



Forecaster

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH * FEBRUARY 2021



*For where two or three are gathered because of me, I am there among them.
Matthew 18:20*

Dear faithful friends and fellow children of God: Gathering While Apart

Alright friends and siblings in Christ, get out your calendars, we have a lot going on at the church! Before I tell you about these upcoming ministries, I want to reassert that at this time we will continue to gather while apart. In other words, we will continue the life of the church without having face-to-face meetings. This policy will continue as long as the Congregational Council deems it necessary. It is expected that as vaccinations continue and numbers of COVID cases go down, eventually the council will vote to begin safely reintroducing some face-to-face meetings, still following social distancing protocols. As always, the leadership of our church, including myself, aim to promote the ministries of the church and keep all of us safe.

Now, I am excited to announce that three ministry committees have collaborated to begin four new(ish) ministry groups.

1) **Eucharistic Ministry.** You might be saying, “Hey we have had Eucharistic ministry for years; that’s not new.” And you would be correct, which is why I put “new(ish)” in some cases. It is a ministry the church has had for a while but new in the new context of the world we live in today. Our Worship and Music and Cheer committees have been coordinating to prepare for when our ministers can continue Eucharistic ministry, bringing communion to those who haven’t been able to receive it at church. Again, while we have high positive COVID case numbers in our area, we will only continue to train those who are interested in becoming Eucharistic ministers. In the meantime, if emergency communion is needed, don’t hesitate to reach out to me as pastor. So stay tuned for a start date and let the church office or the Cheer callers know if you would like to be put on the list for Eucharistic Minister visitation. In all of these cases, we will be carefully safe in sharing Christ’s sacrament of communion.

2) **“4 + 1” Group.** I want to highlight this great opportunity for connection in a small group setting. This group is being started through our Stewardship committee. A quick overview is that once we are able to gather again in-person, groups of 4 people will gather with Jesus as the “plus 1.” The groups will sit together and share concerns and joys alike. See Joanne’s article detailing this group for more information!

3) **“Call to Prayer and Worship”.** Looking for more worship opportunities? Or perhaps you haven’t been able to access our worship services during the pandemic? Then this is for you. All are welcome to join this “call to prayer and worship” via calling in beginning on Thursday, Feb. 4th at 2:00 pm. There will be a time of sharing and fellowship along with prayer and scripture reading. For this first meeting, please come and then the group can decide how often and when the next one would be. See Marlene’s article detailing this group for more!

4) **"Remembering and Honoring Group".** Finally, we will be starting a group aimed at supporting each other in many ways, but especially in experiencing grief. Grief appears in our lives; it is just a reality. That reality has become even more apparent during the pandemic when we have not been able to go through the normal grieving process. As a poet said "Grief is love with nowhere to go." Because of all of this, we want to give our pent-up love somewhere to go while embracing another reality; that we are not alone in our grief. Whether you have new or old grief, whether you have lost someone close to you or are grieving the loss of our many unknown siblings in Christ, we are all looking to support each other- *remembering* our loved ones and *honoring* those memories and feelings we have. Processing grief necessitates great respect. So we invite everyone to come with respect and love and grief, "Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest," (Matthew 11:28). Let's come together in faith in Christ's hope-filled promise. Join by telephone or by Zoom on Thursday, February 18 at 1:00pm. Let's Remember and Honor together.

We are excited to announce that will have a **New Member Class** on March 4th at 1:00pm. I look forward to meeting with those of us who are new to the congregation and looking to become members, along with current members who would like to be part of the class and welcome our new members into our congregation officially. I encourage you to also invite neighbors and friends who might be interested in joining the church. Join by telephone or by Zoom.

And finally, don't forget that we will have our parking lot **Ash Wednesday** service on February 17th, gathering at 3:00pm and beginning at 3:30pm. We ask that you bring elements for communion and bring a little extra water for a remembrance of baptism in place of ashes.

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

- 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**, contact Gale Eury: GaleEury0@gmail.com Cell: 951-679-3372.

President's Report



"The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance."
2 Peter 3:9

February promises to be a very busy month! Our traditional **Valentine's Day** of love is the 14th. Then there is the promise of getting the **Vaccine** for COVID-19, which gives us hope for ending the pandemic. And there is the **beginning of Lent** and then our **Annual Meeting** for our Church's business. There is a common theme in all of these events; that of love, patience and peace.

Getting the **Vaccine** is a real challenge. There is far more demand than shots available in our State and Country. The amount available is currently a drop in the bucket in relation to those who feel they are now entitled to get the shots. It will eventually be available to all of us, and as Christians, we know God will take care of us, but requires that we have patience. In the meantime, we will continue with our drive-up services and online services, and wearing our masks!

Ash Wednesday is on February 17. A day of repentance and reflection on our relationship with God. Remembering that the Lord is not slow, but is patient with us, will help us to stay at peace and be patient while we struggle through this pandemic. We do not know for sure how we will be observing our weekly Lenten services, but will keep you posted!

