



Forecaster

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH * DECEMBER 2022



"Praise and Thanksgiving" (Hymn ELW 689)

1. Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

2. God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.

3. Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.

4. Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

Dear faithful friends and fellow children of God: Thanksgiving!

In our family, it has become a tradition to make a turkey for Thanksgiving. You may be saying, "yeah pastor that's kind of most people's traditions, it's the main thing associated with Thanksgiving!" This turkey only looks like the bird though, it is not made from it. We craft a colorful collaboration, this year's example pictured above. Along with the iconic turkey features come the pieces that connect the symbols of the holiday with its name.

We sit down with our daughter and talk about being thankful, and what specifically we are thankful for, asking her to give us examples which then adorn each feather. Note that most important of plumage, the "crunchy things."

It's a tangible way of asking the age-old question of "what are you thankful for?" I pose the same question to you all. For myself, I give thanks to God for family, friends, and all of you - my co-proclaimers of the Gospel and siblings in Christ! I wish you health and happiness!

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



**So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
2 Corinthians 5:17**

We, the Council want to thank all of you who participated in our recent Congregational Survey. We appreciate your candor and suggestions for improvement.

In a lot of ways, our old Church is a new church. The illness of our previous full-time pastor, Mark Cansino, and the pandemic have had a huge impact on our congregation and its resources. As a result, we are facing many of the same issues and struggles as a new church.

Looking back to 2016, the last year Pastor Mark was with us, we had 263 members. At the end of 2021, we had 136 members, **48% less**. Member giving was \$200,038 in 2016. In 2021, it was \$138,432, nearly **31% less**. These reductions are the result of uncertainty, with several interim pastors following Pastor Mark, the near-complete shutdown due to the pandemic, and the loss of many dear members who have gone home to the Lord.

However, like a new church, we are beginning to see growth. Visitors are finding their way to our door, with 12 becoming new members this year. We do have some advantages over the typical new church. We have a great facility with a Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and several offices. We have solar to help with our utility costs. We also have a steady source of income from our Cell Tower.

What we don't have yet is live music from an organist, or a choir. We share your desire to get back to where we were before. Our hope is that over the next few years, we'll continue to grow, increasing our member giving, and will eventually have the resources to add music staff to help us with this. Until then, we'll continue to work on improving our recorded music offerings, returning to communion at the altar rail, and a simple bulletin. We will get back to notifying our congregation with weekly announcements and prayer concerns with phone calls for those in need.

Your faithful partnership has made it possible to work through the challenges of the past and our plans for our future. Please know we are here if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheerfully in Christ,

Council Committee

Worship Schedule

FOR DECEMBER 2022

Advent has begun – the beginning of a new church year and the period of waiting and anticipation for the arrival of our Newborn Savior. Please take time out from all your busy-ness to attend our special Midweek Advent Prayer Services every Wednesday during Advent at 3:00 pm. Invite a friend to share in this special time of song, prayer and reflection. We will be using the Holden Village Evening Prayer Service. If you are unfamiliar with it, you will be able to listen even if you are unable to sing the various prayers and hymns.

Christmas Eve is a Saturday and the last Sunday of December is Christmas.

Our Christmas Day worship will be a service of Lessons and Carols.

Keep bringing your friends to church - statistics show that the most common way people became involved in a church is because a friend invited them.

December 4 Worship & Communion at 9:30 am (Second Sunday of Advent)

Wednesday, December 7 - Special Advent Midweek Worship Service at 3:00 pm

December 11 Worship & Communion at 9:30 am (Third Sunday of Advent)

Wednesday, December 14 - Special Advent Midweek Worship Service at 3:00 pm

December 18 Worship & Communion at 9:30 am (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Wednesday, December 21 - Special Advent Midweek Worship Service at 3:00 pm

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship & Communion at 5:00 pm

December 25 Christmas Day – Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:30 am

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

IN LOVING 
Memory

We as a family of Faith mourn the loss of
 Loni Knowles.

Information regarding her memorial service
 will be announced as soon as possible.

