



Forecaster

Faith Lutheran Church * July 2024



Thriving In the Dog Days of Summer



An excerpt of an article written by Pastor Wayne Zschech

Ever wonder why we call July and August the “dog days of summer?” I did, so I looked it up. According to Google “To the Greeks and Romans, the ‘dog days’ occurred around the day when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun, in late July. They referred to these days as the hottest time of the year, a period that could bring fever, or even catastrophe.” These “dog days” stretch from July 22 to August 22. Often, July is the month when many go on vacation to rejuvenate before the hustle and bustle of the school year begins in August, but I imagine many are simply hoping to survive the dog days of summer.

Yet, I wonder if we might thrive in them? I wonder if with the intensity of the heat and sociological climate of these “dog days” we might instead approach them with a bit of dyslexia and look at them as “God days” of summer, remembering that our Lord promised to be with us always, even when the heat is turned up, until the end of the age. I think about the three captive Israelites from the book of Daniel who were thrown into the fiery furnace for not worshipping the golden statue the King had erected every time they heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble. Instead, they would only worship the God of Israel. Remember that story with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? The furnace was so hot even the jailors who threw them in it were killed by the heat!

Yet, when the King looked into the furnace he saw not three men, but four, walking around inside the furnace. Not only were they not burned up like marshmallows over an open fire, but neither was their clothing. Amidst the intense heat and fire of their ordeal the Lord was with them, protecting them, and allowing them to survive the flames, and later to even thrive in their Babylonian captivity.

As we journey through these dog days of summer heat and societal tension, we would do well to remember the Lord walks with us as well. And like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we might also engage in the practice that put them in the furnace in the first place, worshipping the one true God and not the false ones of our day. Here are my three tips for beating the heat and thriving in the dog days of summer.

- **Take a Social Media Sabbatical:** Take a month off from social media. Instead of worshipping the latest memes and articles posted that raise our blood pressure every time we hear the horn, pipe, harp, triangle, whistle, or whatever sounds our phone notification provides why not just turn it off for a month or until August 22? Take a break from Facebook, TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat and see if that changes your general temperament.
- **Practice Daily Prayer:** Even if it's praying Martin Luther's Morning and Evening Blessings it sets the tone for your day and before you go to sleep at night. Here they are:

The Morning Blessing: *I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angels be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen. (Then you are to go to your work joyfully)*

The Evening Blessing: *I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen. (Then you are to go to sleep quickly and cheerfully)*

- **Rest, Re-create, and Read:** Remember all the summer projects you said you wanted to accomplish (I still have quite a few left on my list)? If you haven't completed them, consider paring the list down. Take time for rest each day. Go to bed earlier. Get an extra hour of sleep each night. Give your body and mind a chance to relax. Spend time in re-creation of your mind, body, and spirit with walks, hikes, or even biking the neighborhood in the cooler hours of the morning or evening. And read. Read books that challenge your mind, soothe your spirit, and expand your perspective, or just simply make you feel good. It may just change the way you see the world and your part in it come August 23 when the dog days of summer are a little bit behind us.

Blessings to you all in this sizzling season of summer!





Dear Family of Faith:

July, is the seventh month of the year and often arrives with a burst of summer energy (in our case, HEAT). As we transition from June to July, it's a perfect time to reflect on the events and growth of the past month. Our Volunteer Appreciation potluck was a huge success and all our committees continue to do outstanding projects.

The WELCA luncheon was a tremendous success and a fabulous time was had by all. I was having a blast singing along with the music!! We raised over \$1,000.00 for the CARE Project.

Your Outreach Committee will be selling FaithWear this month so please check out the fabulous shirts in the Narthex and place your order.

The Fellowship Committee will be having our Ice Cream Sundae Summer Socials the last Wednesday of June, July and August. What a great way to try and beat the heat!!!

Baseball, did I hear baseball? Get your tickets to the Storm game on July 26th! It's Faith & Family Night!

Once again, I need to express gratitude for all you do here at Faith!

"Enriching Lives Through Faith and God's Grace"! God's Blessings,

Diane Swarts, Council President



Hunger Never Rests!
**The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in
 need of
 canned pasta sauce and other tomato products for July!**

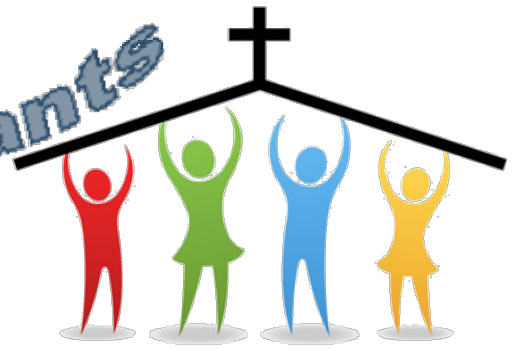
Your donations are always welcome and needed! Bring your donations to the church office during our regular hours or you may drop your items off at The Cupboard at 26944 Cherry Hills Blvd (951/301-4414). When you drop off your donations, please inform the Community Cupboard you are from Faith Lutheran. 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



Worship Assistants

July



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Power Point	Ushers	Greeters	Attendance
7th: Roderick	7th: Amy	7th: Candy	7th: Annie	7th: Joanne	7th: Kandie
14th: Marlene	14th: Steve	14th: Lynn	14th: Gina	14th: Diane M.	14th: Pat O.
21st: Joanne	21st: Sandy	21st: Mike	21st: Judy Appel	21st: Marlene	21st: Judy Adams
28th: Steve	28th: Kathy	28th: Marlene	28th: Diane M.	28th: Dave	28th: Shirley
Altar Guild: 7th, 14th: Kandie, Kay 21st, 28th: Marlene, Diane M.					



