



Forecaster

Faith Lutheran Church * December 2024



Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. (Col 1:15-16)

For many of us, our earliest and fondest memories of learning about our faith will surely be connected with the Christmas nativity scene. We read books, sing hymns, take part in nativity plays depicting Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus, surrounded by animals, shepherds and angels welcoming His birth in the stable at Bethlehem.

It's a familiar, comforting image that we recreate each year in our homes, our churches, but also in public places to remind ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas, amid all the hectic shopping and celebrating of this festive season.

But take a closer look for a moment at that newborn baby, wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in the manger, as we read in Luke's gospel. If we reflect more deeply on the mystery of the Incarnation, of God coming into the world to live among us, are we able to see, in the face of that tiny baby, the image of "the invisible God?" Why did the creator of our universe choose this simple family and this humble stable as the setting for an event that would change the course of history?

We know that Jesus was Mary's firstborn son, but in his letter to the Colossians, Paul reminds us that He is also "the firstborn of all creation." John tells us that Christ is the Word that "became flesh and made His dwelling among us." The same Word that "was with God in the beginning, through him all things were made."

Scripture teaches us that the Christ-child in the manger is the Son of God, King of kings. But the choice of a Galilean carpenter and a peasant girl in an unremarkable corner of the Roman

empire as the family setting for Jesus' earthly life shows how his kingship is one that turns our earthly models of power and authority upside-down. This will be a radically new model of servant leadership where the Prince of Peace will stoop down to wash his disciples' dirty feet.

From the Old Testament, we know that we cannot see God's glory face to face. Yet the extraordinary message of Christmas is that through Christ's birth and earthly life, we can see the image of God, perfectly reflected in his Beloved Son. The Bible reminds us that we too are created in the image of God and that the invisible love of the Triune God is made visible in and through us.

So, as we make our nativity scenes and prepare once again to welcome the baby in Bethlehem, let us take time to meditate on this astonishing truth. Let us strive to see the image of God in one another, especially in the faces of those often rejected and ignored: the hungry and the persecuted, the refugees and the prisoners, the addicts and the homeless.

I wish you and all your loved ones a very blessed Christmas, as you gaze into the manger and discover anew the face of God, drawing us closer into God's unending relationship of love.

Borrowed from: *Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa, President, The Lutheran World Federation*



Let's break the tradition!! Did you know the Sunday after Christmas is "traditionally" one of the lowest attendance days in the church calendar?? Let's challenge that statistic at Faith this year on Sunday, December 29th at our usual worship time. This date, which is still considered a

part of the Christmas season, will be a worship service of "Lessons and Carols" which will revisit all the Biblical Passages of the Christmas Miracle. After each passage (lesson) we will sing a related Christmas Carol. This is the music you won't want to miss! So, let's break an attendance record and prove the statistics wrong!! Merry Christmas!! Come join us - bring a friend!

Come One, Come All! Help the Altar Guild decorate the Sanctuary, Christmas Tree and Church Campus for the Advent and Christmas Season! We will gather Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 am to prepare for the season!

Come join us!

As always, coffee and donuts will be provided!





Dear Church Family:

As we gather together this blessed season, may the peace and joy of Christmas fill your hearts and homes. This is a special time of year here at Faith and we are reminded of the incredible love God showed us through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Let us reflect on the hope, joy and peace that Christ's birth brings into our lives. May we share that love with one another and our communities. As we look ahead to a new year, let's continue to support and encourage each other in faith. I hope that God's grace will be evident in all that we do.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings, joy and peace. (and a new park on our property).