That brings us to our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. The **Annual Report** will be out by the first week in February. We ask that you pick up the Report at church if you are able (times listed below). If not picked up, we will either deliver or mail the report to you on Feb. 5. Then, on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 1:00 we will have a **Zoom meeting** to discuss the report. Ballots are due by Feb. 19. After counting the Ballots, our new Council will meet to select the Executive Committee. I will not be on the new Council, but want to thank the current Council and Congregation for all of your support and encouragement. I know you will support your new President in the same way.

ANNUAL REPORT TIMELINE

Pick up times at church (please ring bell if you do not have a key)

Feb. 2 - Tuesday 8:30 - 4:30
Feb. 3 - Wednesday 8:30 - 12:00
Feb. 4 - Thursday 8:30 - 4:30

Zoom Q&A meeting Feb. 13 at 1:00 by telephone or computer

(see Zoom directions in Report)

Ballots due back by Feb. 19 (postage paid envelope enclosed)

In Christ's Service, Caroline Ogden



Spotlight on Ministry

Growing Our Family of Faith: The Gift of Hospitality

GIVING GENEROUSLY OF OURSELVES TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

This year our Spotlight on Ministry will highlight not only our ongoing ministry areas, but the Spiritual Gifts evident in each. Spiritual Gifts are described in the New Testament, primarily in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. In 1 Corinthians 4-7, Paul beautifully describes the purpose and value of Spiritual Gifts: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." In short, God has blessed ALL of us with Spiritual Gifts – yes! ALL of us!

Pastor John will soon be initiating a New Member Class... thus the Spotlight on the Gift of Hospitality. How can this be, you might wonder, what with COVID-19 putting a crimp in just about everything – including bringing in new members? Take heart, dear sisters and brothers in Christ! There are lots of ways we can extend an invitation to neighbors, friends and family, even when we can't be physically together! Put your Hospitality hat on and make a phone call, send an e-mail or a text, post your invite on social media, or do it in person from a safe distance. Invite them to follow you over to drive-in church this Sunday, or to find the worship service on our website. Invite them to do Bible study with you, either by phone or Zoom. Or have a conversation with them about how God is working in your life and theirs. Your invitation won't need to be fancy or worded just right - it just needs to come from your heart.

We'll be looking at additional Spiritual Gifts in the coming months. In this list of 20, which gifts do you think would be utilized in preparing for and leading our New Member Class?

Administration	Exhortation	Intercession	Music-Vocal	Skilled Craft
Artistry	Faith	Knowledge	Music-Instrumental	Teaching
Discernment	Giving	Leadership	Pastoral	Wisdom
Evangelism	Hospitality	Mercy	Service	Writing

Blessings to ALL of you as you continue to share your gift of Hospitality, to the glory of God!

Joanne McGavran, Stewardship Team Chair



What is **4 Plus 1**? It's a "**Come as you are and share your own story!**" kind of thing - small groups of four people plus Christ – the Plus One gathering outside. Groups will gather monthly and "scramble" every 6 months. We will pray and talk and laugh together for about an hour. It will be a great way to learn more about each other and our generous and loving God. **As soon as we're able to safely gather in person** - masks, social distancing, and following COVID 19 restrictions, of course, **we'll get started**. In the meantime, let's get our groups formed and ready to go. **Call or text Joanne McGavran (949-280-1123)** to let her know of your interest.

FINANCIAL REPORT Ending December 31, 2020

a. **Offering Envelopes**

- i) **For the month**, we are well above budget at 110.3% (\$14,992 vs \$13,591).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 91.4% (\$155,464 vs. \$176,165).

b. **Total Income**

- i) **For the month**, under budget at 91.8% (\$18,489 vs \$20,137).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 88.5% (\$181,425 vs. \$204,973).

c. **Expenses**

- i) **For the month**, well under budget at 79.7% (\$14,330 vs \$17,977).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, also under budget at 86.1% (\$187,497 vs. \$217,772).

d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)

- i) **For the month**, much better than expected with a profit of \$4,159, vs. the expected profit of \$2,160.
- ii) **Year-to-date**, a loss of \$6,073, much better than the expected loss of \$12,799.

e. **Checking balance**

- i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$15,890.
- ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$10,669.

What this means:

December member offerings exceeded budget, helping us finish the year in better shape than projected.

For the year, income was below budget, but lower utility expenses and the end of Music Staff salaries in September have helped reduce our expected expenses for the year.

As a result, we finished the year with a loss just half of the original budgeted loss amount. And, it was not necessary to borrow monies from the Endowment Fund.

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. We finished 2020 STRONG! **Let's not let COVID fatigue get the best of us!**





Greetings, dear women of Faith, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! The second session of the 4-part Bible study series, “Journeys with Angels” is found in your January/February issue of *Gather magazine. Author Christa von Zychlin invites us to look at the “Turnaround Angels” we find in Luke 15, Genesis 3, 28 and 32, Exodus 3, Numbers 22, and Matthew 1 and 2. Whether the Bible is new to you or is an old familiar friend, you’ll love what you find there. Discovering and sharing it with other women who love God is icing on the cake!

