



Forecaster



Faith Lutheran Church * April 2024



There's a story told of two children playing together while a movie about Jesus' life was on television in the background. One of the children was Christian; the other was not. As the film reached the point of Jesus' crucifixion, the second child became more and more interested in what was happening on the television and began to neglect their play. Frustrated, the first child said, "Never mind about that! He gets out of it in the end!"

I wonder sometimes if this is our attitude toward Easter in the church too. It's tempting to fast-forward through Jesus' suffering and death to the Easter lilies and the happy ending. In a broken world, we long for happy endings.

A happy ending is the last thing Jesus' disciples expected. We read in the Gospels that Jesus told the disciples three times that he must suffer and die and that he would be raised again on the third day (Matthew 16:21-23, 17:22-23, 20:17-19; Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32, 10:32-34; Luke 9:21-22, 9:43-45, 18:31-34), but they didn't understand him. They just couldn't believe it. Humans know something about death, and in our experience, death is final.

Perhaps that's why the first time Jesus referred to his upcoming death and resurrection, Peter actually talked back to him, rejecting his words (Matthew 16:22-23, Mark 8:32-33). When Jesus was arrested, the disciples ran away (Matthew 26:56, Mark 14:50). After Jesus' death and burial, John reports that the disciples hid away together in fear (John 20:19). Mark reports that the women who found Jesus' tomb empty on Easter morning didn't tell anyone because they were afraid (Mark 16:8).

Luke reports that when the women did tell the other disciples, they didn't believe them (Luke 24:11).

The disciples had experienced Jesus' crucifixion—a real, slow, painful and shameful death—and were convinced that was the end of the story. They couldn't imagine a reality in which death didn't have the last word.

And then everything changed.

On the church's liturgical calendar, Easter is called "The Resurrection of Our Lord." That name reminds us of the deep power of God at work to save. The God who created the world out of nothing creates new life on the other side of death. Easter isn't the celebration that Jesus "got out of it in the end." On Easter, we celebrate the fact that Jesus saw things through to the end, to the cross, to death, to the grave, and that God raised him up to new life!

Our creeds and confessions of faith insist on this: Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. They confess just as clearly that Jesus rose from the dead. There is no narrow escape, no getting out of it. Without death, there can be no resurrection. Jesus' resurrection shows God breaking into our death-dealing world to give new and eternal life. When we gather for worship, we say in the words of the Apostles' and Nicene creeds that we believe this! We really believe it! And then, even more boldly, we say we believe in this promise of resurrection for ourselves too!

Paul described Jesus' resurrection as "the first fruits" of a harvest that will include all believers (1 Corinthians 15:20-23). Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams expressed it like this: "God is never at the end of God's resources when we are at the end of ours. We really die, and God really remakes us. Creation and resurrection are inseparable activities in God's response to the death of God's loved ones."

The good news of Easter keeps getting better. Easter is not just one day but a liturgical season lasting for seven weeks. In the Scriptures, the number seven conveys a sense of completeness. Because there are seven days in a week and seven weeks in the season of Easter, Easter is sometimes referred to as "a week of weeks," a fulfillment of fulfillment. The good news is so good that we keep on celebrating and witnessing to God's gift of new life long after the rest of society has moved on to thinking about the next holiday.

The powers of darkness that thought they had the last word did not and do not. As Paul wrote: "Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' ... But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).

-Written by Kathryn A. Kleinhans, dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio



Dear Faith Family,

I wanted to acknowledge and appreciate the work and efforts of our church family during Lent. The dedication and service play a significant role in supporting this community during this important time of reflection and preparation. **THANK YOU!!!**

Hope your Easter and spring bring beautiful memories and love.

Diane Swarts, Council President

Let's talk about social media . . .

Are you following us on social media?

The use of social media is a great way to advertise Faith Lutheran (for free!) and help us GROW! Help us by going to the links below to follow our page and be sure to invite your friends and family to follow us, as well! In addition, you can write a review on Facebook, Instagram and Google, as well! The more interaction we get on our social media pages, the higher we'll place in the algorithm, which makes us easier for others to find us, follow us and join us for worship!



<https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranmenifee>



<https://www.instagram.com/faithlutheranmenifee>



<https://g.page/r/Cekm6HP0yDnHEB0/review>



Could it be you?



For quite a while now we have had Bible study on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 2:00 led by Pastor John. We are looking for someone who is willing to take over the study so we can continue to offer it! If your schedule doesn't work with what we've done in the past, we are open to changing it up! So...please ask yourself.....

Is God calling you for this ministry?

