



# Forecaster

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH \* FEBRUARY 2023



***“Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”***

***Joel 2:13***

Dear faithful friends and fellow children of God: ***Returning and Affirming.***

I give thanks and praise to God for another year of ministry together with each one of you at Faith Lutheran Church. I want to put that praise and thanksgiving right up at the front, emphasizing it authentically. Some of you may have noticed that when I pray during visits or at meetings, I often begin by expressing thanks for a person, ministry, or opportunity God has given us and connected us to.

Giving thanks is important to me and how I minister, the gratefulness sets the tone for what has been and what comes after. We have come to a place after the height of the pandemic, learning new terms like “endemic” and what it means to be a church together with Covid still among us in a world changed by the surreal experience of a globe-spanning disease. Now we are ***returning*** to some of the useful patterns and activities we had before the pandemic while ***affirming*** the changes, lessons, and new traditions we have affected to get to where we are now. While some of these differences might seem strange when juxtaposed with memory, I believe that is another part of ongoing faith, our continual renewal and reformation in faith. And we give thanks because, through the pandemic and transition, we have been led by our great Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who has brought us this far by faith. We are becoming a new church with Christ ever-present at the center of all we do and all we have done this last year, including:

- ❖ Our youth and I went to the alternative Youth Gathering ‘Rebound’ at LRCC where we learned, prayed, served, and played with 200 other siblings in Christ from 8 states.
- ❖ We resumed many ministries including Fellowship, which has helped us ***return*** to Coffee Hour, Game Days, the Unbirthday Party, Movie Days, and more to bring us together, catching up and making up for lost time.
- ❖ Outreach: We revived the committee properly, sparking projects to get our church out there with several advertising campaigns and new road signs, as well as working with Pr. Tom from the synod to develop better strategies in our outreach efforts.
- ❖ We received the Eagle Scout Project of picnic benches for our middle patio, thanks to Ricardo Sierra, grandson of Dee and Bill Seel.
- ❖ We created and furnished our new Nursery space closer to the sanctuary.
- ❖ We celebrated two baptisms, Benjamin Astorga and Jackson Miller Neumeier. I also officiated at my second wedding in Arizona in May.
- ❖ On Reformation Sunday, we welcomed new members and Confirmed our youth, Amy Rae, Alonna, and Deane.
- ❖ Using funds from the refinanced mortgage, we accomplished large repairs and improvements to our church property and building including resurfacing the parking lot, new AC and Heating

Units over the fellowship hall, resurfacing the roof, and we have some funds in reserve to do landscaping to match the park.

- ❖ We have made much progress in the park project, 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. We expect to have some more finalized results by the time of the Annual Meeting.

Let us celebrate all of these achievements and use them as momentum to propel us into what is to come.

*“When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice.”*

*Deuteronomy 4:30*

All of these events, actions, and ministries have proved our perseverance and persistence in faith. We are looking forward to God’s bright future for us. We will celebrate the church’s 60th anniversary while we approach our path forward with the mindset of a new church start, learning to walk in new ways, with new friends and old. The reality is that we have had a shock to our system during the pandemic, a shock that halted our normal rhythms, rhythms that we cannot, and we should not, try to recreate perfectly. Because in the pause in our normal congregational heartbeat, new songs have started, new members with new passions have joined us, and so the old song is for our memories, fond as they may be. God has never left us, no matter what song we have sung, even when we can hardly find the hope or voice to sing - it is in those moments of utter frustration or numbing grief or listless exhaustion - those moments like in Deuteronomy, *“When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you,”* it is at that time when *“in the latter days you will **return** to the Lord your God and listen to His voice.”* If we lose our voice, Christ lends us His. Christ **affirms** our perseverance and our faith to keep going, to not allow numbers or trends or wars in the world to scare us or take us away from the embrace of God, as if they could for long anyways.