Faith Lutheran is in need of a new Council Treasurer!

Mike McGavran will be serving out his term as Treasurer, and will then be retiring. Because this is such an important job at Faith, we are looking for someone to start training now by shadowing Mike so you'll be up to speed come February!

Please prayerfully consider stepping into this role and contact either Mike (949.246.0450) or Diane (949.500.7986) for questions or additional information!

Volunteer Appreciation 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT MAY 31, 2024

1. Comments

- a. Although Member giving continues to run below budget, it is better than previous months. Expenses are also running well below budget. As a result, our Net Operating Income overall is better than projected YTD.
- b. This month, we were able to transfer \$8,953 to the New Pastor Reserve Fund, by charging our Pastoral Expense categories to the full budgeted amount.
- c. Pastor Shane continues to make himself available to provide Pastoral Care to our congregation during our transition. If you would like to talk with him, just call the Church Office and Lynn will get you connected.



2. Financials Review

- a. **Offering Envelopes**
 - i) **For the month**, slightly under budget at 97.8% (\$11,580 vs \$11,846).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 93.8% (\$57,375 vs \$61,207).
- b. **Total Income**
 - i) **For the month**, slightly under budget at 97.8% (\$13,466 vs \$13,775).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 95.0% (\$90,712 vs \$95,457).
- c. **Expenses**
 - i) **For the month**, well under budget at 91.4% (\$17,530 vs \$19,188).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, well under budget at 92.0% (\$86,686 vs \$94,205).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, a loss of \$4065 vs the expected loss of \$5,413.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, a surplus of \$4,026 vs the expected surplus of \$1,251.
- e. **Checking balance**
 - i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$7,499.
 - ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$11,573.





FaithWear

Order your FaithWear today... ..and literally wear your Faith on your sleeve!
(well...on your chest and back, but, still!)



All prepaid orders due July 7th
Adult Sizes: \$20.00 * Kid Sizes: \$14.00

**New Member Classes are June 30th, July 7th
New Member Sunday is July 14th!
Sign up today to join the Faith Family!**



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| July 2 | Betty Heiling |
| July 3 | Joyce Stromberg |
| July 4 | Ruth Maser |
| July 9 | Susan Brauer |
| July 11 | Cody Meckler |
| July 12 | Marilyn Rieti |
| July 15 | Patsy Loughboro |
| July 16 | Rich Chandler |
| July 18 | Rose Thompson |
| July 25 | Pat Adams |
| July 26 | Lynn Bennett |



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| July 4, 2000 | Ruth & Milton Maser |
|--------------|---------------------|



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



Greetings dear Women of Faith!

We are looking forward to July. Welcome, all of you, to all of our activities and events.

Our Bible study for July will be another part of *After Certainty: Community and Compassion* by Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. Please join us for one or both of our 2 Bible study sessions: July 10th at 10:00am and July 18 at 6:00pm. We look forward to the conversation and fellowship. All women are welcome!

Saturday June 22 was our fundraiser for the year. It was successful and very well attended. The CARE Project was our honored guests and all the proceeds will go to them. They spoke about their program and what they do and joined in the festivities. The Rancho Rockers played a lot of fun music!

The Pacifica W-ELCA Convention and Gathering will be held on October 18-19, 2024, at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Oceanside. Save the date if you are interested and we will provide you with more information.

September 21, 2024: WELCA general meeting and luncheon at 10:00am

December 14, 2024: the WELCA General meeting and Christmas luncheon at 10:00 am

Coming up this month:

July 9, 2024: WELCA Board Meeting at 1:00 pm

July 10, 2024: Bible Study Mary Circle 10:00 am

July 18, 2024: Snip and Stitch: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Let us daily: "Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good, sing praise to God's name for God is gracious."
(Psalm 135:3)

In Christ's love, Diane Molina, Women of the ELCA Vice-President

*I scream, you scream,
we all scream for ice cream!*

The Fellowship Team invites you to enjoy the Ice Cream Sundae Summer Socials, the last Wednesday of each month during the summer from 6:30 – 7:30. Mark your calendars for: July 31st and August 28th!

Please sign up to enjoy the fun! Bring your friends! All are welcome!



WELCA Fundraiser!



Come and join us for Bingo!

Thursday, August 8th at 4:00

Fellowship Hall at Faith Lutheran Church

Fellowship, snacks and Bingo!



Christmas in July

We are celebrating our military and veterans in need, and their families by collecting gift cards for Target, Uber, any grocery store or gas station. The donations go to MilVet of Murrieta, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Please visit our patriotic giving tree in the Narthex throughout July and help our military and veterans if you are able.

Raven Hilden, the founder and CEO from MilVet, will come to speak with us during coffee hour on July 28 to tell us about their work!



Upcoming Outreach Activities for 2024

- Christmas in July: Through the end of July, gift cards for veterans via MilVet
- God's Work, Our Hands: Sunday, September 8
- Book Club: To start in September (more info to come)
- Blessing of the Animals: Saturday, October 12
- Menifee Fall Festival: Saturday, October 19
- Giving Tree: November / December
- Soles4Souls: Shoe collection, ongoing
- Community Cupboard: Food donations, ongoing
- Milvet: Monthly donation project coming soon
- Lions Club: Collection of used eyeglasses, ongoing

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Get your tickets for a fun night of baseball and friendship!

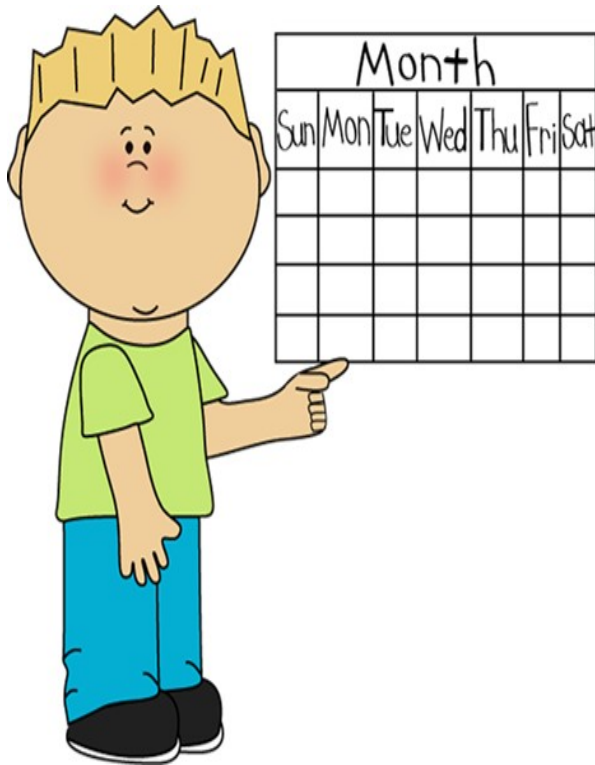
The deadline to order is July 15th, so don't delay!

Contact Kathy Kent for more info at (410) 570-1819!

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

<p>DIAMOND STADIUM OF LAKE ELSINORE</p> <p>JULY 26TH, 2024</p> <p>6:45 PM </p> <p>STORM</p>	<p>TICKET PACKAGE #1</p> <p>\$17.50 <small>YEES INCLUDED</small></p> <p><small>INCLUDES SODA OR WATER</small></p> <p>TICKET PACKAGE #2 (GROUP OF 25-100)</p> <p>\$17.00 <small>YEES INCLUDED</small></p> <p><small>DOES NOT INCLUDE SODA & WATER</small></p> <p>TICKET PACKAGE #3 (GROUP OF 101+)</p> <p>\$16.50 <small>YEES INCLUDED</small></p> <p><small>18 HOT DOG & CHIPS ADD-ON AVAILABLE FOR ALL GROUP OPTIONS</small></p>	
<p>CONTACT TICKETS@STORMBASEBALL.COM OR CALL (951) 245-4487 FOR MORE INFORMATION</p>		

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



- 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

CPR and AED Training

We would like to schedule another class for CPR and to learn how to use our new AED machine. Please sign up in the Narthex as soon as possible!



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

		July 2024							August 2024																							
		Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	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																										
Jun 30	Jul 1	2 10:00am Worship & Music	3	4 Independence Day-Office Closed	5 10:30am AI-Anon	6																										
7 AM: Roderick; Lector: Amy; PPT: Candy 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am New Member Class	8 1:00pm Strategic Planning	9 10:00am Hymn Planners 1:00pm WELCA Board 3:30pm Outreach Team	10 10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study 2:00pm Remembering & Honoring	11 9:00am Copier installation 4:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic Team	12 10:30am AI-Anon	13																										
14 AM: Mars; Lector: Steve; PPT: Lynn New Member Sunday 9:30am Worship Service	15	16 10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group-In Person 2:00pm Fellowship Team	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: Sandy; PPT: Mike 9:30am Worship Service	22	23 Forecaster Deadline	24 1:00pm Finance Team-In Person & Zoom	25	26 10:30am AI-Anon 6:45pm Storm Baseball Game	27																										
28 AM: Steve; Lector: Kathy; PPT: Mars 9:30am Worship Service	29 1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom	30	31 Christmas in July Ends 6:30pm Summer Ice Cream Social	Aug 1	2	3																										