God's Blessings

Diane Swarts, Council President

"ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH FAITH AND GOD'S GRACE"



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Power Point	Ushers	Greeters	Attendance
1st: Roderick	1st: Pat Adams	1st: Lynn	1st: Annie	1st: Kathy	1st: Diane M.
4th: N/A	4th: Pat Adams	4th: Candy	4th: N/A	4th: Dave F.	4th: Shirley
8th: Candy	8th: Diane M.	8th: Bill	8th: Gina	8th: Dave F.	8th: Shirley
11th: N/A	11th: David	11th: Mike	11th: N/A	11th: N/A	11th: Self Check-in
15th: Marlene	15th: Lorna	15th: Steve	15th: Judy Ap.	15th: Judy Ad.	15th: Pat Olson
18th: N/A	18th: Steve	18th: Marlene	18th: N/A	18th: N/A	18th: Self Check-in
22nd: Steve	22nd: Marlene	22nd: Candy	22nd: Diane M.	22nd: Mike	22nd: Joanne
24th: Joanne	24th: Roderick	24th: Mike	24th: Annie, Marlene	24th: TBD	24th: Kathy
29th: Roderick	29th: Kathy, Amy, Marlene, Joanne, Candy	29th: Mike	29th: Gina	29th: TBD	29th: Judy Ad.

Altar Guild: 1st, 8th, 15th: Kandie, Diane M. 22nd, 24th, 29th: Marlene, Debbie



Please join us for Advent Worship the three Wednesday Evenings before Christmas - December 4th, 11th and 18th at 5:00pm. These informal, meditative times of worship will feature the Holden Evening Prayer Service of music, plus three different "visits" from "eye-witnesses" to the birth of Jesus. After worship we will move to the Fellowship Hall for some warm, nourishing soup and conversation. This will be a beautiful pause during the rush of Christmas preparations. All are welcome...bring a friend!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, with Carols, Communion and Candle Lighting, will take place Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00pm. Worship will be led by Pastor Rich Ajer. Bring your family and friends for this festive and hymn-filled evening of celebrative worship in honor of our Savior's birth! Merry Christmas to All!



At the November MilVet Care Package Night, It was another fun night with MilVet at the November Care Package Night! Together, there were about 100 boxes packaged for up to be sent to our deployed troops overseas!

The next event is on December 4th from 5:00 – 8:00 pm! Come and join in on the fun and, If you are able, please bring an unwrapped toy!




MilVet™
 HELP SEND
MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

Join us to assemble military care packages for deployed troops overseas!

December 4th, 2024 6-8pm
 The Corporate Room
 34846 Monte Vista Dr, Wildomar, CA 92595

R.S.V.P.
WWW.MILVET.ORG/DONATE/P/DECEMBER24

A \$25 SUGGESTED DONATION HELPS WITH SHIPPING AND INCLUDES FOOD AND ALL SUPPLIES AT THE EVENT




Special Event!
 Meet Senator Seyarto at 5pm!
 Bring a toy for MilVet's Holidays For Heroes Toy Drive




