



Forecaster

Faith Lutheran Church * August 2025



Refreshing Your Own Faith During the Summer

The summertime, for me, is really the most wonderful time of the year. I begin waiting for its return from the first cold morning in the autumn, and then in earnest just after the Christmas rush. Taken together, the summer months, with their long days, slower pace, smell of hamburgers on the grill, and feel of bare feet in the sand, are a taste of what heaven must be like.

It would not be terribly original for me to say, “You can take a vacation, but you can’t take a vacation from your faith in God.” Many of us feel like taking a break from work or school might include taking a break from the practice of our faith.

But I would suggest that this season is a huge opportunity to develop and deepen our relationship with God in Christ Jesus. One way to do that is through the “conversation with God” that we normally refer to as “prayer.”

When so many voices in our social media-frenzied world are shouting at us and past us, when so many consumerist impulses are pulling and pushing us, when our careers and so many extra activities are making demands on our precious time, the “downtime” we usually get in summer is a welcomed relief. It gives us a wonderful opportunity to find the peace and quiet that is so necessary for prayer.

Prayer doesn’t require us to say a word. It merely requires us to quiet our interior self, which is sometimes so noisy that it’s impossible to hear what God wants to say to us.

Like the disciples who climbed Mount Tabor with Jesus, Pope Francis said, we can disengage from worldly matters “to rediscover the peaceful and regenerative silence of meditating on the Gospel,

on the reading of the Bible, which leads to a destination rich in beauty, splendor, and joy. When we meditate in this way, with the Bible in hand, in silence, we begin to feel this interior beauty, this joy that the Word of God engenders in us.”

Though some vacationers will be fortunate enough to get away to actual mountains or some other place that is secluded, quiet, and full of the majesty of God’s creation, we can train ourselves to mentally withdraw from the world for a while to be “alone” with God wherever we are.

Think of what Christ said about prayer. When you pray, he told his disciples, “Go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret” (Matthew 6:6). We can learn how to “create” a “room” for private prayer, even if we are in the midst of a crowd.

In my opinion, if there’s one lesson we can take from all the craziness we see in our world today, where so many people chase after the often-empty promises of politics and the easy “answers” of drugs and violence, it’s that our souls are aching for God; our hearts are simply restless without him. The summer offers us time and space to draw closer to him, not to take a vacation from his peace.

So, plan some quiet time each morning to sit in God’s presence. Take a walk “with God” on a beautiful beach and know you are never abandoned. A summer with such spiritual practices will certainly spill over into the more harried months of the year.

Don’t waste the opportunity that this summer offers you and your family, for it can — and will — be the most wonderful time of the year.

Borrowed from: Bishop Robert Reed

Faith Lutheran is now a Drop-Off Location!

Faith Lutheran Church will start a pilot project of being a Drop-Off site for Project Linus blankets, eyeglasses for Lions Club, and Soles4Soles shoes. On the first Saturday each month we will be open from 9-12 noon, and the public will have access to drop off contributions for these ministries. The information will be published on the non-profit websites and/or their social media.

How can you help? Check out the signup sheet in the narthex and sign up to sit in the lobby by the Fellowship Hall on a Saturday morning to accept the donations. Sign up with a friend, bring a book to read and help outreach serve our Menifee Community.



Project ♥ Linus



*Providing
Security
Through
Blankets*

**SOLES4
SOULS**

SOLES4SOULS

Turning shoes and clothing into opportunity

On **Tuesday, August 5th**, Soles4Souls is hosting a shoe distribution event in **Wildomar, CA**, to provide kids with brand-new shoes for the school year. **They still need more volunteers to make this event successful and ensure every child receives the support they deserve.**

Volunteers will help students size their feet and select/try on their shoes. If you can join us, even for a few hours, your time will help change a child's day and give them the confidence to start school on the right foot. There are a wide variety of sitting and standing jobs.

Event Details:

Jean Hayman Training Center

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Check-in at 8:00-8:20 AM)

[Register Now →](#) If you are unable to attend, please consider sharing this with someone.



