



Forecaster

Faith Lutheran Church * January 2025



The Revelation of Epiphany

#ChristChildMatters



We in the church often depict Epiphany as the season of light—a thunderous congratulations to the divine revelation of the Son (or Sun) of Righteousness. The entire journey of Christmastide, from the nativity to Epiphany, beckons us to marvel at the glorious, life-sustaining light of the Son of God that has come to earth.

But the real revelation of Epiphany is that Jesus, the Christ child, coming from the eastern horizon, is being chased and pursued by a paranoid potentate. Bethlehem's baby has been marked for death in the name of national security. Our "light-hearted" Epiphany could be seen as a season of resistance to imperial violence.

Jesus, the light of the world, starts life as a political refugee. Our Savior is spirited out of the country on back roads traveling RWM (that's Riding While a Messiah). The infant Jesus is given a head start by the magi, pagan people of color, who defy an imperial edict and disobey King Herod's command that they report back to him after completing their visit to the infant Jesus, thereby involving themselves in civil disobedience and political subversiveness.

In the light and darkness of Epiphany, we are called to be spiritual and political activists, to perpetuate the true revelation that Jesus is the light of the world—the light that not only illuminates but also reveals and uncovers those things done in the dark.

#ChristChildMatters—it's time to declare this hashtag, to stand boldly as Christians, to question and challenge the darkness of our current reality:

That four out of every 10 children will go to bed hungry tonight.

That countless children are abused, snatched, marketed and sold.

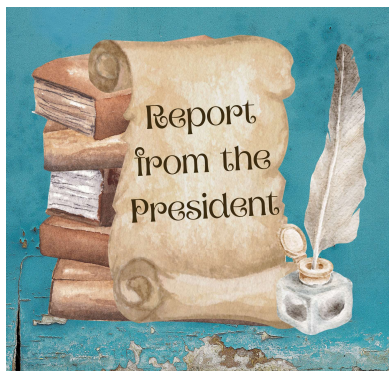
That others are hastily medicated, receive inadequate health care, are latchkey kids and are left alone in the glow of technology.

This is the reality of "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

As disciples in this new millennium, we have been given the light of Jesus Christ to unveil and heal, to transform glare into glory, to declare that each child matters.

This Epiphany, shine your light in dark places. Celebrate the good news of God's saving grace. Strive for justice, for the #ChristChildMatters.

Borrowed from: The Living Lutheran; Written by William Flippin Jr.



HAPPY NEW YEAR, CHURCH FAMILY!

As we step into a new year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for God's abundance, grace and mercies. Looking back on the past year we have witnessed God's hand at work in our church and community.

As we reflect, let us also give thanks for the love and fellowship we share as a church family. Your dedication of service and outreach has kept us going this past year!

Your Council is thankful for your support and hope you will consider being on the Council in the future.

My heart is full!!

God's Blessings,
Diane Swarts, Council President



A yellow banner with a black border and a large black arrow pointing right. The text 'Save the Date!' is written in a bold, black, serif font.

Mark your calendar and save the date!

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on

February 23, 2025!



I (Lynn) would like to thank each of you for all of the gifts and cards you gave to me for Christmas! You are all very generous and your kindness is greatly appreciated!



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Power Point	Ushers	Greeters	Attendance
5th: Roderick	5th: Bill	5th: Mars	5th: Annie	5th: Judy Appel	5th: Kathy
12th: Candy	12th: Danielle	12th: Lynn	12th: Gina	12th: Diane M.	12th: Pat O.
19th: Mars	19th: Roderick	19th: Candy	19th: Judy Appel	19th: Dave F.	19th: Shirley
26th: Joanne	26th: Candy	26th: Mike	26th: Diane M.	26th: Frank	26th: Debbie
Altar Guild: 5th, 12th: Diane M., Mars 19th, 26th: Kandie, Kay					

The Christmas Giving Tree



The Outreach Committee would like to thank our members for their generous donations of gift cards to Menifee Valley Community Cupboard for our local seniors in need! Your commitment, compassion, love and willingness to reach out to those in need reflect God's love.

A total of \$805.00 was donated! Alleluia!

"Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14



Giving = Love in Action



The next MilVet packing event is on January 9th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. These events are held monthly to pack up goodies and supplies to ship to our deployed troops. We would love to get some of our Faith members to regularly pitch in on this worthwhile event! You can sign up at milvet.org. There is a suggested donation of \$25.00, which includes food, supplies and the cost to ship the packages to our deployed troops.