Worship Assistants December



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Power Point
4th: Roderick Sinclair	4th: Lorna Harrison	4th: Judy Appel	4th: Marlene Rosselli
11th: Joanne McGavran	11th: Sandy Chandler	11th: Gina Howe	7th: Mike McGavran
18th: Deane Meckler	18th: Bill Brauer	18th: Annie Misko	11th: Mike McGavran
24th: Marlene Rosselli	24th: Ann Conn	24th: TBD (need 2)	14th: Marlene Rosselli
25th: Harold Whitford	25th: Mike McGavran, Joanne McGavran, David Moe, Amy Sinclair, Roderick Sinclair	25th: None needed	18th: Mike McGavran 21st: Lynn Bennett 24th: Lynn Bennett 25th: Marlene Rosselli

Hunger Never Rests!

**The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of
Peanut Butter (16 oz.) for December!**



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.

Diane Swarts - Community Cupboard Liaison

- 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT Ending October 31, 2022

a. Offering Envelopes

- i) **For the month**, significantly under budget at 79.3% (\$9,856 vs \$12,434).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, on budget at 97.2% (\$105,715 vs \$108,756).

b. Total Income

- i) **For the month**, under budget at 97.7% (\$14,360 vs \$15,156).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, over budget at 106.2% (\$149,068 vs \$140,353).

c. Expenses

- i) **For the month**, under budget at 95.4% (\$15,953 vs \$16,727).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, just over budget at 101.6% (\$163,068 vs \$160,499).

d. Net Operating Income (Total Income minus Expenses)

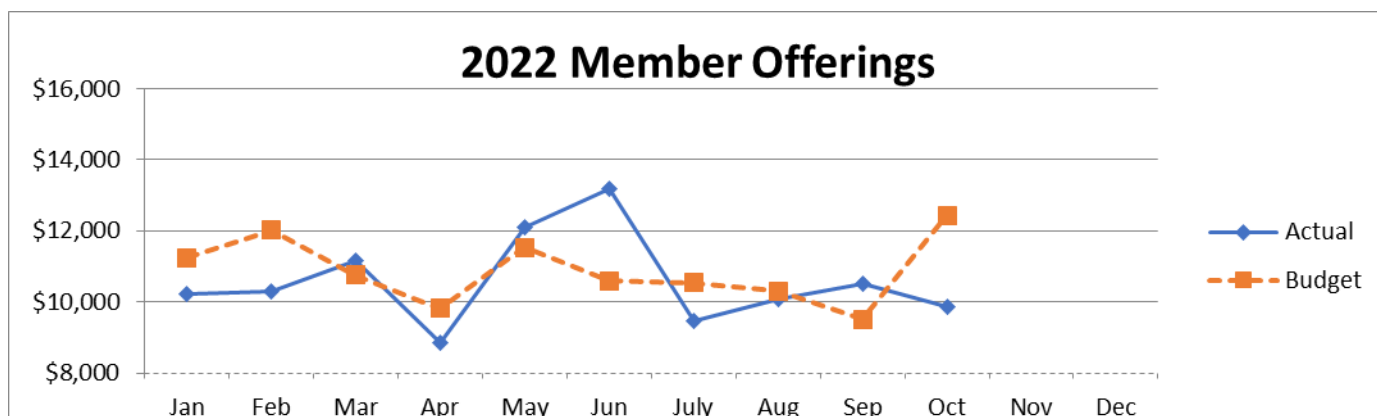
- i) **For the month**, close to expected with a loss of \$1,593 vs the expected loss of \$1,571.
- ii) **Year-to-date**, much better than expected, with a loss of \$13,999 vs the expected loss of \$20,146.

e. Checking balance

- i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$10,951.
- ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$12,605.

f. Comments

- i) October was a disappointing month with Member Offerings well below budget. In spite of this, our YTD loss is much lower than projected thus far, due to lower than projected expenses YTD and Memorials designated for our General Fund. If we can hit our Budget Income and Expense numbers in November and December, we may be able to end the year with a loss of \$6-7,000, instead of the projected \$13,000 loss.
- ii) Next year's budget will be more challenging because we will no longer have the \$10,000 from the Campus Ministry fund to augment our income stream.