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Communion Servers	Power Point	Ushers
3rd: Roderick 10th: Candy 17th: Joanne 24th: Marlene 31st: Steve	3rd: David M. 10th: Marlene 17th: Bill 24th: Roderick 31st: Kathy	3rd: Debbie 10th: Karla 17th: Sandy 24th: Kathy 31st: Kandie	3rd: Candy 10th: Bill 17th: Mike 24th: Madeline 31st: Candy	3rd: Annie 10th: Gina 17th: Judy Ap. 24th: Diane M. 31st: TBD
Attendance	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sound	Live Stream/Video
3rd: Connie 10th: Shirley 17th: Pat O. 24th: Kathy 31st: Judy Ad.	3rd: Jean 10th: Dave 17th: Jean 24th: Judy Ap. 31st: Jean	3rd, 10th, 17th: Kandie, Marlene 17th, 24th, 31st: Marlene, Kay	3rd: Marlene 10th: Marlene 17th: Marlene 24th: Candy 31st: Marlene	3rd: Steve 10th: Steve 17th: Steve 24th: Steve 31st: TBD



As you know, we are now officially sharing our Sunday church services **live** on YouTube and posting those services on our website. You have probably seen us in the back of the room in the control center operating the equipment that makes all this sharing possible. To make it happen, we always need three people:

Sound: Manage the microphones, do sound checks, adjust sound levels, and open or close mics as needed during the Service.

PowerPoint: Operate the computer, play music, and advance the slides that are projected on the screen as we move through the service and sing the hymns.

Live Stream: Start the live broadcast of the service, choose and adjust the cameras to catch all of the action, then close down the show at the end.

Interested in helping us share the joy? If you are interested in helping out, we would be delighted to teach you any one, or all of these roles. It *looks* more complicated than it is. Just stop by the control center after the service if you think you might like to try it out. We certainly could use a few more volunteers!



**Come and enjoy delicious deli sandwiches! The Fellowship Committee will provide rolls, meat, cheese and condiments.
Please bring your favorite salad, fruit, and/or dessert to share.**

New Member classes are scheduled for August 10th and 17th immediately following the worship service!

New Member Sunday will be August 24th!

Please sign up in the Narthex.