For more information: info@milvet.org or (951) 902-9681

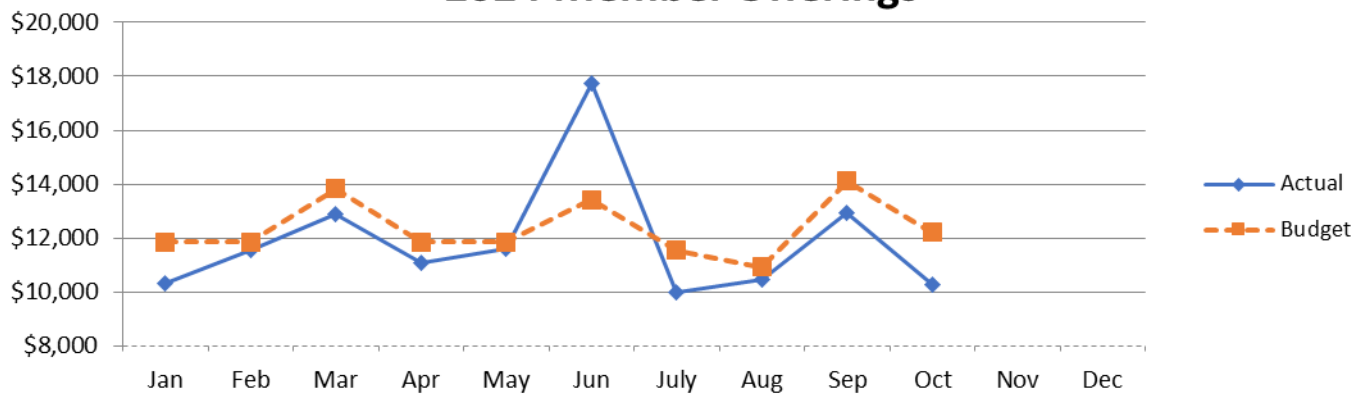
FINANCIAL REPORT

October 31, 2024

1. Comments

- a. Member giving continues below budget. Total Income for the month was significantly below budget.
- b. Expenses were also substantially below budget because we chose not to transfer unspent Pastoral Expense to the New Pastor Reserve Fund "savings" account on our balance sheet. We made this decision to a healthy checking account balance, as the November budget anticipates a significant shortfall. We'll wait until December to transfer unspent Pastoral Expense into the New Pastor Reserve fund once we see where we'll end the year overall.

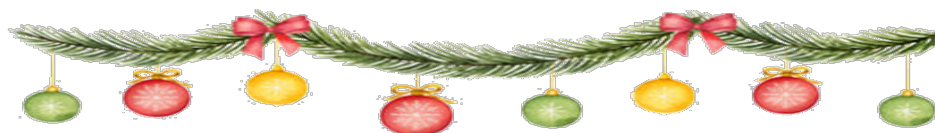
2024 Member Offerings



2. Financials Review

- a. **Offering Envelopes**
 - i) **For the month**, significantly below budget at 84.3% (\$10,287 vs \$12,201).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, below budget at 96.2% (\$118,738 vs \$123,389).
- b. **Total Income**
 - i) **For the month**, significantly below budget at 85.1% (\$12,081 vs \$14,202).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, significantly below budget at 85.9% (\$163,355 vs \$190,198).
- c. **Expenses**
 - i) **For the month**, substantially below budget at 60.0% (\$10,454 vs \$17,415).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, significantly below budget at 83.4% (\$154,477 vs \$185,187).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, a surplus of \$1,626 vs the expected shortfall of \$3,213.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, a surplus of \$8,878 vs the expected surplus of \$5,011.
- e. **Checking balance**
 - i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$12,158.
 - ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$10,515.

Submitted by Mike McGavran, Treasurer



CELEBRATING DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

December 1	Mimi Houghtaling
December 8	Bill Brauer
December 10	Thelma Dyal
December 14	John Neff
December 15	Berenice Varsobia
December 19	Robert Ackley
December 22	Kally Homchick
December 22	Amy Sinclair
December 26	Erma Hinkle
December 28	Harold Whitford
December 29	Jackson Ackley
December 29	Audie Carr
December 29	Hunter Holmes
December 31	Earlean Wagner



Celebrating December Anniversaries

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

December 17, 1966	Kent & Carol Kobersteen
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!



Hunger Never Rests!

**The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard
is in need of
Canned Soup and Chili for December!**

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



4 Plus 1 – What Is It?

What is 4 Plus 1? It's a "Come as you are and share your own story!" kind of thing - small groups of four or more people **plus Christ – the Plus One**. We pray, discuss a scripture passage, talk and laugh together on the **third Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:00am**. It's a great way to learn more about each other and our generous and loving God!

Our topic this month: Compassion

**Tuesday, December 17th , 10:00 a.m. at the home of Walli Weitz:
29670 Caravel Dr., Menifee, 92585
For directions call/text: 818-472-1116**



Advent and Christmas are here!

Here are some dates to put on your calendars:

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22 – Four Sundays of Advent

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18 – Advent Mid-Week Worship
Services at 5:00pm – Soup Suppers afterward

**Saturday, December 7 – Decorating the Sanctuary and Christmas Tree
10:00 am – All hands are needed. Coffee and donuts served!**

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Join us and bring a friend for all these Worship Opportunities.