Submitted by Mike McGavran, Treasurer

On-Line / Electronic Giving

Faith Lutheran does not currently offer On-Line giving via our Web Site, for a variety of reasons. BUT, if you find that giving electronically (not having to write a physical check) to be your preferred method of donating to Faith Lutheran, you can always use your bank's Bill Pay service. If you already pay your bills that way, it's easy to add Faith Lutheran to your list of regular payees. Simply add a new payee/vendor (depending on what your bank calls people/companies you pay via Bill Pay) using the following address: FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, 28200 PORTSMOUTH DR, MENIFEE, CA 92586. Put your First and Last Name in the "Account Number" field (don't enter your envelope number as the account number, as that can change from year to year).

When you use your bank's Bill Pay service, they will print a physical check and mail it to the church. The Account Number (your First and Last Name) will be on the check, making it easy for us to credit your donations record with your gift. If your check is for something other than your regular offering, just indicate what the check is for in the Memo Line area when you use the Bill Pay service. And, if you give a specific amount each week or month, you can use your Bill Pay service to automatically send that amount to Faith Lutheran, making it even easier! For questions, see Mike McGavran.



We're lucky that maintenance at the Church has been very minimal for the biggest part of the year. We had our big projects in Spring and Summer. We had a sink 'blockage' last week in the kitchen but it was quickly fixed with one try with a plunger (of course, we may not be so lucky next time). Might be time to look into a garbage disposal!

We had an incident in the Fellowship Hall when the wall mounted grandfather clock got bumped (OR?) and came off its hanger. It is repaired and back in place. While handling it I noticed it was donated to 'Faith Lutheran Church' in 1982 by Fred Ditsch. Thanks to Ruth and Fred!

Got some welcome help last month. I noticed that the old dead palm trees behind the Church were leaning and dropping their fronds all over, so I asked Jim Loughboro if he could help clean up the mess. By the time I got there, the work was all done and 3 big trash containers were full of debris. Thank you, Jim!

Respectfully, Harold, Property Chair

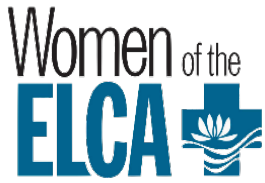
If you aren't already following Faith's social media pages, **PLEASE DO!** I will be posting a devotion every day during the Advent season and you don't want to miss out on this great opportunity to get your day started on a positive note! Go to the links below and start following us!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranmeniffee>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/faithlutheranmeniffee>



The use of social media is a great way to advertise Faith Lutheran (for free!) and help us GROW! Help us by inviting friends and family to follow us, as well!



Greetings dear women of Faith! We are looking forward to December and the beginning of our Advent and Christmas season. Welcome, all of you, to any and all of our activities and events.

Circle Bible Study: “Good Things Come in Small Packages”, moving from wanting to waiting at Advent will be the focus of our December Circle Bible Study found in our Gather Magazine. This month's study is a devotional written by Becca Ehrlich and is divided into a study for each of the four weeks of Advent. You will have two opportunities to join us. **Lydia Circle** meets on Tuesday, December 13 at **10:00 am** at the church and **Mary Circle** meets on Wednesday, December 14 at 10:00 am at the church and Zoom. **Select the Circle Bible study time that's best for you and join in the conversation. All are welcome.**

Convention & Gathering Update: Six FLC members attended the Pacifica W-ELCA Convention on Nov. 4 & 5 at Hope Lutheran Church in Temecula. Bea Olsen was the voting member attending from our church. It was an uplifting weekend centered around prayer and devotions, music and keynote speakers. Our very own Rev. Stephanie Lape attended and was our closing worship speaker on Saturday.

Christmas Party with a Purpose: Saturday, December 3, 2022 – 10:00 am at Church
Our Purpose: Fun, fellowship, getting Christmas gifts ready for our homebound members.
Please Bring: One small, wrapped ornament for an exchange between ourselves.
Featured: Devotions, election of 2023 W-ELCA officers, lunch.
We would like you to sign up in the narthex for our planning purposes, but all are welcome even though you may miss the signup. A \$5 donation will be accepted for this event. Plan to join us for activities, lunch and fellowship.