*“Therefore, **return** to your God, observe kindness and justice, and wait for your God continually.”*

*Hosea 12:6*

We face some challenges ahead, but we will not let the prospective difficulty of those challenges cause us to fear the road ahead while we continue to follow the prophet Hosea’s words: **returning** to God, enacting kindness and justice, and continually waiting on what God reveals to us next. Furthermore, we will not let fear or change separate us from our church community or from our relationship with God. As we continue into our identity as a revitalizing, reforming, and resurrecting New Church, we have much to do in our transition and growth towards a more self-sustainable state. Our ultimate goal and mission has always been and continues to be to share the good news of God’s love and Gospel by following Christ’s commandment to love God and love our neighbor. That mission and purpose for our existence as individuals of faith and the community of Faith will remain our permanent and eternal driving force behind all of our actions and ministries. And in order to effectively achieve these goals of ministry and faith, all of us will need to accomplish two things:

- **Return** to this, your congregation in as many ways as you can, engaging, following, and leading in making our ministries thrive and grow by your participation. Join us in Bible study, start a new ministry group you’re passionate about, or be a greeter on Sunday. With all of the

choices there is certainly a place where your church needs your involvement to volunteer. I cannot do this without you!

- **Reaffirm** your claim that this is your church. Proclaim your discipleship through buy-in to the vision of the church - telling people in our area and community what your church means to you, how it changes you for the better, how it has seen you through hard times, and celebrates with you in your joy! Reclaim what it frankly means to evangelize: authentically showing and sharing that part of you that is faith, faith in the one who orients your whole life and who is closer to you than your very breath - Christ Jesus. In this, God has given you the ability to co-create the community you want to belong to!

Our church is experiencing its own kind of Reformation into something new and exciting, and I am excited to invite each one of you to join me in this pilgrimage of faith to see where God is leading us!

I continue to give thanks to God 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).

Pr. John Barton



***But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.***

***Isaiah 40:31***

God gently reminds us that if we are to trust Him, we are to take Him at His Word. His Word tells us that each of us are new creations in him. If we are Christ followers, he is making us new. God's timing may not be ours; it may not happen as quickly as we would like. We see the beauty of a new day. A new morning. New mercies awaiting us. We see that it is not a onetime fix all. Today is a new day being new every morning... thus acknowledging that we are on this journey and enjoy it! Let's be grateful!

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is February 26<sup>th</sup>. Please consider that your spiritual gifts may be to serve on the new Council or any committee we have a Faith Lutheran Church. Our annual reports will be ready to pick up on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are unable to pick up your report, we will either deliver or mail it to you on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our next Council meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in person or on zoom. All are welcome to come to our council meetings. The Church council meeting minutes and committee reports for the previous month are being posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Cheerfully in Christ, Kandie Hulme, Council President

# Worship Schedule

## FOR FEBRUARY 2023

February brings with it the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Make plans now to attend and then join in the Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship Services in March!

February 5 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 19 In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am

February 22 *In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 5:00 pm*  
*ASH WEDNESDAY – Beginning of Lent*

February 26 In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion 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 on *live* broadcast. Tune to 98.9 FM
- **Online:** on our website, any time after 2:00 pm each Sunday

*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!



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Power Point
5th: Roderick Sinclair	5th: Amy Sinclair	5th: Annie Misko	5th: Marlene Rosselli
12th: Deane Meckler	12th: Lorna Harrison	12th: Gina Howe	12th: Marlene Rosselli
19th: Marlene Rosselli	19th: Bill Brauer	19th: Judy Appel	19th: Mike McGavran
22nd: Marlene Rosselli	22nd: Harold Whitford	22nd: TBD	22nd: Mike McGavran
26th: Harold Whitford	26th: Marlene Rosselli	26th: Walli Weitz	26th:
<b>Greeter:</b> Dave Fisher		<b>Altar Guild:</b> Kandie Hulme	
<b>Attendance:</b> Shirley Houghton			

## FINANCIAL REPORT Ending December 31, 2022

a. **Offering Envelopes**

- i) **For the month**, substantially under budget at 66.1% (\$11,115 vs \$16,829).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, well budget at 90.4% (\$126,705 vs \$140,187).

b. **Total Income**

- i) **For the month**, substantially under budget at 69.5% (\$15,906 vs \$22,884).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 97.8% (\$177,157 vs \$181,083).

c. **Expenses**

- i) **For the month**, slightly over budget at 101.8% (\$17,282 vs \$16,982).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, on budget at 100.8% (\$195,845 vs \$194,264).