We currently have two active Bible study groups, Lydia Circle and Mary Circle. **Until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, both Circles will meet together on Zoom, on the second Wednesday of the month, at 10:00 a.m.** Fear not non-Zoomers! You don’t need a computer or fancy cell phone to participate! Just use your phone! Call this number (408) 638-0968. It will prompt you to enter your meeting ID which will be 804 657 8088 and press pound (#). It will then say: “If you are the host, enter the host key.” You are NOT the host, so just press pound (#) again. Easy peasy! Pat Olson did a fabulous job of leading our January study, and guess how she connected... on her phone! I’m sure she’d be glad to reassure you of how well it works, right, Pat? In fact, of the nine women who joined our January Bible study, four of them were on their phones.

Do you enjoy tossing around ideas about ways things might be switched up to meet your needs or the needs of others? If so, we’d love to hear what you have to say! The WELCA Board will be Zooming on Wednesday, February 17th at 10:00 to discuss this very thing! Plan to join us and share your thoughts and ideas. If you’re unable to Zoom with us on the 17th, call, text or email me and let me know what you think.

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 President Eunice Hanson 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.

COMING UP:

- **Lydia and Mary Circles:** Wednesday, FEB 10, 10:00am on Zoom
- **W-ELCA Board Meeting:** Wednesday, FEB 17, 10:00am on Zoom

*Gather is the award-winning publication that we and many others use for our monthly Circle Bible studies. Inspiring and thought-provoking articles fill the magazine – delights for the eye, the mind and the spirit! To subscribe, call (844) 409-0576 or email Gather@cambeywest.com. I’d be happy to share my back issues with you if you’d like to check the magazine out before subscribing!

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4)

Rejoicing with you in God’s all-encompassing love,
 Joanne McGavran, President
 949/280-1123 / jdmcgavran@gmail.com



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

February 7
February 20
February 24

Deane Meckler
Bea Olsen
Sue Van Oort

There are no official wedding anniversaries in February, so feel free to celebrate your own regardless of when it is! You can never celebrate too often, right?!



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

“CALL” TO WORSHIP & PRAYER (CONFERENCE TELEPHONE CALLS)

Matthew 18: 20 – “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Due to the COVID restrictions we are all missing seeing each other in worship and at other fellowship events. In an effort to make more connections among members and spend time in the presence of the Lord, we want to organize some worship and prayer groups who meet by telephone.

What does this mean?

Formation of groups of members and friends to provide regular opportunity to meet together to catch up with one another, share prayer concerns, read some scripture and pray.

How will it work?

From your regular telephone, you will call the number below at a regularly scheduled day and time (to be determined by each individual group). The Leader will lead the group through the various steps of the time together. It will last 30 – 40 minutes max and groups will be 10 – 12 persons.

Who can join?

Any members or friends of FLC who want to spend time together in a worshipful setting. *It is particularly designed for those who have no computer/internet access, those who are not particularly fond of Zoom gatherings, or those who are homebound.* There may also be groups organized who can meet on Zoom if requested.

You can also gather together a group of friends and ask to be put in the same group. We will provide a leader.

How does someone sign in?

1. Call the following number: (408) 638-0968
2. Enter the meeting ID number: 804 657 8088 and press the pound key (#)
3. It will ask, "If you are the host, enter the host key." Don't worry, the Leader is the host so you just press pound (#) again.
4. Wait for the Leader to answer your call and let you in.
5. Write down the telephone number and Meeting ID for the next time.

When will it start?

The first meeting will be held **Thursday, February 4th at 2:00 pm**. Please give this some prayerful consideration and call in for a special time of prayer and worship.

As the old spiritual folk song says, "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord..."

Worship & Music Meeting Highlights

Psalm 84: 10 – "For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

Drive-in worship:

- Nineteen cars containing about 26 people plus Pastor and three assistants attended drive-in worship January 17th.
- All attendees were given a Lutheran Book of Worship (green Hymnal) with pages marked for the confession, the creed and the communion greeting for attendees to keep in their cars for future use each Sunday. Hymns will be announced each week.
- We are looking for solutions to the technical difficulties of hearing the Lectors.
- Steps are being taken to reduce static and buzzing during the broadcast.
- More space will be allotted between cars in case of emergency.
- The radio frequency reaches the Pacifica (newly named) facility at the end of Cherry Hills Blvd. We want to be sure all members who live there can access the worship services so we are creating a fund to purchase radios for those who have no radio. Donations will be accepted for this.
- Plans are in the works for a drive-in worship service on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) at 3:30 – parking starts at 3:00.
- During Lent, midweek worship services will be held online, accessible via the church website using your computer, tablet, or cell phone. The same will be true for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Easter worship service will be drive-in unless the restrictions change by then – keep praying we will be able to move inside for that!!
- All drive-in worship services are being recorded on video and uploaded to the church website a few hours after they end.

Any questions or suggestions??? Call the Chair (951-246-0590), Pastor (949-258-3452) or the Church Office (951-679-1518). Submitted by: Marlene Rosselli, Chair

Hunger Never Rests!

**The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of
Canned Corn 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



**We as a family of Faith mourn the loss of
Bob Eury. Please keep Gale in your prayers.**

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 2021

February 2021

Forecaster

Page 10