- May 7** **In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am**
Stations 7 & 8: Closed Room & Thomas

- May 14** **In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am**
Stations 9 & 10: Emmaus & Galilee

- May 21** **In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am**
Stations 11 & 12: Five Hundred Witnesses & James

- May 28** **In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am**
Stations 13 & 14: Ascension & Paul

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

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



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Power Point
7th: Roderick Sinclair	7th: Pat Adams	7th: Judy Appel	7th: Marlene Rosselli
14th: Deane Meckler	14th: Amy Sinclair	14th: Annie Misko	14th: Ann Conn
21st: Harold Whitford	21st: David Moe	21st: Judy Appel	21st: Lynn Bennett
28th: Joanne McGavran	28th: Lorna Harrison	28th: Walli Weitz	28th: Mike McGavran
Greeter: To be determined		Altar Guild: Kandie Hulme & Helpers	
Attendance: To be determined			

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ending March 31, 2023

- a. After exceeding budget for January and February, we fell behind this month on Member giving. However, we are still above budget YTD. Hopefully, our next several months will look better.
- b. Please keep in mind that this year's budget expects a loss of over \$11,000, even with \$20,000 from Endowment. Giving more than expected will help reduce that \$11,000 to a more manageable amount by year-end.
- c. There are still many opportunities to get involved in the work of the Church. Please give prayerful thought to ways you can help our church grow our community of Faith this year.



- a. **Offering Envelopes**
 - i) **For the month**, under budget at 96.4% (\$10,747 vs \$11,145).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, over budget at 109.2% (\$22,396 vs \$20,519).
- b. **Total Income**
 - i) **For the month**, slightly over budget at 101.7% (\$14,617 vs \$14,376).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, over budget at 109.1% (\$32,123 vs \$29,439).
- c. **Expenses**
 - i) **For the month**, over budget at 103.6% (\$16,573 vs \$16,003).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, on budget at 100.3% (\$33,133 vs \$33,034).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, a loss of \$1,956 vs the expected loss of \$1,627.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, a loss of \$1,010 vs the expected loss of \$3,595.

Submitted by Mike McGavran, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Have you done your Estate Planning or reviewed your will? It's a chance to leave a legacy for the future of your congregation! Would you consider adding Faith as a small (or even large) beneficiary?



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

May 10, 1938	Sheron Zolzer
May 13, 1999	Madison Hamilton
May 16, 1931	Arnette Calkins
May 17, 1943	Caroline Ogden
May 21, 1938	Rudy Bosinger
May 26, 1942	Nancy Randolph
May 27, 1947	Marlene Rosselli



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

May 6, 2000	Gregg & Jennifer McGavran
May 17, 2008	Roderick & Amy Sinclair
May 28, 1977	Tom & Judy Brosz



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

Hunger Never Rests!

The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of 1 and 2 pound Bags of Rice for May!



Your donations are always welcome and needed! Bring your donations to the church office during our regular hours or you may drop your items off at The Cupboard at 26944 Cherry Hills Blvd (951/301-4414). 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.

Diane Swarts - Community Cupboard Liaison





Greetings dear women of Faith!

It is May and Spring is here! Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers reading this article.

Our May Bible study is entitled **Serving with Zeal. What Intergenerational Hospitality and Creativity Have in Common.** In this one session devotional Sarah Carson, *Gather's* former managing editor, explores what creativity can teach us about hospitality. From this study participants will see how we all have the capacity to help others feel welcome and to accept this welcome for ourselves.

Select the Circle Bible study time listed below that's best for you and join in the conversation. All women are welcome. Again, if you have not received your May/June issue of the Gather Magazine you can find the study at www.gathermagazine.org. Also, there will be some copies of the May study in the church office. We can also put a copy in your mailbox, just let me know.

Quilters – Six women met last month to organize our materials and assess what is needed. The quilters will be meeting this month on **Thursday, May 4, 9:00-12:00**. No experience as a quilter is needed. There will be various things to do and we would love to have you. Please bring a bag lunch if you wish, for lunch and fellowship when we finish. We look forward to seeing you and having you join us to work on a worthwhile project and fellowship together.

W-ELCA June Fundraiser – our annual W-ELCA fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, June 24 at 10:00 am**. This is open to all women of the church. The cost will be a \$15 donation and will include entertainment by the Rancho Rockers, a seven-piece ensemble to entertain you, drawings for gift baskets and lunch and fellowship. Come and join us and invite your friends. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex or you can call Bea Olsen at (951) 370-3600 to be added to the list.

