

Faith Lutheran Church * April 2025





The celebration of Easter brings with it one of those special moments in my life when I feel like God is smiling down on me. In these moments, it is as if God is filling my life with blessings. I guess you could say that there are times when my cup is truly running over. I often wonder why I deserve such an abundance of blessings. What did I ever do to deserve the precious life God has given me? How could I merit such love, such grace, and such joy in my life?

Thankfully, I am in good company. As Jesus and His disciples were partaking of the Passover meal, the disciples did not feel worthy enough to have their Master wash their feet. Jesus said to them, "'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' 'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!'" (John 13:7-9 NIV). Although Simon Peter did not feel worthy, Jesus explained to Him that his feet must washed in order to remain a part of the Lord's work.

Many times, I do not feel worthy of the love that Jesus continually bestows upon me, but I know there are times when Jesus must cleanse me and at times, even carry me through a difficult time in my life. As a child of God, I cannot refuse the love of Jesus Christ. To do so would be to turn Him away completely. Even if I feel unworthy, I know that I have been bought and paid for by the blood of the Lamb. I have come to realize that Jesus graciously wants to help me. Like Simon Peter, I want to be all in. I want to give my entire being, all that I am, to the work of the Lord. Why should I do otherwise? It is the least that I can do, considering the fact that Jesus gave His all for me.

Last night, I had the opportunity to experience an Easter drama portraying the events surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As I sat in the congregation, I felt as though I had been transported back in time. I truly felt as if I was there, in the crowd, when they shouted, "Crucify Him." I became saddened and angry that other humans, just like me, could hold that level

of hatred toward the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. How could anyone look upon Jesus' face and see anything other than compassion for you and me?

As the soldiers beat Jesus, I flinched each time I heard the snap of the whip upon His back. Then, I found it difficult to watch as Jesus struggled to carry His own cross to Calvary's Hill. Not only did He carry the heavy cross upon His back, but God's Word says, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5 KJV). Just imagine what it would be like to endure every sickness, every affliction, and every sin simultaneously. Surely, no human could withstand such pain and suffering. Even though Jesus could have called ten thousand angels, He remained on that cross, out of love for you and me.

Inevitably, the crucifixion of any other human being on this earth would not have done anyone an ounce of good. You see, Jesus Christ is the only perfect human being who ever walked among men. He was the only Perfect Sacrifice. Only His blood was pure enough to erase the sins of the world. Only the Son of God could endure such a horrifying death and then rise victorious three days later. Only Jesus Christ can heal a broken heart, restore someone's joy, and save a person's soul.

God gave His only Son. Jesus Christ gave His life for you and me. What more could we possibly ask for? Surely, we should expect nothing more. Yet, each day brings new blessings. The moment I awaken, the first breath I take each morning, the sunrise in the sky above...all of these things are blessings bestowed upon me, even before my day has barely even begun. My family and friends, my home, the food I eat and clothes I wear...the blessings are truly endless. When I see a dove soaring above, watch a butterfly flutter by, or view a rainbow up above, I am reminded of the everyday blessings that God bestows on me. Isn't that just like God? He gives and He gives. Then, He gives us extra special blessings that are always present, if we just take the time to admire them.

Like Simon Peter, we may feel unworthy of the infinite blessings we are given, but we can rest assured that God blesses us out of His love for us. He wants us to experience a life of peace and joy. He wants us to rejoice, on this Resurrection Day, and always. Philippians 4:4 (NIV) tells us to "Rejoice in the Lord always." So, on this Easter Sunday, take a moment to thank Jesus for everything He has done for you. Thank Him for the smile on your child's face when they found their first Easter egg. Thank Him for the joy you felt after celebrating this special day at an Easter Sunrise service. Thank Him for giving you an abundant life to live. Most of all, thank Him for giving His life. Jesus Christ loves you unconditionally. Will you love Him in return?

Borrowed from: jenniferjoycampbell.blogspot.com





President's Report for April 2025

We are a church that has been looking for a regular pastor for more than a year. Meanwhile, we have had excellent guest pastors almost every week, with a sprinkling of Lay Preachers. We recently hired a Transition Pastor, Pr. Ken Andersen, to help us prepare for calling a new regular Pastor. The transition teamwork is developing our Ministry Site Profile, our resume, to pair up with the resumes of Pastor

candidates. Nice way to get a great match.

Our former Pastor moved on, and we rose up.