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.

In December our women's Mary Circle Bible study will be a devotional called "In God's Garden," what fig trees teach us about Advent. If you would like to attend December's study but haven't received your magazine, please check in the office or call Bea Olsen, President, Women of the ELCA, and we will get you a copy. **Come join in the conversation and fellowship. All women are welcome.**

Snip and Stitch Quilters – Our quilters will meet on **Thursday, Dec. 5 and 19, from 9:00-12:00** in the Fellowship Hall. No experience as a quilter is needed. There will be various things to do. Please bring a bag lunch if you wish, for lunch and fellowship when we finish. Look forward to seeing you and having you join us to work on a worthwhile project and fellowship together.

The Faith Women of the ELCA Christmas Party with a Purpose is coming up on **Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 am** here at the church. We will have our general meeting with the election of the 2025 Board, presentation of the 2025 budget, "Christmas Moments to Remember", projects with a purpose, all followed by lunch. Please stop by at the card table in the narthex to sign up, and pick up

a flyer, which will tell you all about the party. ALL women are invited!!

The Pacific W-ELCA Convention and Gathering, was held on October 18-19, 2024. Five of our Faith W-ELCA members attended and enjoyed a time of fellowship with women from a number of churches in Southern California and Hawaii. This is an event held every year in the fall and all women of the church are invited and welcome to attend.

Sunday, October 20 was our Thankoffering Sunday. We also displayed all of the beautiful quilts that our Snip and Stitch Quilters have made this year. **We are happy to report that \$910 was donated for our Thankoffering.** This money will go to the Synod for the support of the many projects carried out by the Synod. Our heartfelt thanks to all who supported this Thankoffering Sunday.

Sunday Coffee – Just a reminder your help is needed to continue to have coffee and fellowship after our church services. We would like volunteers to help clean up after our Sunday coffee. **Please sign up and give it a try.**

Coming up this month:

Thursday, December 5 and 19, from 9-12 noon – Snip and Stitch Quilters in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 7, 10:00 am – Alter Guild decorating the sanctuary. Helpers are invited

Tuesday, December 10, 12:30 pm – W-ELCA Board Meeting in the library

Wednesday, December 11, 10:00 am - Mary Circle Bible study in the library

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 10:00 am – W-ELCA Christmas Party and General Meeting

Thursday, December 19, 6:00 pm – Evening Circle Bible study meets in the Fellowship Hall

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 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, Cell # 951 370-3600, beaolsen@yahoo.com

Faith Lutheran Women of the ELCA (W-ELCA) Christmas Party with a Purpose & Luncheon

Saturday, December 14, 2024 - 10:00am at Church

Our Purpose: Fun, friendship and assembling Christmas gifts for our homebound members

Featured: Devotions, election of W-ELCA officers, "Christmas Moments to Remember", small gift exchange, lunch, Prayer Partner reveal and draw

Please Bring:

- One small wrapped item for the gift exchange
- Prayer Partner Card *(if you are a Prayer Partner)*
- A friend or two or three or four

Sign Up: At church, or call Bea Olsen at 951-370-3600



ALL Women Are Welcome!!

The Giving Tree

It's that time of year again! Your Outreach Committee will be collecting gift cards to give to Menifee Valley Community Cupboard again this year for Christmas! The Giving Tree will be set up in the narthex on Sunday, November 25 - December 22.