Worship Schedule

FOR APRIL 2024

Worship is alive and well as we continue the Easter Season during April. Lots of new faces. Continue to invite your friends. Stay faithful – we miss you when you’re not able to worship with us.

April 7 **Worship & Communion at 9:30 am**
Pastor Rex Wignall presiding

April 14 **Worship & Communion at 9:30 am**
Pastor Karen Marohn presiding

April 21 **Worship & Communion at 9:30 am**
Pastor Shane Freiberg presiding

April 28 **Worship & Communion at 9:30 am**
Pastor Shane Freiberg presiding

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 by the Tuesday after each Sunday service



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Power Point	Ushers	Greeters	Attendance
7th: Harold	7th: Steve	7th: Marlene	7th: Annie	7th: Arlene	7th: Kathy
14th: Roderick	14th: Lorna	14th: Bill	14th: Gina	14th: Karen	14th: Marlene
21st: Joanne	21st: Mike	21st: Candy	21st: Judy Appel	21st: Bosingers	21st: Pat
28th: Marlene	28th: Kathy	28th: Lynn	28th: Diane M.	28th: Dave	28th: Shirley

Altar Guild: Diane Molina and Marlene Rosselli



Greetings dear women of Faith!

Our Winter/Spring Gather Magazine Bible Study continues! In this fourth session of “Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith”, our topic will be 'Food'. Scripture is like food, it nourishes us and sustains us. We can learn a lot from what the Bible says about food. Food is one more way we can love the Lord our God and love our neighbors as ourselves. Come and join us at the daytime Mary Circle and learn more.

Our evening circle is studying women of the Bible. Come and join that group and find out more about the interesting lives of the women of the Bible.

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

Saturday, March 23 was our first Women of the ELCA meeting of the year. Our speaker was Claire Sekafetz, from Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino. She gave us an overview of the many projects LSS and the Mission are involved with in regard to helping the homeless and needy in Southern California. Also, she gave us a very exciting update on the building project at the Mission. 22 ladies joined us for the morning and a lovely lunch was enjoyed by all.

Pacifica Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering: On Saturday, **April 13**, women of the church are invited to gather at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Banning for a day of Bible study, service projects and social time together. Carpooling will be provided with a 7:45 am departure from the church. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. This is a time to gather with our sisters in Christ from Southern California Pacifica Synod. Look forward to having you join us.

June fundraiser. Come join us on Saturday, **June 22**, in the fellowship hall for a great day. Our recipient of our fundraising this year will be The CARE Project. This is a non-profit organization created by a breast cancer survivor to emotionally and financially support both male and female breast cancer patients. The Rancho Rockers will be back to entertain us. There will be raffle drawings for gift baskets and gift cards. All followed by lunch and fellowship. There will be sign up in the narthex in the coming months. Note a “save the date” on your calendar and come and join us.

Coming up this month:

Quilters: Thursday, **April 4**, 9-12 noon in the fellowship hall at church

Mary Circle Bible study: Wednesday, **April 10**, 10:00 am at Church

W-ELCA Board Meeting: Wednesday, **April 11**, 10:00 am at Church

Pacifica Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering: Saturday, **April 13**, at Our Savior’s Lutheran in Banning, CA

Quilters: Thursday, **April 18**, 9-12 noon in the fellowship hall at church

Evening Bible Study: Thursday, **April 18**, 6:00 pm at church

Planning ahead – Mark your calendar-

Women of the ELCA Annual Fundraiser: Saturday, **June 22**, 10:00 am

Pacifica WELCA Spring Gathering

Does a get-away day with "the girls" sound good? Then plan to attend the **Pacifica W-ELCA Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 13, 2024**. We'll carpool from our church parking lot at 7:45am and head for Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Banning, for an event filled with inspiration and fun... then be back at FLC around 4:00pm. \$25 Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch and program. The Silent Auction will help support 3 scholarship funds: Synodical Convention, Seminarian, and Triennial. **Registration forms** and a **carpool sign-up** sheet are on the narthex table.

Faith In Action of the San Gorgonio Pass (a community-based non-profit dedicated to finding ways to assist the low-income and homeless through social justice projects) is the Spring Gathering's love gifts recipient. **Love Gifts** may be dropped in the designated box in the Fellowship Hall. Needed items include: underwear, socks and gently used bras. Plan to come – ALL women are welcome!