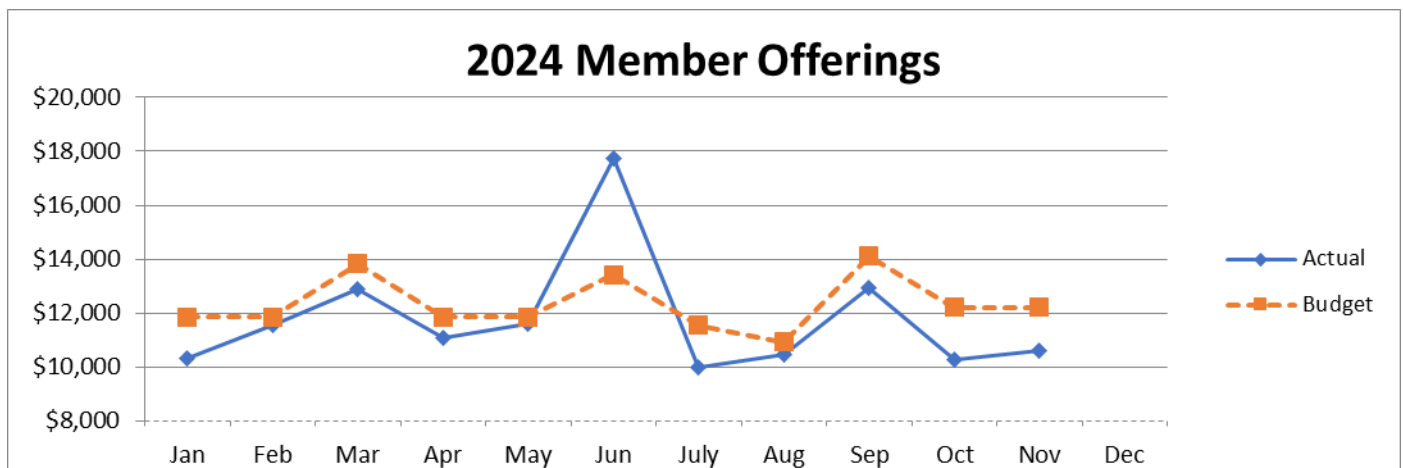
Each event is held at a different location...on January 9th we are meeting at 33040 Antelope #114 in Murrieta. Come and join in on the fun!

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 30, 2024

1. Comments

- a. Member giving continues below budget; for the year, down about 5%. Total Income for the month was also 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 maintain a healthy checking account balance, as the November budget anticipated 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.



2. Financials Review

- a. **Offering Envelopes**
 - i) **For the month**, significantly below budget at 87.0% (\$10,611 vs \$12,201).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, below budget at 95.4% (\$129,349 vs \$135,590).
- b. **Total Income**
 - i) **For the month**, below budget at 94.7% (\$13,321 vs \$14,066).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, significantly below budget at 86.5% (\$176,676 vs \$204,264).
- c. **Expenses**
 - i) **For the month**, substantially below budget at 62.3% (\$12,055 vs \$19,357).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, significantly below budget at 81.4% (\$166,533 vs \$204,543).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, a surplus of \$1,266 vs the expected shortfall of \$5,291.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, a surplus of \$10,144 vs the expected loss of \$280.
- e. **Checking balance**
 - i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$13,526.
 - ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$12,158.

Submitted by Mike McGavran, Treasurer





BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

January 1
January 2
January 5
January 8
January 15
January 20
January 26
January 30

Betty Baumann
Richard Konrad
Frank Ehrig
Ariana Stafford
Vicki Crow
Judy Appel
Carol Morris
Amber Concepcion



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

There are no official wedding anniversaries in January, so feel free to celebrate your own regardless of when it is! You can never celebrate too often, right?!



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 Chili for January!

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





Snip 'N Stitch is expanding!!

Calling all knitters and crocheters! Anyone making blankets is encouraged and welcome to join the Snip 'N Stitch group. Come and do your thing alongside the quilters and enjoy the fellowship of crafting together! Snip 'N Stitch meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 9-12 (except Jan 2025, when we meet on Jan. 9th and 23rd) Come as you can, leave when you need. This work is also open to the public, so bring your stitching friends to join us!

Those not able to join us in person are encouraged to donate finished blankets to the group's community donations. We now have a connection to Project Linus in Riverside County. See Kathy Kent to donate finished blankets or drop them off on a Snip 'N Stitch day.



Greetings dear women of Faith!

We are looking forward to January and the beginning of the New Year, one filled with happiness, hope, love, joy and good health. Welcome, *all* women, to all of our activities and events!

Get ready for our Winter/Spring Bible Study! Our study for January-April 2025 will be “Faithfulness”. The four-session study will be presented in our *Gather Magazine* by Denise Rector. Our January 2025 study is entitled “Faith where you are: Ruth and Naomi.”