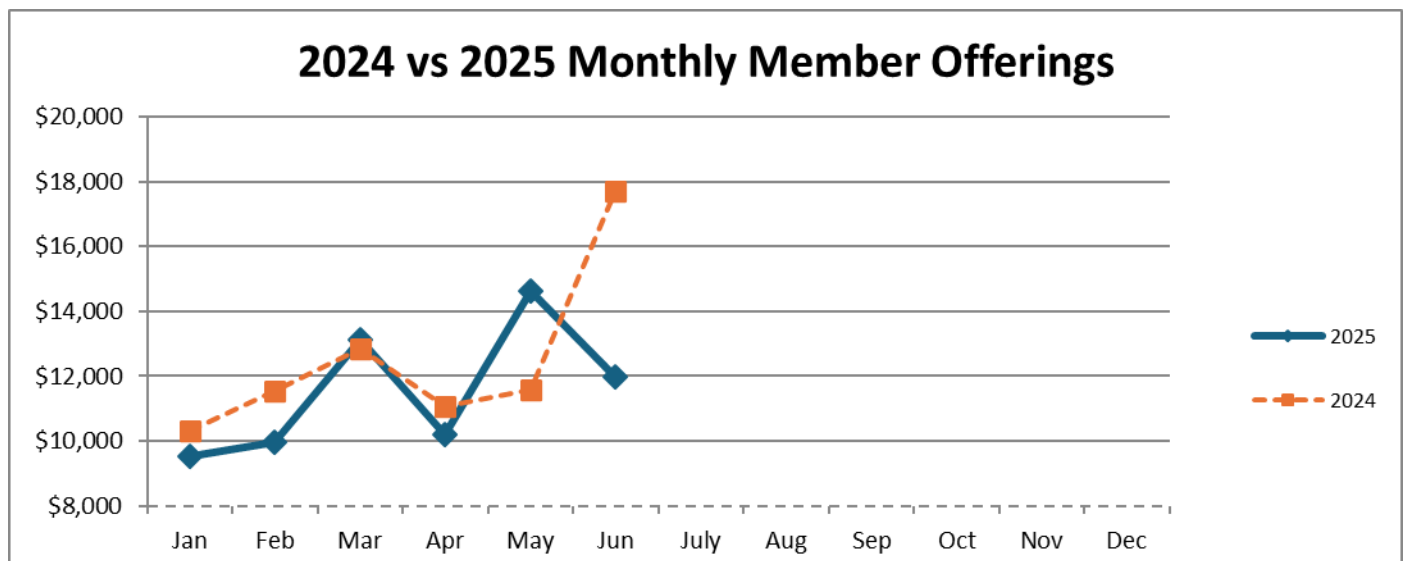
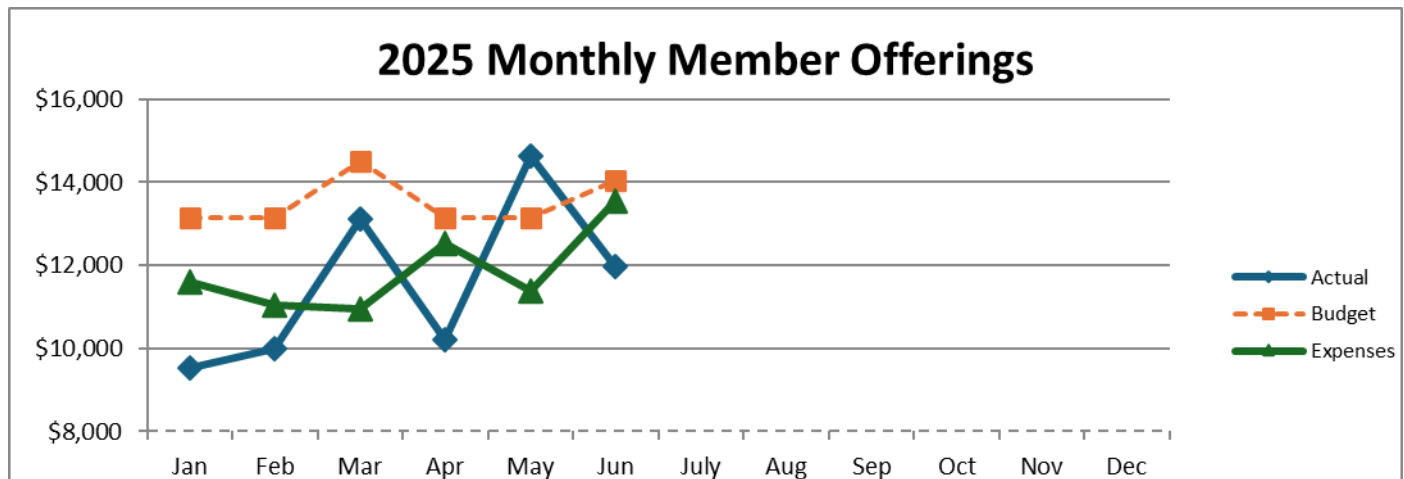


FINANCIAL REPORT

June 30, 2025

1. Comments

- YTD Member giving continues to be significantly below budget and below 2024 giving.
- 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 Call processes.
- 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

- Offering Envelopes
 - For the month, below budget at 78% (\$10,208 vs \$13,154).
 - Year-to-date, significantly below budget at 79.42% (\$42,855 vs \$53,958).

b. **Total Income**

- i) **For the month**, slightly below budget at 93.84% (\$16,119 vs \$17,176).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, below budget at 88.91% (\$58,852 vs \$66,189).

c. **Expenses**

- i) **For the month**, significantly below budget at 81.93% (\$12,531 vs \$15,295).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, significantly below budget at 72% (\$46,127.37 vs \$64,061).

d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)

- i) **For the month**, a surplus of \$3,587 vs the expected surplus of \$1,881.
- ii) **Year-to-date**, a surplus of \$12,725 vs the expected surplus of \$2,128.

e. **Checking balance**

- i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$25,946.00.
- ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$22,332.93.

Submitted by Madeline Puccio, Treasurer

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS**

To

August 2	Mardene Miller
August 4	Ron Biggs
August 5	Jackie Culp
August 14	Tom Brosz
August 14	Pam Heinz
August 22	Eileen Johnson
August 26	Judy Brosz
August 29	Sandy Chandler

**ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS**

To

August 5	Robert & Becky Ackley
August 9	Bryant & Valerie Holmes
August 11	Steve & Kathy Kent
August 13	Rich & Sandy Chandler
August 13	Ray & Pat Olson



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



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!