WELCA Quarterly Meeting: June 22

The WELCA Board is beginning to get ready for this **BIG** annual event! As part of this event, we raffle off baskets of goodies, and to make the baskets, we need your help with goodie donations! Donations can be made at any time between now and June 1, 2024. Here are a few ideas to consider:



- Do you knit, crochet, quilt or have another such hobby? Consider donating a blanket, a scarf or other hand-crafted item.
- Do you know a business owner? You might consider asking them for a gift card or item from their business.
- Want to donate new items for a basket? How about a bottle of wine, restaurant/eatery gift card, movie or event tickets, etc.?
- Want to make your own basket? Basket theme ideas might include: "BBQ", "movie", "lottery scratch-off", "book lovers", "recipe basket" with recipe and ingredients/gift card to make your favorite dish, "holiday basket" built around your favorite holiday, "foodie", "self-care spa", "pet lovers", "gardening basket of herbs", "coffee or tea", "brunch"... the possibilities are unlimited!

There are so many ideas! The more ideas and basket donations, the more we can raise and WELCA can donate to local causes. If you decide to make a basket of goodies, please let Candy Pellechio know your theme. If you have any questions, please contact Candy!



Thank you!

THANKS to all those who helped with the Spring Cleaning of the sanctuary on March 16th!! We had thirteen (lucky 13!) volunteers armed with vacuums, cleaning cloths, dusters and cleaning products who dove right in to make everything shine! Thanks to Tom & Judy Brosz, Dave Fisher & Shirley Houghton, Diane Swarts, Roderick Sinclair, Connie Gibson, Kathy Kent, Annie Misko and Altar Guild members Kandie Hulme, Debbie Ehrig and Diane Molina for doing a magnificent job! Thank you so much! You are the best!

- Mars

Birthday Girls



FINANCIAL REPORT

February 29, 2024

1. Comments

- a. Member giving for February was again short of budget, but much better than last month. We're moving in the right direction during our transition period.
- b. As you may remember from the Annual Meeting, the intent is to transfer the unspent Pastoral Expense money to the New Pastor Reserve Fund, to build up funds for the anticipated expenses when we call our new Pastor. This month, we were able to transfer \$8,916 to the New Pastor Reserve Fund, by charging our Pastoral Expense categories to the full budgeted amount, which makes that money available to move to the New Pastor Reserve Fund.



2. Financials Review

- a. **Offering Envelopes**
 - i) **For the month**, just under budget at 97.4% (\$11,538 vs \$11,846).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 92.3% (21,863 vs \$23,692).
- b. **Total Income**
 - i) **For the month**, under budget at 95.0% (\$14,531 vs \$15,292).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 92.3% (36,047 vs \$39,041).
- c. **Expenses**
 - i) **For the month**, under budget at 91.9% (\$17,162 vs \$18,682).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 88.4% (33,565 vs \$37,974).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, a loss of \$2,631 vs the expected loss of \$3,390.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, a surplus of \$2,482 vs the expected surplus of \$1,066.
- e. **Checking balance**
 - i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$5,901.
 - ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$10,004.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

April 4, 1948	Daniel Conner
April 5, 1944	Carol Kobersteen
April 7, 1938	Peggy Westby
April 8, 2022	Benjamin Astorga
April 9, 1957	Debbie Ehrig
April 13, 1937	Len Morris
April 15, 1932	Ray Olson
April 25, 1958	Kathy Kent



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

April 12, 1993 Tex & Lesly Culp



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 side dishes for April, such as stuffing, Rice-a-Roni and potatoes!

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 Diane Swarts at (949) 500-7986.

Diane Swarts - Community Cupboard Liaison



This month, both Sarge Hunter and Harold Whitford resigned from the Council. Sarge is dealing with some health issues and Harold is relocating. We are so sad to see them go and want to thank them both for all of their service to our community here at Faith Lutheran Church! You are both blessings to all of us and you are so appreciated and loved!

Eye Glasses Need Homes, Too!

With your help, we have already collected 51 pair of eyeglasses for the Lions Club. What a wonderful outreach to help the Lions Club in this wonderful project. This project will continue indefinitely. Look for the donation box below the mailboxes.



The Outreach Team is Seeking Volunteers!

Your Outreach Committee is working hard to lead many outreach efforts and continue to do the work our Lord calls us to in our local community. However, outreach is the work of the entire church body. We are looking for two (2) volunteers for important outreach initiatives. When each of us takes a small active role, we all benefit and what a difference we can make together!!

New Member Coordinator: Do you enjoy welcoming new visitors and members? Then this might be a wonderful ministry opportunity for you! Want to know more about what this entails? Speak with Candy Pellechio!