If you have not received your January/February *Gather Magazine* the study can be found on the internet by going to www.gathermagazine.org/bible-study. Click on Bible Study near the top of your screen and this should give you a link to click on to bring up the January study. If you have a problem, please give Bea Olsen a call at 951-370-3600.

Mary Circle is studying the lesson in the *Gather Magazine*. The evening circle is studying Women in the Bible. All women are welcome.

Our December Women of the ELCA Christmas Party with a Purpose was enjoyed by 22 of our church women on Saturday, December 14. Our day closed with lunch and fellowship enjoyed by all.

Our new Women of the ELCA Board for 2025 is Candy Pellechio, President; Diane Molina, Vice President; Bea Olsen, Secretary; and Kandie Hulme, Treasurer.

Upcoming calendar of events for 2025 will include our General Meeting on March 22, Annual Fundraiser on June 21, General Meeting on September 20, and our Christmas Party with a Purpose on December 13.

Prayer Partners for 2025 were chosen at our December meeting for those who wished to participate. If you were unable to attend the December 14 meeting and would still like to have a Prayer Partner for 2025, please contact the Women of the ELCA Circle Chairs, or Kandie Hulme for details.

Sunday Coffee after church services – just a reminder your help is needed to continue to have this coffee and fellowship after our church service. **Please sign up and give it a try.**

Women of the ELCA Upcoming Events:

Mary Circle Bible Study: Wednesday, January 8, 10:00 am in the library

Snip and Stitch Quilters: Thursday, January 9, 9-12 noon at church (*note date change for Jan.*)

Women of the ELCA Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 12:30 pm in the library

Evening Circle Bible Study: Thursday, January 16 at 6:00 pm at Church

Snip and Stitch Quilters: Thursday, January 23, 9-12 noon at church (*note date change for Jan.*)

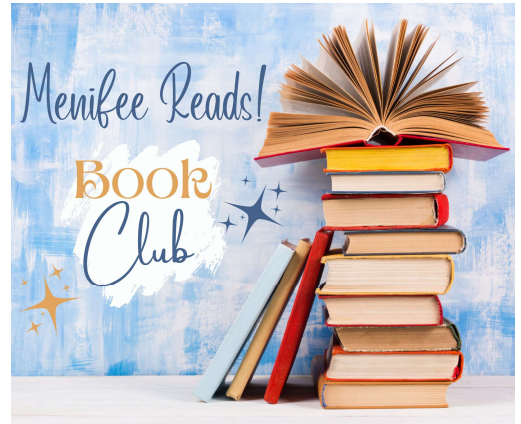
**In this New Year, let us “Trust in the Lord with all our hearts, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct your paths.”
(Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV)**

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

Menifee Reads! Adds a Day Group!

Menifee Reads! will be growing! As of February 2025, the Menifee Reads! Book Club will be adding a day group!

The day group will read the same book, and have the same discussion format as our evening group. It will meet on the Thursday following the 3rd Wednesday (sometimes that is the 3rd Thursday, sometimes it is the 4th of 5 Thursdays) from 2pm to 3:30 pm at Faith Lutheran Church.



If you love to read, but an evening does not work well for you, then please plan to attend the first Menifee Reads! Book Club day group on February 20, 2025 at 2pm.

The Menifee Reads! evening group will meet next on January 15th, 2025 at 7pm. We are reading "Society of Lies" by Lauren Ling Brown for our January book.

Readers unite and read together in 2025! The group has been delightful and engaging in 2024, so do not miss out! And join the Menifee Reads! Facebook Group to follow along!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/956863713121804/>

For book club questions see Candy Pellechio or Kathy Kent.

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/Cekm6HP0yDnHEB0/review>



January 2025

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February 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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	

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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	

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Dec 29	30	31	Jan 1, 25	2	3	4
					10:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Transition Team	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AM: Roderick; Lector: Bill; PPT: Marlene 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Rex		10:00am Worship & Music	10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study 2:00pm Remembering & Honoring	9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 4:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic Team 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	10:30am AI-Anon	10:00am Take Down Christmas Decor 4:00pm Vagabond
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
AM: Candy; Lector: Danielle; PPT: Lynn 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Shane 9:30am WELCA Board Installation	1:00pm Strategic Planning	10:00am Hymn Planners 12:30pm WELCA Board 2:30pm Outreach Team	7:00pm Menifee Reads! Book Club	6:00pm WELCA Bible Study-In Person & Zoom	10:00am Stewardship 10:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Transition Team	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
AM: Marlene; Lector: Roderick; PPT: Candy 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Shane		10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group-In Person 2:00pm Fellowship Team	1:00pm Finance Team-In Person & Zoom	Forecaster Deadline 9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	10:30am AI-Anon	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
AM: Joanne; Lector: Candy; PPT: Mike 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Karen	1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom				10:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Transition Team	

Forecaster