



Forecaster

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH * JANUARY 2021



CONTINUED PARKING LOT WORSHIP SERVICES TUNE INTO FM 98.9

Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to set the earth right. He will straighten out the whole world, He will put the world right, and everyone in it.
~Psalm 98:9

Dear faithful friends and fellow children of God: Let us sing a new song!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year! We were so excited to have had our Christmas Eve service in-person in our parking lot while in our cars! Our plan as a worshipping community is to improve on the successes of the Christmas Eve service and continue to gather in our cars for regular Sunday services **starting Sunday, January 17th!**

- We ask that we start gathering at 9:00 am for an outside, parking lot service beginning at our regular time of 9:30 am. When parking, please follow the ushers' instructions and park your car to face the outside altar on the south wall of the Sanctuary/Narthex.
- To keep proper social distancing it is important to stay in your car with your windows up.
- To hear the worship service, tune your car or portable radio to station **FM 98.9**. For those able to, it may help to have 98.9 be a pre-set channel on your radio ahead of time so you can get to it easily.
- Please do not congregate or gather in groups before or after the service.
- Feel free to wave to your friends on either side of your car and then call them up after to share God's peace with them.
- If you have jumper cables, please bring them to help others, if needed.

Our service will include some hymns, prayers, Bible readings, and a brief message, followed by communion. Please dress warmly and bring: your own communion elements as well as one of our cranberry-colored hymnals. Please contact the church office at (951) 679-1518 if you have any questions or if you would like to pick up a hymnal to keep in your car. Please note that since these are outside services, if there is extreme weather such as heavy rain or strong winds, we will not have in person services that week, instead going to the recorded format. In both cases, the service will be recorded and posted afterwards. We so look forward to seeing as many of you at the services as possible to sing a new song to our Lord! No need to split us up into different weeks since we will all be safe in our cars. Let's fill our

parking lot and join all of creation in praising God! Thank you and here's to a great New Year!

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 the Coming Christ, Pastor John Barton

**We as a family of Faith mourn the loss of
JoAnn Hallahan**



Spotlight on Ministry: The Worship & Music Team

Psalm 95: 1, 6 "O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" "O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

The Worship & Music Team/Committee/Ministry is a group of members who coordinate, schedule and gather other congregants to participate in all aspects of the worship life and music ministries within our congregation. Participation is encouraged and open to any member of the church – not just serving on the committee, but in all the various aspects of worship such as singing in the choir, reading scriptures, serving communion, ushering, serving as an Assisting Minister, helping with Altar Guild (getting the altar and communion set up **every** Sunday), running the power point and sound system, helping Pastor choose which hymns to sing every Sunday and the list goes on. These are all needed to make our worship run smoothly and in a meaningful way. Those who serve in any of these capacities are hard-working dedicated servants of the Lord.

Worship is key and central to our life together and we are all awaiting the day we will be back together every Sunday. By the time you read this we will have experienced our first parking lot worship. The committee will meet to evaluate and determine if we want to continue in the New Year with these parking lot services. (We say YES!). Your input and suggestions would be welcome as they are always.

Blessings in the New Year and remember that God is always with you even if we are not in church together. It will happen again. Meanwhile, we can still **"sing to the Lord, make a joyful noise, worship and bow down, kneeling before the Lord, our Maker"** no matter where we are and what time it is! Missing you all.

-Chair: Marlene Rosselli; Current Team Members: Thordis Moe, Kandie Hulme, Amy Sinclair, Ken Borchmann, Gale Eury, Pastor Barton

President's Report



“God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another”. 1 Peter 4:10

Happy New Year! I pray that you had a Blessed Christmas, even though we continue to isolate due to the rapid spread of the Pandemic. Currently one in five residents of Menifee who are tested has the virus...that means we need to remain vigilant in our use of masks, social distancing and hand washing. The new vaccines are a Gift to all of us, but will take months for everyone to get.

God has given us hope for returning to indoor worship in the future. With our new FM system, we will be able to have drive-up services starting on January 17th at 9:30 am (begin gathering at 9:00 am)! Let us know your reactions to the Christmas Eve drive up Worship service. While we wait, please consider what spiritual gifts God has given you to help others. Some will be able to help Worship & Music with these arrangements. Others, can make phone calls, send cards or notes and some can run errands for those who are unable to leave their homes. Together, our Faith community will work for the good of all.

The Council is working on getting information out early for our Annual Congregational meeting on February 28. Please consider that your spiritual gifts may be to serve on the new Council or the Endowment Board. If you feel called to do this, just let Pastor John or anyone on Council know of your decision. I have maxed out my time to be on the Council, but have faith that others will step forward, with God's help and blessings.

I also want remind you that our general Council meetings are open for visitors. You may join us on Zoom (same ID as Bible Studies) as well as other committee meetings (Worship & Music, Stewardship, and Outreach). Check it out...see what is a good fit for you.