Pet Blessing Coordinator: We hope to have a Pet Blessings event in the fall of 2024. We need someone who loves animals to coordinate this single event. We have volunteers ready to help. Want to know more about what this entails? Speak with Candy Pellechio!

Thank you for considering these ministry opportunities!



HELLO
Spring



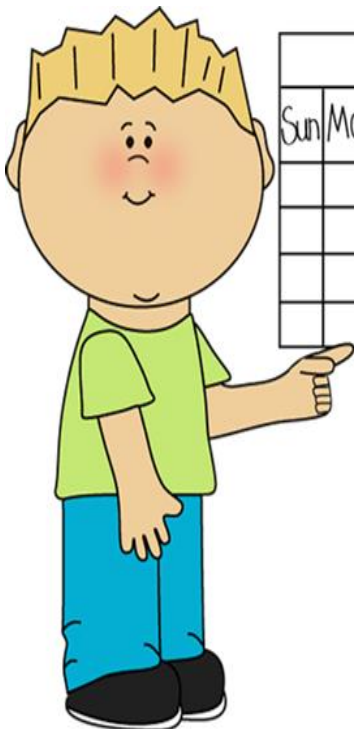
SOLES & SOULS

Thanks to all who have been excited about this new initiative! We have already collected **247 pairs** of gently used or new shoes!! How amazing is that?! This collection of gently used and new shoes will continue indefinitely. Please continue to spread the word to neighbors, friends and family! We look forward to collecting many, many shoes throughout 2024!

Note: It is really helpful to tie a pair of shoes together by their shoelaces or with rubber bands!



To help you plan ahead, this is a list of the events that recur each month:



Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

- Snip 'N Stitch: 1st and 3rd Thursday at 9:00
- Worship & Music: 1st Tuesday at 10:00
- Strategic Planning: 2nd Monday at 1:00
- Hymn Planners: 2nd Tuesday at 10:00
- Outreach Team: 2nd Tuesday at 3:30
- WELCA Bible Study: 2nd Wednesday at 10:00
- WELCA Bible Study: 3rd Thursday at 6:00 pm
- Remembering & Honoring: 2nd Wednesday at 2:00
- 4+1 Group: 3rd Tuesday at 10:00
- Fellowship Team: 3rd Tuesday at 2:00
- WELCA Board: 2nd Tuesday at 1:00
- Stewardship Team: 3rd Friday at 10:00
- Finance Team: 4th Wednesday at 1:00
- Council: the last Monday of each month at 1:00
- Al-Anon: Every Friday at 10:30

Faith Lutheran Church

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Office Phone: (951) 679-1518 | **Email:** FaithLutheranMenifee@gmail.com

Website: www.faithmenifee.com

Church Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30am-5:00pm | Fri 8:30am-12:30pm

April 2024

May 2024
 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
 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

April 2024
 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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31	Apr 1 7:00pm Theatre Rehearsal	2 10:00am Worship & Music 7:00pm Theatre Rehearsal	3 10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study 2:00pm Remembering & Honoring	4 8:00am Camera training 9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 7:00pm TBD-Theatre Rehearsal	5 10:30am AI-Anon	6 10:30am AI-Anon
7 AM: Harold; Lector: Steve; PPT: Mars 9:30am Worship Service: Pr. Rex 2:00pm Theatre Rehearsal	8 1:00pm Strategic Planning 7:00pm Theatre Rehearsal	9 10:00am Hymn Planners 1:00pm Strategic Planning-Pr. Darryl 3:30pm Outreach Team 7:00pm Theatre Rehearsal	10 10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study 2:00pm Remembering & Honoring	11 10:00am WELCA Board Meeting 4:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic Team 7:00pm TBD-Theatre Rehearsal	12 10:30am AI-Anon	13 WELCA Spring Gathering-Our Savior's Banning
14 AM: Roderick; Lector: Lorna; PPT: Bill 9:30am Worship Service: Pr. Karen Marohn	15	16 10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group-In Person 2:00pm Fellowship-In Person & Zoom	17	18 9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 6:00pm WELCA Bible Study-In Person & Zoom	19 10:00am Stewardship-In Person & Zoom 10:30am AI-Anon	20
21 AM: Joanne; Lector: Mike; PPT: Candy 9:30am Worship Service: Pr. Shane	22	23 Forecaster Deadline	24 1:00pm Finance Team-In Person & Zoom	25	26 10:30am AI-Anon	27
28 AM: Mars; Lector: Kathy; PPT: Lynn 9:30am Worship Service: Pr. Shane	29 1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom	30 4:00pm Bingo	May 1	2	3	4