Explore God's Word with Us
a ministry of Women of the ELCA (W-ELCA)



Come explore God's word and fellowship with us as we all stretch and grow our relationship with Christ. When was the last time you attended a Bible Study? It is never too late and we are never too old! WELCA gives you two different opportunities to study the Word.

- **Mary's Circle** uses studies from Gather Magazine. They meet on the second Wednesday of the month (August 13) at 10am in the library.
- **Lydia Evening Bible Study** is studying women of the Bible. They meet on the third Thursday of the month (August 17th) at 6pm in the library.

Come when you can and challenge yourself to grow in faith in 2025!



Hunger Never Rests!

**The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard
is in need of Canned Fruit again for August!**

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

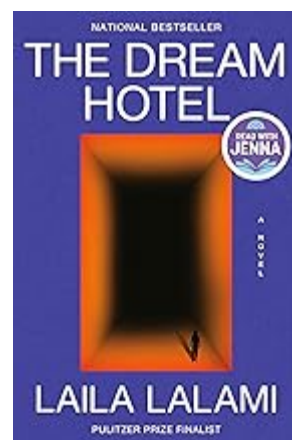


Meniffee Reads! (a book club) is reading *The Dream Hotel* by Laila Lalami. The August meetings are Wednesday, August 20, 7pm and Thursday, August 21 at 2pm in the library. Join in the fun as you can! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sara has just landed at LAX, returning home from a conference abroad, when agents from the Risk Assessment Administration pull her aside and inform her that she will soon commit a crime. Using data from her dreams, the RAA's algorithm has determined that she is at imminent risk of harming the person she loves most: her husband. For his safety, she must be kept under observation for twenty-one days.

The agents transfer Sara to a retention center, where she is held with other dreamers, all of them women trying to prove their innocence from different crimes. With every deviation from the strict and ever-shifting rules of the facility, their stay is extended. Months pass and Sara seems no closer to release. Then one day, a new resident arrives, disrupting the order of the facility and leading Sara on a collision course with the very companies that have deprived her of her freedom.

Eerie, urgent, and ceaselessly clear-eyed, *The Dream Hotel* artfully explores the seductive nature of technology, which puts us in shackles even as it makes our lives easier. Lalami asks how much of ourselves must remain private if we are to remain free, and whether even the most invasive forms of surveillance can ever capture who we really are.



Come and join us for Bingo!

Thursday, August 7th at 4:00
Fellowship Hall at Faith Lutheran Church
Fellowship, snacks and Bingo!
Bring your friends – ALL are welcome!



The Call Committee has met and started our journey to find a new pastor!

There are some rules that we must follow and we will need your help in accomplishing this.

We are NOT allowed to divulge information to anyone not on the committee about the process. We are asking that you respect this and not ask questions of those on the committee. I am the communicator for the committee and will be giving updates to the congregation as things progress.

Below you will find the list of those on the Call Committee. If you have questions about this please feel free to contact me or a committee member.

Your Call Committee

Candy Pellechio, Chair
Kathy Kent, Secretary
Ariana Stafford
Robert Posey

Diane Swarts, Communicator
Lorna Harrison
Becky Ackley
Marlene Rosselli, Alternate


Thank you in advance for your cooperation and prayers during this time!

-Diane Swarts

Grace, Not Judgment

Is it wrong to want to be rich? Is it wrong to have doubts about our faith or our relationship with God? Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, this Bible study will examine those questions and see what Jesus had to say.

In August, we will consider the value of money and how we handle those times when we have doubts and questions. Contact Pastor Ken at hopegiver@aol.com for log in information.



**BIBLE
STUDY**
via Zoom!

Led by Pr. Ken Puccio
2nd & 4th Thursdays
7:00 pm on Zoom
for more info: **hopegiver@aol.com**



WELCA Fall Quarterly Meeting

Save the date for our next event on Saturday, September 20 at 1pm! Join us for some fun and fellowship!

PARK SITE LAND SALE STATUS

When we last updated you, there were two remaining issues to be resolved before moving into Escrow and completing the Sale.

