



Forecaster

Faith Lutheran Church * July 2025



July 4th reminds me of freedom in Christ. I promise, this isn't some smelly mixture of patriotism and Christianity. I just think there's some powerful imagery in Independence Day. Let me explain.

First, why does America celebrate the 4th of July? Something about apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames, right? No. On July 4, 1776, thirteen colonies in North America decided they were done paying their taxes and over their allegiance to the King of England. Colonial leaders got together to write the Declaration of Independence and then sign it into being. The Revolutionary War had already begun, but this was a statement of unity and determination to gain freedom from England's rule. You might recognize this portion.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

—The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

4 Reasons July 4th Reminds me of Freedom In Christ

1. **It's a gift.** For all living Americans, July 4th is a gift. We didn't earn it—we received it from the people who lived, led, and died to fight for it. Everyone who gets a gift has two questions. First, "Who is it from?" Second, "What does it do?" My freedom in Christ is from Jesus. I didn't earn it. He died for it. That's who it's from, but what does it do? [Galatians 5:1](#) reminds me, it's for freedom we've been set free. What does my freedom do? Give more freedom. It's freedom for me, my marriage, my kids, my friends, my co-workers, and my neighbors. I was given this gift to share.
2. **It's a mid-war declaration.** July 4, 1776 came only about a year after the revolutionary war began and about six years before it would finally end. Yet, it's the single most revered day of American history. This reminds me of battles we face. You may be fighting for your marriage,

struggling financially, or just trying to raise godly kids. Either way, it may be time to make a mid-war declaration of your freedom in Christ.

3. **It's a celebration of restoration.** Remember apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames? All to celebrate liberty once lost—but now found. Humans love to celebrate finding lost things because we were made in God's image, and God parties big for restoration. Jesus told a story about this called the Prodigal Son. When the son came home, the Father killed his best cow and threw a party ([Luke 15:11-24](#)). Jesus even suggests angels celebrate in heaven when someone discovers freedom in Christ ([Luke 15:10](#)). And what happens when we all meet Jesus? A glorious supper ([Revelation 19:16-17](#)).
4. **It's united.** The Declaration of Independence was written by thirteen different colonies, but within the document, they are called "we." "We hold these truths to be self-evident ..." Jesus set you and me free as individuals, but we live out this freedom as His Church. One body with many parts ([1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#)). When your "I" becomes "we," it's amazing what we can accomplish.

Borrowed from: Jason Inman



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!

Worship Assistants July



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Communion Servers	Power Point	Ushers
6th: Roderick 13th: Joanne 20th: Candy 27th: Marlene	6th: Joanne 13th: Diane M. 20th: Roderick 27th: Kathy	6th: Joanne 13th: Kandie 20th: Diane M. 27th: Diane S.	6th: Candy 13th: Mike 20th: Madeline 27th: Bill	6th: Annie 13th: Gina 20th: Judy 27th: Diane M.
Attendance	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sound	Live Stream/Video
6th: Kathy 13th: Shirley 20th: Pat O. 27th: Judy Adams	6th: Judy Adams 13th: Dave 20th: Jean 27th: Jean	6th and 13th: Kandie & Debbie 20th and 27th: Marlene & Kay	6th: Marlene 13th: Marlene 20th: Marlene 27th: Candy	6th: Steve 13th: Steve 20th: Steve 27th: Steve

Grace, Not Judgment

It is so easy to judge another person for what they say, do, or even who they are. The Gospels are replete with accounts of when Jesus accepted people at face value and lifted them up with His love and grace.

This month we will see Jesus giving someone a second chance and will teach us about forgiveness.

During the meeting via Zoom at 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, we will examine these accounts, recognize the impact Jesus had on those people and circumstances, and apply these insights to our own lives. In July, we will consider the nature of forgiveness and the value of money.

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





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: July 23rd, August 27th, and September 24th!

Bring your friends! All are welcome!

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

SOLES 4 SOULS



The Endowment Board provided scholarship fund to three applicants, including one of our own, Roderick Sinclair, as well as Jairo Alberto Rincon Mora and Breanna Freiberg. Each will receive \$800.00 towards their education!