We're looking for your gifts of love to share with those in need in the form of gift cards from:

Local Grocery Stores

Target

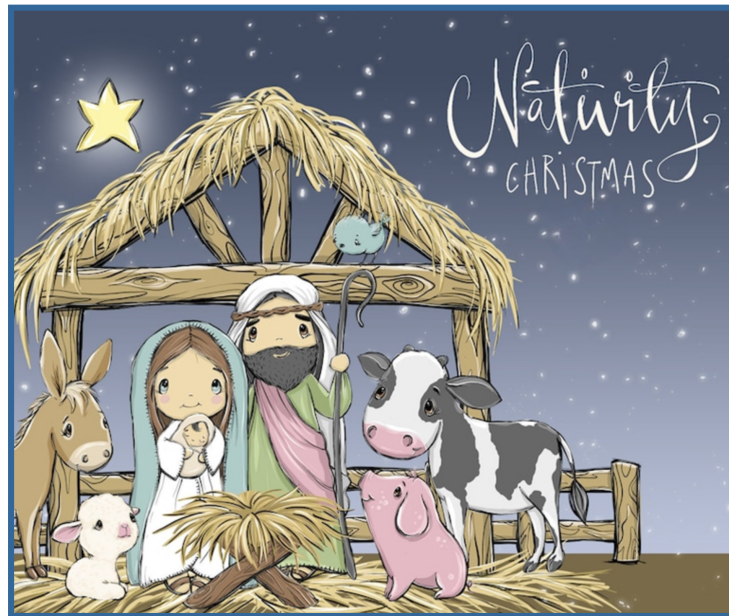
Walmart



When you bring your gift card to church during this time, you will get a thank you ornament as a reminder of your gift of love.

Giving is Love in Action! Your Outreach Committee thanks you!

Merry Christmas, Faith Family!



Faith Lutheran Church

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Menifee, CA 92586

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

December 2024

December 2024

January 2025

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				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1 AM: Roderick; Lector: Pat A.; PPT: Lynn 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Rex Wignall	2 9:00am Payables 9:00am Payroll	3 Pay Supply Pastor 9:00am FLC Deposit 10:00am Worship & Music	4 Lector: Pat Adams; PPT: Candy 5:00pm Advent Worship & Soup-Lay Led	5 9:00am Snip 'N Stitch	6 10:30am AI-Anon	7 10:00am Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas
8 AM: Candy Lector: Diane M.; PPT: Bill 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Shane Freiberg	9 FLC Pay Day Pay Supply Pastor 9:00am FLC Deposit 10:00am Hymn Planners 12:30pm WELCA Board 3:30pm Outreach Team	10 FLC Pay Day Pay Supply Pastor 9:00am FLC Deposit 10:00am Hymn Planners 12:30pm WELCA Board 3:30pm Outreach Team	11 Lector: David M.; PPT: Mike 10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study 2:00pm Remembering & Honoring 5:00pm Advent	12 4:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic Team 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	13 Order 6 mos. of Forever stamps 10:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Transition Team	14 10:00am WELCA General Meeting & Christmas Party
15 AM: Marlene; Lector: Lorna; PPT: Steve 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Glen Egerton	16 Pay Supply Pastor Payables Payroll 9:00am FLC Deposit 10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group-In Person 2:00pm Fellowship	17 Pay Supply Pastor Payables Payroll 9:00am FLC Deposit 10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group-In Person 2:00pm Fellowship	18 Lector: Steve; PPT: Marlene 1:00pm Finance Team-In Person & 5:00pm Advent Worship & Soup-Lay 7:00pm Menifee Reads!	19 9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 6:00pm WELCA Bible Study-In Person & Zoom	20 10:00am Stewardship 10:30am AI-Anon	21 6:00pm Big Band Rehearsal
22 AM: Steve; Lector: Marlene; PPT: Candy 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Shane Freiberg	23 Forecaster Deadline	24 AM: Joanne; Lector: Roderick; PPT: Mike Pay Supply Pastor 9:00am FLC Deposit 5:00pm Candlelight Worship-Pr. Rich Ajer	25 FLC Pay Day	26 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	27 10:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Transition Team	28
29 AM: Roderick; PPT: Mike Lectors: Kathy, Amy, Marlene, Joanne, Candy 9:30am Lessons & Carols Service	30 1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom	31 Pay Supply Pastor 9:00am FLC Deposit	Jan 1, 25	2	3	4