Sunday Coffee – just a reminder your help is needed to continue to have this coffee and fellowship after our church service. Help with the set up is provided by Evelyn. We would like volunteers to help clean up after our Sunday coffee. Please sign up and give it a try.

Coming up this month:

Pastor John's Circle Leaders Bible study: Wednesday, **May 3, 9:30 am** at Church

Quilters: Thursday, **May 4, 9-12 noon** in the Fellowship Hall at church

Lydia Circle Bible study: Tuesday, **May 9, 10:00 am** in the library at Church

Mary Circle Bible study: Wednesday, **May 10, 10:00 am** at Church and on Zoom

W-ELCA Board Meeting: Wednesday, **May 17, 10:00 am** at Church

Planning ahead – Mark your calendar-W-ELCA Annual Fundraiser-Saturday, **June 24, 10:00 am**

In Christ's love, Bea Olsen, W-ELCA President

**Faith Lutheran Women of the ELCA
(W-ELCA)**

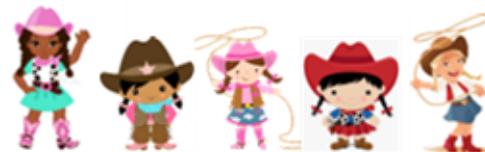
**Annual Fundraiser &
Luncheon**

Recipient: Alternatives to Domestic
Violence

(Local Shelter for Women and Children)

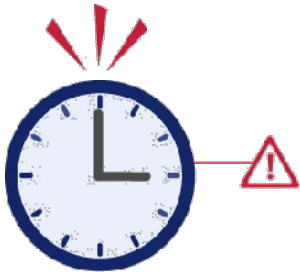
**Saturday, June 24, 2023
10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
Suggested Donation: \$15**

**ALL women are welcome!
Come - bring your friends!**



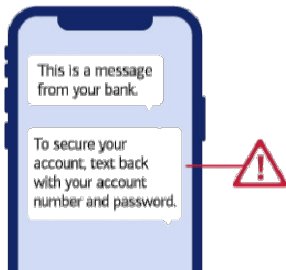


Can you spot a **scam**? Know the red flags that signal a **scam**!



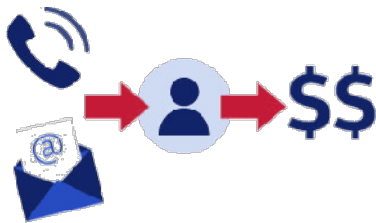
1. You're told to act immediately

Imposters want you to act before you have time to think and may pretend to be a relative in need, a utility company or even your bank.



2. They ask for your personal info or codes

Never share codes or personal information when contacted unexpectedly by phone, text, email, computer alert or social media.



3. You're asked to pay in an unusual way

Be wary if asked to pay by wire transfer, gift cards, gift card codes or payment apps.



Altar Flowers Needed!

Currently May 14th, all of June, all of July and some dates beyond that are available! The cost is \$35. Please go ahead and start filling up those dates before your favorite occasions and holidays get taken by someone else!



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

May 2023

May 2023							June 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	8	15	22	29			4	11	18	25			
7	14	21	28				11	18	25				
							15	22	29				
							19	26					
							23						
							27						
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 30	May 1 10:00am Hymn Planners-In Person & Zoom	2 10:00am Worship & Music 3:00pm Outreach	3 9:30am Bible Study Leaders-In Person	4 9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 5:00pm Synod Assembly Registration	5 9:00am Synod Assembly 10:30am AI-Anon - Library	6 8:30am Synod Assembly
7 AM: Roderick; Lector: Pat; PPT: Mars 9:30am Worship Service	8 1:00pm Exec Board-In Person & Zoom	9 10:00am Lydia Circle-In Person at Church	10 10:00am Mary Circle-In Person & Zoom	11 2:00pm Canceled-Bible Study	12 10:30am AI-Anon - Library	13
14 AM: Deane; Lector: Amy; PPT: Ann 9:30am Worship Service	15 3:30pm Council Meeting	16 10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group-In Person	17 10:00am WELCA Board-In Person 1:00pm Finance Team-In Person & Zoom 3:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic	18	19 10:30am AI-Anon - Library	20
21 AM: Harold; Lector: David; PPT: Lynn 9:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Sinclair-Renewal of Vows	22 10:00am Remembering & Honoring 1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom	23 Forecaster Deadline	24	25 2:00pm Bible Study-In Person and Zoom	26 10:30am AI-Anon - Library	27
28 AM: Joanne; Lector: Lorna; PPT: Mike 9:30am 11:00am Plan 60th Ann.	29 Memorial Day	30	31	Jun 1	2	3