Faith Lutheran Church as well as our Menifee community have a lot of hard work ahead to overcome the losses due to the Pandemic. 2021 promises to be the end of the Pandemic that effectively shut us down since March 2020. Thanks be to God that our scientific community was able to get vaccines out this quickly. We remain hopeful that when all are vaccinated, we will have a new normal full of God's grace that we can share with others.

In Christ's Service, Caroline Ogden

A Note About 2021 Offering Envelopes

2021 offering envelopes will be ready for pick-up from our church mailboxes in early January. If you are homebound or otherwise unable to stop by the church office to pick them up, they will be delivered to your home. **To help avoid any confusion in record keeping, please discard any remaining 2020 envelopes at the end of December.**

FINANCIAL REPORT Ending November 30, 2020

a. Total Offerings

- i) **For the month**, we are again well under budget at 78.9% (\$11,596 vs \$14,692).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 89.7% (\$139,642 vs. \$158,642).

b. Total Income

- i) **For the month**, well under budget at 78.1% (\$13,899 vs \$17,807).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 88.2% (\$162,936 vs. \$184,836).

c. Expenses

- i) **For the month**, well under budget at 78.5% (\$14,310 vs \$18,234).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, also under budget at 86.7% (\$173,167 vs. \$199,795).

d. Net Operating Income (Total Income minus Expenses)

- i) **For the month**, better than expected with a loss of just \$411, vs. the expected loss of \$426.
- ii) **Year-to-date**, a loss of \$10,231, much better than the expected loss of \$14,959.

e. Checking balance

- i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$10,669.
- ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$11,102.

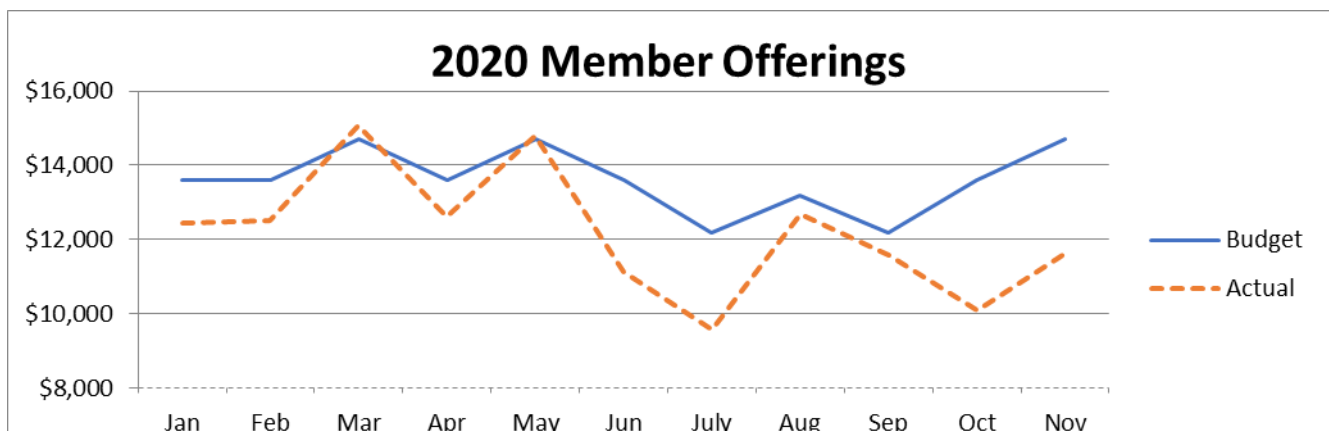
What this means:

As a percent of Budget, member offerings were better than last month's, but still well below expectations.

Although income continues to lag budget, lower utility expenses and the end of Music Staff salaries in September have helped reduce our expected YTD Net Operating Loss by nearly \$4,728.

How we are doing:

Our 2020 budget for member offerings was based on our actual giving in 2019. Below is a chart showing our actual giving this year compared to that budget. **Let's not let COVID fatigue get the best of us!**



Prayerfully submitted by Mike McGavran, Finance Committee Chair



Dear Women of Faith,
Greetings for a blessed New Year! May 2021 be filled with good health and happiness, not only for us, but for God's earth.

Our *Gather* magazine Winter 2021 Bible studies will be "Journey with Angels" by Christa von Zychlin. For the first four months we will go on an adventure of noticing and learning from God's heavenly messengers. The Bible features numerous encounters with angels who show up on an array of missions. **January session topic: "Looking Up"**. New beginnings, awe-full, awesome angels. We will likely encounter a wide range of attitudes about angels. Please join us for this interesting study. All women and friends of Faith are invited to join us.

Circle Bible study meetings: **Lydia Circle** met at Church in December with 4 in attendance. They will not be meeting in person this month due to COVID19 restrictions. **Mary Circle** met on Zoom with 5 participating in December. They will continue to meet on Zoom until further notice.