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

- i) **For the month**, a loss of \$1,377 vs the expected surplus of \$5,902.
- ii) **Year-to-date**, much worse than expected, with a loss of \$18,688 vs the expected loss of \$13,181.

e. **Checking balance**

- i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$8,285.
- ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$7,628.

f. **Comments**

- i) Sadly, we ended the year much worse off than hoped for, with a deficit of \$18,688, more than \$5,000 higher than the original expected loss. It would have been much worse had we not received over \$9,700 in memorials designated for the General Fund, and the use of the remaining Campus Ministry funds.
- ii) We survived the Pandemic while other churches did not. The effects have been a significant loss of members since the pre-pandemic days, along with significant Time, Talent, and Treasure support. In many ways, we can compare ourselves to Start-up churches, as we begin the task of re-building our community of Faith, welcoming new members to share in our ministry here. We have some advantages over other Start-up churches, in that we already have a robust facility, some income from the Cell Tower, and the ability to borrow monies from our Endowment Fund. While we haven't needed to do so in the past, the challenges of the 2023 budget will make such borrowing a necessity.





**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS**

To

February 2, 2005  
February 20, 1941

Deane Meckler  
Bea Olsen



**ANNIVERSARY 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!



If you are planning to bring food to church, please notify Arlene Dressler (951-805-7682) at least two days in advance. All foods still need to be pre-packaged.

**Valentine's Day Concert!**

Join us on Sunday for Valentine's Day concert featuring "His Voice"! They will perform a song during the worship service, then entertain us with a concert in the Fellowship Hall.



**Save  
the  
Date!**

Mark your calendar and save the date!  
Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will  
be held on

**February 26, 2023!**



# Hunger Never Rests!

**The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of  
Dry Pasta and Canned Sauce 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.

*Diane Swarts - Community Cupboard Liaison*

## 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 12th! 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 dry pasta and canned sauce for the Cupboard, too!



**SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY**

Let's Help Tackle Hunger!

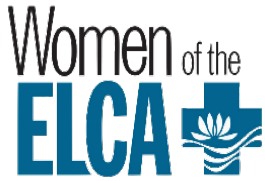
**FAITH  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
WORSHIP: SUNDAYS at 9:30

28200 PORTSMOUTH DR.  
ELCA

## Your Outreach Committee at Work!

Have you noticed the new directional signs on Valley Blvd. and Cherry Hills Blvd.? The signs were funded by the Matthew 25 grant from Pacifica Synod, with excess funds going to the Community Cupboard!



### Greetings dear women of Faith!

Welcome to you all. The second month of 2023 is here already and many of you are busy participating in the activities of the church. Welcome, *all* of you, to any and all of our activities and events.

**Our Winter/Spring Bible Study has started!** In this second Bible study session, we'll consider the "hinge commandments" - rules that work both ways, helping us to love and serve God and thy neighbor. We will continue our study of the Ten Commandments, covering the third and fourth commandments.

**"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8)**

**"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12)**

**Select the Circle Bible study time listed below that's best for you and join in the conversation. All women are welcome.**

**Our calendar for the year** for W-ELCA events at Faith has been set as follows:

Thursday, March 16, 10:00 am General Meeting at church

Saturday, June 24, 10:00 am Annual Fundraiser at church

Thursday, August 17, 10:00 am All Circle Bible Study at church

Thursday, September 21, 10:00 am General Meeting at church

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am General Meeting and Christmas Party at church

**Pacifica Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering:** Saturday, March 4, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Encinitas CA. This is a Saturday event open to all women of the church. We carpool from the church, so a ride can be provided if needed. Watch for sign-up sheet in the narthex and further details.