Prayer Partners: We have not had this program for several years but plan to bring that back this year with drawing for prayer partners at the December program if you wish to participate. For new members this is a program of praying for a secret prayer partner, and sending greetings and words of encouragement throughout the year. Please contact Bea Olsen or any member of our W-ELCA Board with any questions you may have.

Upcoming Events:

Faith W-ELCA Christmas Party-With-A-Purpose: Saturday, Dec. 3, 10:00 am at Church
Pastor John Meets with Circle Bible study Leaders: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 9:30 at Church
Lydia Circle Bible study: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10:00 am at Church (New time)
Mary Circle Bible study: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 10:00 am at Church and on Zoom
W-ELCA Board Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 10:00 am at Church

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:10-12 ESV

As we enter this Advent and Christmas season, peace and joy in Christ,
Bea Olsen, W-ELCA President



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

December 1, 1938	Mimi Houghtaling
December 8, 1948	Bill Brauer
December 10, 1939	Mary Ann Whitford
December 12, 1932	Joanne Schriock
December 14, 1933	John Neff
December 15, 1977	Berenice Varsobia
December 21, 1929	Iver Linge, Jr.
December 22, 1995	Kally Homchick
December 22, 1970	Amy Sinclair
December 24, 1943	Carol Fultz
December 26, 1931	Erma Hinkle
December 28, 1939	Harold Whitford
December 29, 1954	Audie Carr
December 29, 2015	Hunter Holmes
December 31, 1943	Sharon Lawyer
December 31, 1928	Earlean Wagner



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

December 19, 1959	Len & Carol Morris
December 28, 1965	Mike & Joanne McGavran

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



Happy 90th birthday to Arlene Dressler!

Thank you to everyone who was able to celebrate with Arlene!

Please Welcome our Newest Members



Judy Adams
27615 Decatur Way
Sun City, CA 92586
(951) 764-6608
adamsribbing@yahoo.com



Nancy Randolph
26154 Goldenwood St.
Menifee, CA 92586
(251) 424-5143
fuzzyhair42@yahoo.com



Please note the following change of address for
Rich and Sandy Chandler:
26245 Cherry Hills Blvd.
Menifee, CA 92586

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

December 2022

January 2023

December 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	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				

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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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

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 27	28	29	30	Dec 1 2:00pm Hymn Planners-In Person & Zoom	2 10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	3 10:00am W-ELCA Christmas-Fellowship Hall
4 AM: Roderick Sinclair Lector: Lorna Harrison PPT: Marlene Rosselli 9:30am Worship & His Voice Concert	5	6	7 PPT: Mike McGavran 9:30am Bible Study Leaders-In Person 3:00pm Advent Worship Service	8	9 10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	10 10:00am Decorate for Christmas
11 AM: Joanne McGavran Lector: Sandy Chandler PPT: Mike McGavran 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome!	12 1:00pm Exec Board-In Person & Zoom	13 10:00am Lydia Circle-In Person at Church	14 PPT: Marlene Rosselli 10:00am Mary Circle-In Person & Zoom 3:00pm Advent Worship Service	15 10:00am Outreach-In Person & Zoom 2:00pm Game Day!	16 10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	17
18 AM: Deane M. Lector: Bill B. PPT: Mike McGavran 9:30am Worship-Pastor 2:00pm Caroling & Pizza	19 10:00am Remembering & Honoring	20 10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group-In Person	21 PPT: Lynn Bennett 10:00am WELCA Board - In Person & 1:00pm Finance Team-In 3:00pm Advent Worship	22 2:00pm Bible Study-In Person and Zoom	23 Forecaster Deadline 10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	24 PPT: Lynn Bennett AM: Marlene Rosselli Lector: Ann Conn 5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
25 AM: Harold Whitford Christmas Day! PPT: Marlene Rosselli 9:30am Christmas Worship	26 1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom	27	28	29	30 10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	31 New Year's Eve