First Right of Refusal – The Cell Tower agreement with Verizon gave them a First Right of Refusal. Essentially, if we want to sell any or all of our property, we first need to offer the purchase to Verizon with the same terms as the City. After notifying Verizon, they formally declined to exercise that right, clearing the way to sell the land to the City.

Mineral Rights - Mineral rights on and under our property are not ours to sell, going back to our original purchase of our property several decades ago. Although the City was ok not receiving those mineral rights, they needed to confirm that the State had no objection, given the State is providing a substantial grant to enable the purchase of the Park. The State had no objection, removing the final obstacle to moving into Escrow.

Escrow – The Purchase Agreement and CC&R's will be formally presented to the City Council for approval on August 6th. Diane will attend that City Council Meeting. Following that formal approval, Diane and I are scheduled to meet with Escrow on August 13th to sign all necessary documents for completing the sale. Escrow is estimated to run 45 days, after which the sale monies will be deposited into our account.

Park Development – Because this project has taken so long to get to this point, the original development cost estimate has more than doubled. So, the City is applying for a Federal grant to assist with those higher development costs. If they don't receive the grant, they will still move forward, but at a slower phased approach. At this point, the best guess is this time next year before ground will be broken, and probably a year after that before the Park is finished. Regardless, this process will have NO effect on the pending sale of the land to the City.

We're almost there!

Mike McGavran and Diane Swarts

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

The Fellowship Team invites you to enjoy the Ice Cream Sundae Summer Socials, the 4th Wednesday of each month during the summer from 6:30 – 7:30.

Mark your calendars for:
August 27th, and September 24th!

Bring your friends! All are welcome!



The Decliner



Dad is 91. Some years ago, he bought a pair of Lazy Boy Recliners for mom and himself. Since the day those chairs arrived, they have been in constant use. It's the worst gift he ever gave himself. Dad sits in his recliner all day, every day, and has done so for *years*. Dad is slowly deteriorating, to the point where he almost can't walk. My siblings and I call his chair "The Decliner".

Making matters worse, dad also declines invitations to go places and do things. He has *become* a "decliner". I often wonder how many retirees in our community spend their days in their own decliners watching television, slowly deteriorating.

I do not aspire to age like my dad. The more activity I have the better my life will be and the longer I will probably live. When I think about the community of seniors around us I wonder how many people would enjoy and benefit from the many activities we offer at Faith Lutheran.

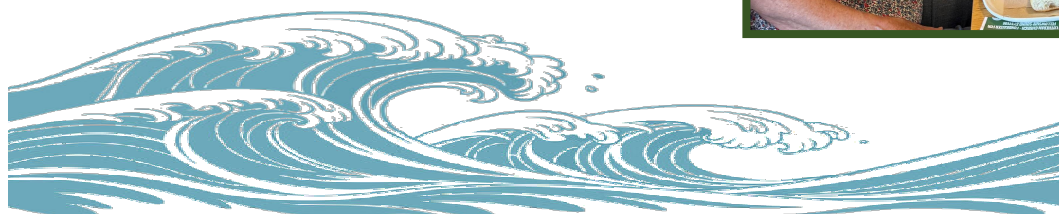
I try to attend every church activity, and if I have second thoughts Kathy fixes my thinking. I don't think of worship as a spectator sport, I prefer to think of it as a weekly family reunion. Most everyone sings, and there are many ways to be involved in the service itself. That's my kind of church: Being involved in the services, activities, committees, strategic planning, and building new stuff. Brainstorming how to involve more people from the community – some of whom might be slowly decaying in their own Decliner – adds purpose!

All God's people have unique gifts to be used to build up the body of Christ, so the more of us the greater our potential. God calls us to participate, to use our unique gifts for His purposes. And rewards us with love from those we serve.

-Steve Kent, President

Panera FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all who participated in the Panera Bread fundraiser! The sales totaled \$650.09, and we earned 30% of that, for a total of \$195.03!



God's work. Our hands.

September 7
2025

The Outreach Committee has begun collecting men's personal hygiene items and snacks for the San Bernardino Community Wellness Center, formerly known as Central City Mission- Lutheran Social Services.