**Just a Reminder: Sunday Coffee after church services.** We are in need of volunteers to serve refreshments after services each Sunday. We all like to gather for a cup of coffee and social time with other members, but we need volunteers to give a little of their time to make sure the coffee is set up and then serve the refreshments and clean up after. Sign up with a friend. "No experience needed". Everything will be provided, we just need your help to enable us to continue having our coffee hour. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up so we can continue our Sunday Coffee.

**Pastor John Meets with Circle Bible study Leaders:** Monday, **Feb. 6**, 9:30 am at Church

**Mary Circle Bible study:** Wednesday, **Feb. 8**, 10:00 am at Church and on Zoom

**Lydia Circle Bible study:** Tuesday, **Feb. 14**, 10:00 am at Church

**W-ELCA Board Meeting:** Wednesday, **Feb. 15**, 10:00 am at Church

**Pacifica Spring Gathering:** Saturday, **March 4**, 9:00 am, Encinitas CA

**Installation of W-ELCA Officers:** Sunday, **March 12**, 9:30 am at Church

**W-ELCA General Meeting:** Thursday, **March 16**, 10:00 am at Church

**"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)**

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



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
**Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP at 9:30 am**  
(951) 679-1518  
[FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com](mailto:FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com)  
[www.faithmeniffee](http://www.faithmeniffee)

### Outreach “Fund the Banner” Project

If you feel as though Faith Lutheran Church is one of the best kept secrets in Meniffee, you’ll be happy to know that the Outreach Team is hard at work trying to change that. In 2022, FLC “ads” appeared in print, on line, on signage, a mass mailing, and even on golf club score cards. The funding for these projects has not impacted our church budget, thanks to the inspiring generosity of a handful of members.

Now, to keep momentum up, and 2023 budget hits down, we’d like to invite YOU to help fund our next project – the purchase of 2 weather-proof banners like the one shown above. They will be hung on both sides of the brick sign in front of the church, in the same way our Christmas and Easter banners are hung. The cost for the two banners is just under \$400.00. Anyone who sees the banners will have no doubt they are welcome here, our Sunday worship time, and our contact information.

If you are able to contribute, please make your check out to Faith Lutheran Church, and write “Banner” on the memo line.

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- If you are not currently receiving the **Forecaster via Email** and would like to, please email your request to the Church Office at [FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com](mailto:FaithLutheranMeniffee@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 [faithlutheranmeniffee@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheranmeniffee@gmail.com).

## Faith Lutheran Church

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Meniffee, CA 92586

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

**Email:** [FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com](mailto:FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com)    **Website:** [www.faithmeniffee.com](http://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](mailto:prfaithmeniffee@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator:** Lynn Bennett

**Email:** [FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com](mailto:FaithLutheranMeniffee@gmail.com)

# February 2023

February 2023							March 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
AM: Roderick Lector: Amy PPT: Marlene 9:30am Worship Service	9:30am Bible Study Leaders-In Person 1:00pm Game Day!	2:00pm Party Planning	10:00am Mary Circle-In Person & Zoom	2:00pm Bible Study-In Person & Zoom	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Lector: Lorna, PPT: Mars 9:30am Worship; AM: Deane 11:00am New Member 11:00am His Voice	10:00am Lent/Holy Week Planning Mtg. 1:00pm Exec Board-In Person & Zoom	Mail or hand-deliver remaining Annual Report 9:30am Lydia Circle-In Person at Church	10:00am WELCA Board-In Person & Zoom 3:00pm Outreach	2:00pm Hymn Planners-Zoom	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
AM: Marlene; Lector: Bill PPT: Mike 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am New Member Class	10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group-In Person 11:00am Mutual Ministry 2:00pm Fellowship	1:00pm Finance Team-In Person & Zoom 5:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	Forecaster Deadline 10:00am Remembering & Honoring 2:00pm Bible Study-In Person and Zoom			
26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4
AM: Harold; PPT: Lynn Lector: Marlene 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Congregational Meeting	1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom					