



Forecaster

Faith Lutheran Church * March 2024



Easter is almost here, again! I'm really not ready for it. Which raises the question: how does a Christian get ready for Easter? Only fifteen to twenty years after the resurrection of Jesus, Paul had to remind some Christ followers what Easter was about (not called Easter then), so you know it's easy for us to downplay its importance: "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you..." I Corinthians 15:1. After reading I Corinthians 15 again, I realized that Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, reminds us of so much. For instance, Easter reminds us of:

1. PRIORITIES: *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received..."* v3. It's so easy for me to slide away from the big truths of Christianity, the really important truths, and into my own peculiar world of theological interests, spiritual side roads and churchy preferences that keep me from allowing God's grace to marinate in my soul, prompting worship and openness to people. Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, jolts me out of my individual ghetto and invites me back into the large, open realm where He roams. Easter reminds us of what is really important.

2. GOSPEL: *"Now I would remind you...of the gospel"* v1. Easter is about the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and is not less than that, but it is more! As Paul reminds the Corinthians, Easter, and Palm Sunday, and Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday before that, all bring Christians back to meditate on Christ's death, and why He died; His burial, the grave, death; and His resurrection, and how that impacts us receiving the righteousness of Christ (see Romans 4:25). Easter reminds me of the deep and wide Gospel—the whole Gospel.

3. STABILITY: *"In which you stand" v1.* The world is in chaos and our emotional lives often reflect that chaos. When bad news makes the ground under my feet unsteady, I can stand, firm in God's promises that are proved reliable by the resurrection. Easter reminds me, us, that God can be trusted no matter what we face in life.

4. SALVATION: *"And by which you are being saved" v2.* Easter pulls us back to the core of the Gospel of God's grace in Christ, and reminds us that we will be saved, that we are now being saved, and we will be saved by Christ and His work, and not by our own work. How easy it is to act as though God saved us and now we're working really hard to keep ourselves saved! No! All is grace, and Easter reminds us even as we fail, that He will never fail us.

5. EVIDENCE: *"And that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve" v5-7.* Christians cannot get through Easter without recounting the litany of the many eyewitnesses who saw Jesus alive after seeing Him clearly die. That's as it should be! Easter, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, provides the evidential and rational basis for trusting our entire present and eternal life to Jesus, the King over death. Easter reminds us that we're not foolish in following Jesus, and actually, that we would be foolish not to.

6. SCRIPTURES: *"In accordance with the Scriptures" v3-4.* The resurrection of Jesus was a part of the Triune God's plan to redeem His people. As we reflect on the prophecies of Easter and their fulfillment, Christians are reminded that we can trust all of the Bible, on every subject, for all time! Easter reminds us that God's Word never fails.

7. PAST: *"Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me" v8-9.* God used Paul's past, but Paul was not defined by his sordid past any more than we are defined by our past. God's grace in Christ radically accepts us where we are and transforms us into what surprises even us. Easter reminds us of our past and the new life and freedom that we now have.

8. IMPACT: *"But by the grace of God I am what I am" v10-11.* When Paul met the resurrected Christ (Acts 9), he was never and could never be the same. Paul was fully immersed in God's unconditional favor because of Jesus, and his life can only be called extraordinary after that. While our lives might not be as extensively impactful as Paul's, Easter reminds us that grace raises the dead and stirs the world through them. Grace creates risk takers with nothing to lose and nothing to prove.

9. LOGIC: *"Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can..." v12-49.* Since Jesus was raised from the dead, so will we be raised from the dead! This life in Christ is preparation for an eternity that is bigger and grander than we can ever imagine. The logic of Christ's resurrection leading to our own opens up for us a whole new future which we are invited to explore. Easter pulls us out of a "this only" life into an eternal future that kills the despair of "is this all there is?"

10. HOPE: *"I tell you this brothers..." v50-58.* Jesus' resurrection is a model for what ours will be like. An instantaneous change, an imperishable body; immortality; the death of death; victory, triumph, not on our own, but in Jesus. Easter reminds us to hope, and pulls us into hope over and over and over again. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

-Written by Pete Alwinson



Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we gathered together at our Congregational Meeting last Sunday I felt gratitude and encouragement from all of you.

Your unwavering support, kindness and dedication to this church shines through in our sanctuary each and every Sunday. In the months ahead we will have moments of joy and moments that challenge us but we need to continue to be uplifting to each other and enjoy our journey of faith.

Your Council will be working hard to provide the congregation with information from the Synod and the City about our ongoing projects.

May your coming days be filled with warmth of this Easter Season and your love for Faith Lutheran.

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/Cekm6HPOyDnHEB0/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 MARCH 2024

This March is a busy month in the church calendar with five Sundays including Palm Sunday and Easter, three Midweek Worship Services followed by Soup Suppers and Maundy Thursday and Good Friday during Holy Week. What a feast of worship opportunities for all, culminating with the joyous Easter celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior! Don't miss out on any of these times of sharing the Gospel with others by inviting them to join in praising and honoring God.

March 3 **Worship & Communion at 9:30 am: Pastor Rex Wignall presiding**

March 6 *Midweek Lenten Worship at 5:00 pm (Soup following)*

March 10 **Worship & Communion at 9:30 am: Pastor Shane Freiberg presiding**

March 13 *Midweek Lenten Worship at 5:00 pm (Soup following)*

March 17 **Worship & Communion at 9:30 am: Pastor Shane Freiberg presiding**

March 20 *Midweek Lenten Worship at 5:00 pm (Soup following)*

March 24 **Worship & Communion at 9:30 am: Palm Sunday: Pastor Shane Freiberg presiding**

March 28 *Maundy Thursday Worship at 5:00 pm: Pastor Rich Ajer presiding*

March 29 *Good Friday Worship at 5:00 pm: Lay Leaders presiding*

March 31 **Worship & Communion at 9:30 am: Easter: 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, any time after 2:00 pm each Sunday

Social Media Bonus!!



Lent Daily Devotional! There will be a daily devotional posted on our social media pages every day during Lent! So, check them out...click to like each devotional, comment on them and click to share them!

Worship Assistants

March



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Power Point	Ushers	Greeters	Attendance
3rd: Roderick	3rd: Amy	3rd: Candy	3rd: Annie	3rd: Judy Ad.	3rd: Kandie
6th: N/A	6th: Amy	6th: Candy	6th: N/A	6th: N/A	6th: Kathy
10th: Steve	10th: Harold	10th: Bill	10th: Gina	10th: Bosingers	10th: Diane M.
13th: N/A	13th: Mike	13th: Bill	13th: N/A	13th: N/A	13th: Pat O.
17th: Harold	17th: Bill	17th: Marlene	17th: Judy Ap.	17th: Karen S.	17th: Connie
20th: N/A	20th: Lorna	20th: Mike	20th: N/A	20th: N/A	20th: Joanne
24th: Joanne	24th: Sandy	24th: Lynn	24th: Diane M.	24th: Dave	24th: Shirley
28th: Marlene	28th: Steve	28th: Lynn	28th: TBD	28th: Judy Ad.	28th: TBD
29th: Joanne	29th: Diane M. etc	29th: Candy	29th: TBD	29th: TBD	29th: Diane S.
31st: Marlene	31st: Joanne	31st: Mike	31st: TBD	31st: Bosingers	31st: Joanne

Altar Guild: Kandie Hulme and Debbie Ehrig



Did someone say “soup?” Our Lent Soup & Study will happen on Wednesdays, March 6th, 13th and 20th at 5:00. The “study” will feature the Holden Evening Prayer Service and a dramatic reading by one of our Faith members. Come worship and join in soup fellowship. Bring a friend...or 2...or 10!
ALL are welcome!

ATTENTION PLEASE

On more than one occasion, the church doors have been left fully open for several hours overnight. The Chairs of Committees are responsible for making sure the doors are locked and secure prior to leaving their meeting/event. To keep ourselves and our church safe, please use extra caution by pulling and pushing on the door handle once closed.

THANK YOU!





Greetings dear women of Faith!

Many of you are already busy participating in the activities of the church and looking forward to March events. Welcome, *all* of you, to any and all of our activities and events.

Our Winter/Spring *Gather Magazine* Bible Study will continue with our third bible study session of “Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith”. This third session “Rivers” is presented in our *Gather Magazine* by Rev. Sara Olson-Smith.

We have two Women of the ELCA Circle Bible studies each month. A daytime study on the second Tuesday of the month is using the *Gather Magazine* study and the evening study on the third Thursday of the month is studying the women of the Bible. **Select the Circle Bible study time listed below that's best for you and join in the conversation. All women are welcome.**

Our first quarterly W-ELCA meeting will meet in the fellowship hall on Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 am for our business meeting and program. Lunch will follow. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex and there will be a \$5.00 charge for lunch. All women are invited.

Pacifica Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering will be held Saturday, April 13 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Banning 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 further details and a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Prayer Partners for 2024 were chosen at our December meeting for those who wished to participate. If you were unable to attend the December 9 meeting and would still like to have a Prayer Partner for 2024, please contact the Women of the ELCA Circle Chairs or Kandie Hulme for details.

Just a reminder: Sunday morning coffee hour is in need of help. Sign up with a friend. Help with the set-up is provided by Evelyn. Volunteers to help serve and clean up after our Sunday coffee are needed. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Women of the ELCA Upcoming Events:

Snip and Stitch Quilters – Thursday, **March 7**, 9-12 noon in the Fellowship Hall

Women of the ELCA Board Meeting – Tuesday, **March 12**, 1:00 pm in the library

Mary Circle Bible study - Wednesday, **March 13**, 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Snip and Stitch Quilters – Thursday, **March 21**, 9-12 noon in the Fellowship Hall

Evening Circle Bible study - Thursday, **March 21**, at 6:00 pm at Church

W-ELCA General Meeting – Saturday, **March 23**, 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Planning ahead – Mark your calendar

Pacifica Spring Gathering – Saturday, April 13, Our Savior's Lutheran, Banning CA

W-ELCA Annual Fundraiser - Saturday, June 22, 10:00 am in the fellowship hall

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not parish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

In Christ's love, Bea Olsen, President, Women of the ELCA, cell # 951 370-3600

SAVE the DATE

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 Geronio 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!



Thanks to all who have been excited about this new initiative! We have already collected **114 pairs** of gently used or new shoes!! How amazing is that!

How can you can help this Outreach project?

- Clean out your closets
- Tell your neighbors, friends and local family
- Tell your bingo, bunco, and activity groups
- Tell your clubs, masons, professional groups
- Tell people you work with
- Tell your walking and workout buddies.
- See if your HOA will put out a box for collection

SOLES 4 SOULS

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!

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 31, 2024

1. Comments

- a. While Member Giving was short of our expectations, our expenses were also less than budgeted, due mostly to the departure of our Pastor in early January. The result was a better than projected surplus for the month.
- b. This year will be challenging in many ways, as we work through the Transition phase and subsequent Call process. It will be important for each of us to remain faithful to our ministry here at Faith, both in our commitment of time and talent, as well as our financial support.
- c. The good news is that we've done it many times before, and we can do it again, while we wait for new Pastoral leadership!



2. Financials Review

a. Offering Envelopes

- i) **For the month**, significantly under budget at 87.2% (\$10,325 vs \$11,846).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, same.

b. Total Income

- i) **For the month**, under budget at 91.7% (\$21,766 vs \$23,748).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, same.

c. Expenses

- i) **For the month**, significantly under budget at 84.6% (\$16,329 vs \$19,293).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, same.

d. Net Operating Income (Total Income minus Expenses)

- i) **For the month**, a surplus of \$5,437 vs the expected surplus of \$4,456.
- ii) **Year-to-date**, same.

e. Checking balance

- i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$10,004, significantly better than last month.
- ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$4,117.





March Birthdays

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

March 4, 1955	Annie Misko
March 5, 2003	Allison McGavran
March 7, 1944	Kay Espe
March 7, 1960	Roderick Sinclair
March 10, 1929	Esther Neumen
March 10, 1937	Diana Ward
March 17, 1923	Ruth Ditsch
March 31, 1935	Pat Olson



March Anniversaries

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

March 11, 1961	Dick & Bea Olsen
March 22, 2019	Mikey & Berenice Varsobia



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



"Hunger Never Rests"

Hunger Never Rests!

The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of 16 oz jars of peanut butter for March!

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



Thank you!

Thank you to the persons who have been bringing donations into the kitchen! Please be sure to leave a note with any items so we know who brought them and if they're to be used for a special occasion.

Annual Meeting

Thanks to everyone who participated with our Annual Meeting. We needed 18 people for a quorum and 46 were present; 44 voting members and 2 non-voting members. We successfully elected our new Council Members as well as our Endowment Board Members.

BALLOTS RESULTS

(Ballots counted by Jean Miles, Annie Misko, and Bea Olsen)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING 2/26/2023: 41 VOTES

Elected 2024 Council Members:

Pat Adams (1 year): 41 Votes

Steve Kent (3 years): 41 Votes

Connie Gibson, Incumbent (1 year): 41 Votes

Mike McGavran (1 year): 35 Votes

Elected 2024 Endowment Board (each for a 2 year term):

Ron Biggs: 41 Votes

Lesly Culp (Treasurer): 40 Votes

Bill Brauer: 41 Votes

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Kathy Kent: 41 Votes

Marlene Rosselli: 43 Votes

Approval of 2023 Budget: Passed with 43 Votes

Once the Annual Meeting was adjourned, the new council members met. They voted on officers for the coming year.

NEW COUNCIL FOR 2023

PRESIDENT: Diane Swarts

VICE PRESIDENT: Amy Sinclair

SECRETARY: Connie Gibson

TREASURER: Mike McGavran

LIAISONS TO COMMITTEES

Each Council member is responsible for a committee to be the official Council contact to bring information both to and from the rest of the Council:

EDUCATION: Amy Sinclair

ENDOWMENT: Pat Adams

FELLOWSHIP: Arlene Dressler

FINANCE: Mike McGavran

OUTREACH: Diane Swarts

PROPERTY: Harold Whitford

SERVICES (CHEER): Diane Swarts

STEWARDSHIP: Steve Kent

W-ELCA & KITCHEN: Connie Gibson

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Amy Sinclair

Thank you for your support throughout the past year and your continuing support for our 2024!



AED Training

Great news! 9 of our Faith Lutheran members took the CPR and AED Training on February 16th! We're happy to report that everyone passed and was certified! I think it's safe to say everyone is hoping to never need to use it, but if the need arises, we are trained and ready!

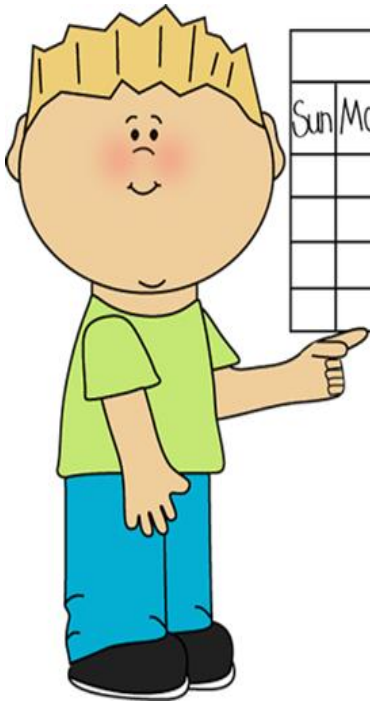


Eye Glasses Need Homes, Too!

Did you get a new prescription? Get new glasses? Your old unused eyeglasses need to find a new home! Did you know that Faith Lutheran Outreach collects eyeglasses in partnership with our local Lions Club? Just deposit them in the designated box underneath the mailboxes!



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