As the temperatures warm up and the days get longer, we get better. On the afternoon of Sunday March 23rd, the Church of Mercy and Grace met in our Sanctuary and The Vagabond Theater Group performed for a sold-out audience in our Fellowship Hall. On that one day, including our morning service, 140 people visited our church. This will be repeated on Sunday March 30th.

Through a generous gift from an anonymous benefactor, we were able to upgrade our sound system. Vagabond Theater performances are helping us raise money for a new sound system in the Fellowship Hall.

There are a dozen ways to be involved in the many activities here at Faith Lutheran, and our people are friendly and welcoming. And we are always looking for new ways to bring people together or go to the community in service.

This is truly an amazing place. Glad you are here with us.

Steve Kent, President

Lent

Lent continues into the month of April! On April 2nd and 9th), at 5:00pm, Midweek Soup & Study will take place, featuring the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service and a special reading which will each feature a different person in the life and stories of Jesus. These midweek opportunities to reflect and worship will be followed by a Soup Supper hosted by the Fellowship Ministry.



You are invited to help out by signing up to bring soup or bread if you can.

Please join us for a "time out" from the bustle of Spring and renew your closeness to Jesus and what He did and continues to do for us on a daily basis. Bring a friend...invite someone to join us. All are welcome!

All are welcome, whether you sign up to attend or not! Come and be fed, both soul and body!



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Power Point	Ushers	Attendance	Greeters
2nd: N/A	2nd: Pat Adams	2nd: Candy	2nd: N/A	2nd: N/A	2nd: N/A
6th: Roderick	6th: Amy	6th: Candy	6th: Annie	6th: TBD	6th: Judy Adams
9th: N/A	9th: David,	9th: Candy	9th: N/A	9th: N/A	9th: N/A
13th: Candy	Roderick, Amy	13th: Mars	13th: Gina	13th: Pat O.	13th: Jean
17th: Mars	13th: Lorna	17th: Mike	17th: Diane M.	17th: TBD	17th: Judy Adams
18th: Roderick	17th: TBD	18th: Candy	18th: Mars	18th: TBD	18th: Jean
20th: Mars	18th: Multiple	20th: Mike	20th: Judy Appel	20th: Connie	20th: Jean
27th: Joanne	20th: TBD	27th: Mike	27th: Diane M.	27th: TBD	27th: Mars
	27th: Bill				

Altar Guild: 6th, 13th: Kandie Hulme, Kay Thomas 17th, 18th, 20th, 27th: Marlene Rosselli



The Outreach Team ways to expand our impact

continues to look at new of doing good in our local

Menifee community. We would like to expand our work with MilVet, a local non-profit dedicated to connecting the military community to programs and resources to enrich the lives of deployed troops, veterans, and their families. Here are several ways you can get involved in supporting MilVet in their mission:

- ✓ Attend one or many of the MilVet monthly packing events. Here, care packages are assembled for deployed troops. Sign up for the monthly events can be done on www.milvet.org.
- ✓ **NEW!** This April we will begin collecting items to go into MilVet's care packages for deployed troops. One month out of each quarter we will collect items MilVet needs. For April, we are collecting **instant coffee and disposable razors.** Please add them to your shopping list.
- ✓ Plan to attend the WELCA Fundraiser June 21 to benefit MilVet. (see fundraiser article in this Forecaster)

April 2025 Transition Team Report

Hello Church Family, The Transition Team is continuing to work on our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). When the MSP is completed and approved by the council and Synod, the position will be posted online, and our Call Committee will take over for the process of interviewing potential pastors. The MSP writing process is now progressing to focus on the input of the congregation.

As we mentioned last month, we now have Pastor Ken Anderson serving as our Transition Facilitator and working closely with the Transition Team and with Church Council.

We are beginning Small Group sessions with the Church Council on Sunday March 30th after worship. This meeting is for council members to share their input on the most important skills for a new pastor, and what activities a new pastor should focus on. In this leadership session we will also discuss ideas for our congregational focus going forward.

The Transition Team will be hosting other small group meetings open to everyone in the congregation. Please look for announcements coming soon for the dates and times.

The transition team will continue to make announcements on Sundays at least once a month with updates on our progress.

Our Transition Team meets in person every other week, usually on a Friday at 1pm. Back in February we had a joint meeting with the Church Council and the Transition Team. Pat Adams, who is serving on the Church Council, is now the Council liaison with the Transition Team and will provide updates and information as needed between the two committees.

Per our Church Constitution, the Call Committee needs to consist of 6 voting congregation members, appointed by the Church Council. Also, at least one member of the Transition Team will serve on the Call Committee. The Church Council will be contacting congregation members individually to ask about serving on our Call Committee.

If you have anything you want to share or questions about the transition process, please feel free to reach out to a member of the Transition Team.

Amy Sinclair, Chair

Candy Pellechio, Secretary

Pat Adams, Member

Sandra Miller, Member

Retired Pr. Ken Puccio, Member

Transition Facilitator, Pastor Ken Anderson

In Service to Christ,

Your Transition Team

FINANCIAL REPORT for JANUARY 31, 2025

(replaces incorrect January report submitted last month)

1. Comments

- a. Member giving was significantly below budget.
- b. Monthly Expenses were substantially below budget because, while we budgeted for a half-time Pastor, that position is currently vacant. Our Pastoral expenses will contain only payment for Supply Pastors during the Transition and Call processes, plus the expense for our Transition Facilitator for the next several months.
- c. During the previous year, we managed to set aside monies in the New Pastor Reserve Fund which now total over \$83,000. Current thinking is that we do not need to add to this amount, so until we call our next Pastor, we will continue to run under budget in expenses due to the open Senior Pastor position.
- d. While our overall budget will likely run a surplus due to the low Pastoral Expenses, the Congregation should pay attention to Member Giving as a measure of our overall financial health. It is possible that we would continue to see monthly surpluses even as Member Giving runs under budget. If so, this would result in an unhealthy trend that would adversely affect our Church once we fill our vacant Pastoral position.



2. Financials Review

a. Offering Envelopes

- i) For the month, significantly below budget at 72.5% (\$9,541 vs 13,154).
- ii) Year-to-date, same.

b. Total Income

- i) For the month, significantly below budget at 86.5% (\$13,090 vs \$15,128).
- ii) Year-to-date, same.

c. Expenses

- i) For the month, significantly below budget at 65.6% (\$11,598 vs \$17,673).
- ii) Year-to-date, same).

d. Net Operating Income (Total Income minus Expenses)

- i) For the month, a surplus of \$1,492 vs the expected loss of \$2,545.
- ii) Year-to-date, same.

e. Checking balance

- i) Balance at Month-end is \$14,774.
- ii) Previous Month-end balance was \$13,445.

FINANCIAL REPORT for February 28, 2025

1. Comments

- a. Member giving continues to be significantly below budget.
- b. As said last month Expenses continue substantially below budget because, while we budgeted for a half-time Pastor, that position is currently vacant. Our Pastoral expenses will contain only payment for Supply Pastors during the Transition and Call processes, plus the expense for our Transition Facilitator for the next several months.
- c. During the previous year, we managed to set aside monies in the New Pastor Reserve Fund which now total over \$83,000. Current thinking is that we do not need to add to this amount, so until we call our next Pastor, we will continue to run under budget in expenses due to the open Senior Pastor position.
- d. While our overall budget will likely run a surplus due to the low Pastoral Expenses, the Congregation should pay attention to Member Giving as a measure of our overall financial health. It is possible that we would continue to see monthly surpluses even as Member Giving runs under budget. If so, this would result in an unhealthy trend that would adversely affect our Church once we fill our vacant Pastoral position.



2. Financials Review

a. Offering Envelopes

- i) For the month, significantly below budget at 75.9% (\$9,978 vs 13,154).
- ii) Year-to-date, significantly below budget at 74.2% (\$19,519 vs 26,308).

b. Total Income

- i) For the month, significantly below budget at 77.7% (\$12,295 vs \$15,823).
- ii) Year-to-date, significantly below budget at 82.0% (\$25,384 vs \$30,951).

c. Expenses

- i) For the month, significantly below budget at 70.9% (\$11,057 vs \$15,603).
- ii) Year-to-date, significantly below budget at 68.1% (\$22,655 vs \$33,276).
- d. Net Operating Income (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) For the month, a surplus of \$1,238 vs the expected surplus of \$220.
 - ii) Year-to-date, a surplus of \$2,729 vs the expected loss of \$2,325.

e. Checking balance

- iii) Balance at Month-end is \$16,298.
- iV) Previous Month-end balance was \$14,774.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Daniel Conner
Carol Kobersteen
Peggy Westby
Debbie Ehrig
Len Morris
Ray Olson
Kathy Kent



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

April 12, 1993 April 24, 2010 Tex & Lesly Culp Ken & Madeline Puccio



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 Tuna for April!

Most of us have not experienced food insecurity, but many locally do experience it, both seniors and families. Indications are that food insecurity may increase so let's recommit ourselves to do all we can to help those in need here in Menifee! As you are able, be Christ in action and add the monthly item to your shopping list and add it to the collection bin by mailboxes!

Your donations are always welcome and needed! Bring them 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.

Matthew 25:40

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'



Exploring

God's

word helps us grow our relationship with Christ. WELCA gives you two different opportunities to explore His word in fellowship with others.

- Mary's Circle is studying "Faithfulness" using studies from the Gather Magazine. They meet on the second Wednesday of the month (April 9) at 10am in the library.
- Lydia Evening Bible Study is studying women of the Bible. They meet on the third Thursday of the month (Apr 17) at 6pm in the library.

Continuous learning guides us as we walk in faith with Christ daily. Join us to grow your faith in 2025!

Save These Dates for W-ELCA Events!!

Women of Faith, be part of the fun and mark your calendars to attend these key events!!



Saturday, June 22 – W-ELCA Annual Fundraiser benefiting MilVet.

Tickets will remain at \$15 per person for the luncheon event. The Rancho Rockers are scheduled to play and plenty of goodies will be raffled off. This is one of the best times to bring family, friends and neighbors to Faith and fill Fellowship Hall. Help us make this event the best one yet, while supporting our veterans and active-duty service members. **Do not miss out on the fun!**

Coffee, Conversation and You



Can you help at Coffee Hour on a Sunday to help Bonnie with serving and cleaning up? Coffee Hour starts after worship service and ends at 11:30am, although people are welcome to stay and talk. See the sign-up sheet for coffee hour volunteers and get involved!

Additionally, we are gladly accepting home-baked goods for Coffee Hour. Up to two (2) people bring home-baked goods on any Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen for bringing home-baked goods.

Please sign up for a Sunday and head down to coffee hour to meet, greet and fellowship with our Faith family!

Gift Baskets for W-ELCA Fundraiser to benefit MilVet

Our annual WELCA fundraiser is just over 2 months away (June 22) and it is gift basket time. We are looking to have 24 baskets of goodies for our raffle. We already have a few baskets but need many more donations to make our baskets absolutely divine! What might you like to contribute?

- Want to donate a basket? Think of a theme and collect your items.
- Gift cards are wonderful additions to any gift basket. Restaurants, Target, coffee shop, etc.
- Do you quilt, crochet or craft other items? Let us know what you would like to make and donate.
- Want to donate cash or check? Donate to WELCA and note "gift baskets" in the memo line. We will use the monies to buy gift cards to supplement the baskets.
- Individual items can be gifted, and we will make up the basket.
- Chocolate, chocolate Did I say chocolate is always a treat for any basket.

Donations are being accepted now and must be received by Sunday, June 1, 2025. Get with Candy Pellechio and let her know what you can contribute, cepellec@gmail.com or 908-601-4540.



Contact Kathy Kent for more info!

AVETHEDATE @ THE LAKE ELSINORE STORM

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025 - FIRST PITCH @ 6:45 PM

ENJOY A NIGHT OF BASEBALL WITH THE COMMUNITY AND....

- PRE-GAME GOSPEL BAND
- PRE-GAME PRAYER
- PRE-GAME PLAYER TESTIMONIES
 POST-GAME PASTOR MESSAGE
- FIREWORKS

\$16.95

INCLUDES LOT G PARKING **GAME TICKET**

CONTACT STORM BASEBALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

TICKETS@STORMBASEBALL.COM - (951) 245-4487

500 DIAMOND DRIVE - LAKE ELSINORE, CA 92530



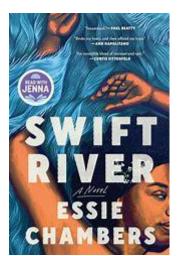
Menifee Reads! (a book club) is reading Swift River by Essie Chambers for April. The April Meetings are Wednesday, April 16, 7pm and Thursday, April 17 at 2pm in the library. Join in the fun as you can! ALL ARE WELCOME!

About the Book: A National Bestseller | Longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize | One of The Washington Post's Best Books of 2024 | An NPR Best Book of 2024 | An Elle Best Book of 2024 | A Boston Globe Best Book of 2024 | An NAACP Image Award Nominee

"A book we all need to revive our souls" (Nicole Dennis-Benn):

A "powerful novel...[that] broke my heart, and then offered me hope" (Ann Napolitano, New York Times bestselling author of Hello Beautiful)

about a complicated bond between mothers and daughters, the disappearance of a father, and the long-hidden history of a declining New England mill town.



The Cheer Committee Spreads... Cheer!

The Cheer Committee met at Pacifica to celebrate the March birthdays for Kay Espe, Esther Neuman and Diana Ward.

We also had communion together and a devotion. We all enjoyed treats, a fun game and fellowship.

We all look forward to getting together again soon!

Come join the Cheer Committee for fun, fellowship, and providing communion to our homebound members. All are welcome!

See Kandie Hulme, Freddericka Bradshaw or Debbie Ehrig.



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

• Hymn Planners: 2nd Tuesday at 10:00

• Outreach Team: 2nd Tuesday at 2:30

 WELCA Bible Study: 2nd Wednesday at 10:00 and 3rd Thursday at 6:00 pm

• WELCA Board: 2nd Tuesday at 12:30

 Menifee Reads!: 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 and the Thursday following the 3rd Wednesday (either the 3rd or 4th Thursday) at 2:00pm

• **4+1 Group**: 3rd Tuesday at 10:00

Fellowship Team: 3rd Tuesday at 2:00

• Stewardship Team: 3rd Friday at 10:00

• Finance Team: 4th Wednesday at 1:00

Council: the last Monday of each month at 1:00

• Cheer Team: 2nd Thursday at 4:00

• Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study: 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:00

• Strategic Planning: 2nd Wednesday at 1:00

Transition Team: Fridays, every 2 weeks

Al-Anon: Every Friday at 10:30







FaithWear pre-sales is coming! Orders will begin on Sunday, April 6th for the short sleeve **FaithWear** t-shirts (Carolina Blue).

Adult Small-XL are \$20.00 2XL are \$22.00 3XL are \$24.00 4XL are \$26.00

Children's sizes may be available in gray. More information will be available on the Sale Date. Let's plaster Menifee with our logo and advertise **Faith Lutheran Church** everywhere we go!!



Christmas in July

We will be celebrating our military and veterans and their families in need by collecting gift cards for Target, 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 from Memorial Day through July. Help our military and veterans if you are able.

Choose an ornament made by our Sunday School kids, purchase the gift card (save any activation or validation receipt), bring it back to church, and place in a provided baggie.

Please respond by July 4th. Thank you!





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

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5
		10:00am Worship &	Lector: Pat A.; PPT:	9:00am Snip 'N Stitch	10:30am Al-Anon	
		7,50,17	5:00pm Lent Soup & Study	Zoom Bible Study		
9	7	80	6	10	11	12
AM: Roderick; Lector:		10:00am Hymn Planners	Lectors: Dave, Roderick,	4:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic	10:30am Al-Anon	
9:30am Worship		2:30pm Outreach Team	10:00am Mary Circle	Team Team		
Service-Pr. Rex			Bible Study 5:00pm Lent Soup &	7:00pm Pr. Ken's Lenten Zoom Bible Study		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
AM: Candy; Lector:	1:00pm Strategic	10:00am 4 Plus 1	7:00pm Menifee Reads!	AM: Mars, Lector:	AM: Roderick; Multiple	11:00am Sanctuary Prep
Lorna; PPT: Mars	Planning	2:00nm Fellowshin Team	7:00pm Pr Ken's Lenten	9:00am Snip 'N Stitch	10:00am Stewardship	6:00pm Rig Band
9:30am Worship			Zoom Bible Study	5:00pm Maundy	10:30am Al-Anon	Rehearsal
Service-Roderick				6.00pm WELCA Bible	5:00pm Good Friday	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
AM: Mars; Lector: TBD;			Forecaster Deadline	9:30am Memorial	10:30am Al-Anon	
PPT: Mike			1:00pm Finance Team-In	Reception-Ray Berry	1:00pm Transition Team	
9:30am Worship			reison & zooiii	Bible Study		
Service-Pr. Shane						
27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
AM: Joanne; Lector:	1:00pm Council-In	6:00pm Vagabond				
9:30am Worship	6:00pm Vagabond					
Service-Pr. Rich	Auditions					
faithlutheranmenifee@amail.com	.com					MG 50:3 3000/70/5