Items Needed:

Toothbrushes	Toothpaste (travel size)
Disposal Razors	Shaving Cream (3.7 oz)
Peanut Butter Crackers	Granola Bars
Ankle Socks (black)	Deodorant (Men's)
Slide Closure Gallon Zip Lock Bags	

Amazon sells many of the items on their site, in bulk. If you are unable to shop for these items, but would like to contribute, monetary donations are also welcome. Please help those less fortunate in whatever capacity you are able.

Last year we had 135 large bags of items donated to the homeless. Were hoping to have 150 this year for the men the Center serves.

For questions, please call or talk to Debbie Ehrig, 951.317.5977. Thank you for all the ways we do God's Work, Our Hands!



The Foreigner by Larry Shue

Vagabond Theatre Group is delighted to bring to the stage this beloved comedy that centers around a Georgian hunting lodge and a British soldier named Charlie, who just wanted peace and quiet - but instead becomes privy to evil plans, damaging gossip, and outlandish shenanigans!

SHOW DATES:

FRIDAY, AUG 8 @ 7PM

SAT, AUG 9 @ 2PM & 7PM

SUNDAY, AUG 10 @ 4PM

TICKETS

GENERAL: \$22

Military/Student: \$17

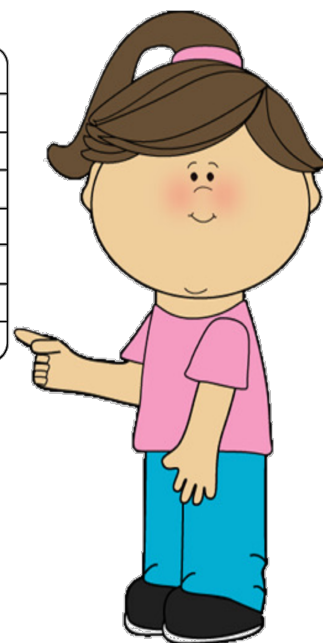
65 or Better: \$10

For Tickets: www.vagabondmenifee.org

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
- **Meniffee 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 Monday at 1:00
- **Food with Friends:** 3rd Wednesday at 5:00
- **Al-Anon:** Every Friday at 10:30

Fun at Faith!						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S



Faith Lutheran Church

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Meniffee, CA 92586

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

Website: www.faithmeniffee.com

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

August 2025

September 2025

August 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					

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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
Jul 27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
AM: Roderick; Lector: David M., PPT: Candy 9:30am Worship 12:30pm Grace & 4:00pm AF-Vagabond	5:30pm AF-Vagabond Tech 5:30pm AF-Vagabond Tech	10:00am Worship & Music 5:30pm AF-Vagabond Tech	5:30pm AF-Vagabond Tech/Dress Rehearsal	9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 4:00pm AF-Bingo 6:30pm AF-Vagabond Dress Rehearsal	10:30am AI-Anon 5:30pm AF-Vagabond Show	12:00pm AF-Vagabond Show 5:00pm AF-Vagabond Show
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AM: Candy; Lector: 9:30am Worship 11:00am New Member 12:30pm Grace & 2:00pm AF-Vagabond	1:00pm Strategic Planning	10:00am Hymn Planners 12:30pm WELCA Board 2:30pm Outreach Team 6:00pm Call Committee	10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study	4:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic Team 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	10:00am Stewardship 10:30am AI-Anon	6:00pm AF-Big Band
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
AM: Joanne; Lector: Bill; PPT: Mike 9:30am Worship 11:00am New Member 12:30pm Grace &		10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group 2:00pm Fellowship Team	1:00pm Finance Team-In Person & 5:00pm AF-Food with Friends 7:00pm Meniffee Reads!	9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 2:00pm Meniffee Reads! Book Club 6:00pm WELCA Bible Study	10:30am AI-Anon	Forecaster Deadline 12:00pm Eileen Parker Memorial Service
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
AM: Mars; Lector: Roderick; PPT: New Member 9:30am Worship 12:30pm Grace &	1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom	6:00pm Call Committee	6:30pm AF-Ice Cream Social	7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	10:30am AI-Anon	
31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6
AM: Steve; Lector: Kathy; PPT: Candy 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Ken A 12:30pm Grace &						