We received \$775.00 for our yearly **Thankoffering**. Thank you to all who gave so generously. Thankofferings go directly to Churchwide Women of the ELCA for their ongoing ministries. To learn more, check out their website at www.womenoftheelca.org. \$260.00 was received for our **fundraiser** for Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. Again – thank you for your generosity in caring for God's people!

In place of WELCA's yearly **Christmas gift** to our homebound, money was given in their honor to the Community Cupboard. We felt the Cupboard's needs are especially great this year.



If you have not yet revealed your **PRAYER PARTNER** for 2020, you may do so now. We will not draw for Prayer Partners for 2021, and will plan to restart our Prayer Partner program for 2022. If you would like to continue to keep your present Prayer Partner in your thoughts and prayers, please do so.

Our **WELCA officers** for 2021 will be: President – Joanne McGavran; Vice President – Pat Olson; Secretary – Bea Olsen; Treasurer – Arlene Dressler. Many thanks to outgoing officers Dee Seel and Sandy Chandler for their willingness to serve in 2020! Wondering what we do at our WELCA Board meetings? We laugh, we pray, we plan - come on over and see for yourself! You and your suggestions and ideas will be warmly welcomed!

Reminder for 2021: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV)

In Christ's love... Pat Olson, Co-President



WELCA UPCOMING EVENTS



(Subject to Change)

- **Bible Study Leaders with Pr. John:** Suspended in January
- **Lydia Circle:** No in person meeting in January – **please join Mary Circle** on Zoom on the 13th
- **Mary Circle:** Wednesday, JAN 13, 10:00am on Zoom
- **W-ELCA Board Meeting:** Wednesday, FEB 17, 10:00am at Church (no meeting in January)
- **Triennial Gathering,** Phoenix, AZ, August 5-8, 2021



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

January 1	Betty Baumann
January 2	Susie Turner
January 6	Edy Rose
January 7	Bobbi Solomon
January 17	Thomas Biebers
January 19	Betty Volkert
January 20	Judy Appel
January 21	Sheila Neal
January 23	Norma Dawson
January 24	Pat Myers
January 25	Frances Key
January 26	Carol Morris
January 30	Ellie Borchmann
January 31	Robert Eury
February 7	Deane Meckler

Please note: I was unable to access the database so if I missed any January birthdays and/or anniversaries, please accept my apologies. I will be sure and mention them in the next issue!



Hunger Never Rests!

**The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of
Soup (any kind) for January!**

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

OUTREACH COMMITTEE



Outreach Committee

During the month of December, Jean Miles received over 100 pounds of food (apples, oranges, fruits and vegetables) from Trader Joe's that I delivered to the Community Cupboard and they were delighted to get them. Ruth Ditsch planned to use her Thrivent card for December to buy more food for the cupboard, but after a phone conversation with Dawn, the cupboard manager, they had no room for more food as they had received generous donations from the community, so it was decided to save our Thrivent cards until January 2021, because people will still be hungry in January, too. Hunger never ends and many people will still be unemployed in 2021. Dee Seel has also volunteered to use her Thrivent card in 2021. *-David Moe*



- If you aren't currently receiving the **Forecaster via Email** and would like to, please email your request to the Church Office at FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com.
- If you would like to **receive Prayer Chain emails or phone calls**, please notify the Church Office.
- **To request prayer**, contact Gale Eury: GaleEury@gmail.com Cell: 951-679-3372.

Faith Lutheran Church

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Meniffee, CA 92586

Phone: (951) 679-1518

Email: FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com **Website:** www.faithmeniffee.com

Church Office Hours:

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

Fri 8:30am-12:30pm

Our Staff:

Pastor: Rev. John Barton

Email: prfaithmeniffee@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Lynn Bennett

Email: FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com

January 2021

January 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 21	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship Online at FaithMenifee.com Lector: Pat Adams	9:30am Worship & Music-In 1:00pm Exec Board via Zoom	Deadline-Annual Report Revisions 10:00am Cheer Committee	10:00am Mary Circle-Zoom 2:00pm Stewardship Meeting-Zoom	2:00pm Bible Study via Zoom	Hello, 2021! New Years Day Deadline-Annual Reports	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship Online at FaithMenifee.com Lector: Joanne McGavran	9:30am Worship & Music-In 1:00pm Exec Board via Zoom	Deadline-Annual Report Revisions 10:00am Cheer Committee	10:00am Mary Circle-Zoom 2:00pm Stewardship Meeting-Zoom	2:00pm Bible Study via Zoom		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Lector: Marlene Rosselli 9:30am Drive-In Worship	Martin Luther King Jr. Day		1:00pm Finance Team-Zoom			Forecaster Deadline
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Lector: Ruth Ditsch 9:30am Drive-In Worship	1:00pm Council via Zoom			2:00pm Bible Study via Zoom		
31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6
Lector: Madison Hamilton 9:30am Drive-In Worship						