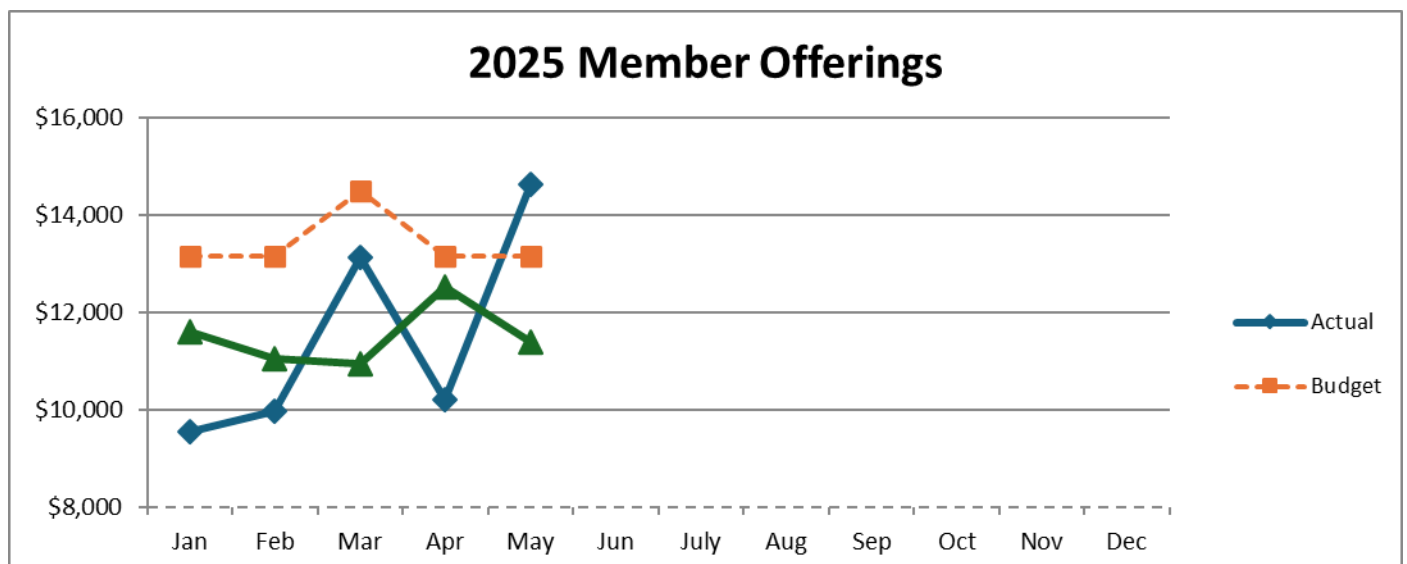
-Bill Brauer



FINANCIAL REPORT for May 31, 2025

1. Comments

- a. YTD Member giving continues to be below budget.
- b. 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 \$84,891.61. 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**, above budget at 111.23% (\$14,631 vs \$13,154).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, still below budget at 85.66% (\$57,486 vs \$67,112).

b. Total Income

- i) **For the month**, above budget at 121.73% (\$18,244 vs \$14,764).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, below budget at 94.97% (\$77,097 vs \$81,178).

c. Expenses

- i) **For the month**, significantly below budget at 71.16% (\$11,383 vs \$15,996).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, significantly below budget at 71.84% (\$57,511 vs \$80,058).

d. Net Operating Income (Total Income minus Expenses)

- i) **For the month**, a surplus of \$7,758 vs the expected surplus of -\$1,008.
- ii) **Year-to-date**, a surplus of \$18,361 vs the expected surplus of \$1,121.

e. Checking balance

- i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$32,818.82.
- ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$25,946.00.

Submitted by Madeline Puccio, Treasurer



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 19	Fredericka Bradshaw
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!



"Hunger Never Rests"

Hunger Never Rests!

The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of Canned Fruit for July!

Our partners, Menifee Community Cupboard have been impacted by recent federal programs cuts. 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!



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)



Exploring God's word helps us stretch and grow our relationship with Christ, and when we do it together, we are in fellowship with others. 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 (July 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 (July 17) at 6pm in the library.

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



W-ELCA "Wows" Again!!

Thank you to all those who attended, donated and worked to organize and run the Luncheon Fundraiser for MilVet. We successfully raised the amazing sum of **\$2,015.00!**

What a joy to partner together and do the Lord's Work in our community.

THANK YOU ALL!!



Women of the **ELCA** 

 **MilVet™**



Communion

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JULY 6th, Communion will be served as previously done before the Covid shutdowns. We will no longer be using the pre-filled cups with the small piece of bread and grape juice.

Wafers will be served by the presiding Pastor. A Communion Server will follow with wine (*red*) or grape juice (*white*). Congregants will hold out their hands to receive the wafer from the Pastor. Congregants will then select a cup of either red wine or white grape juice from the tray held by the Communion Server. Some Sundays one of the children will follow with a container to collect the empty cups. Sundays without children in attendance, congregants will carry their empty cups to deposit in the trays as they return to their seats. Napkins will be discontinued.

May the Lord continue to joyfully bless our shared meal.

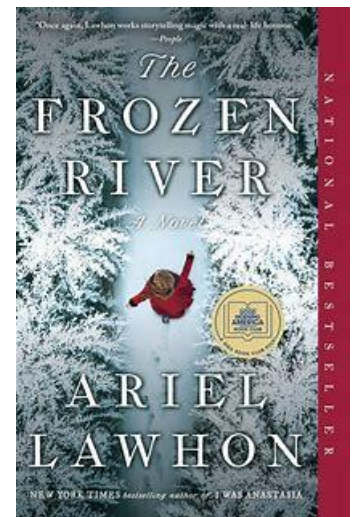
-Worship & Music Team





Meniffee Reads! (a book club) is reading *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon for July. The July meetings are Wednesday, July 16, 7pm and Thursday, July 17 at 2pm in the library. Join in the fun as you can! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.



Over the course of one winter, as the trial nears, and whispers and prejudices mount, Martha doggedly pursues the truth. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie.



**The Fellowship Committee will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs!
Please bring your favorite salads, fruit, and/or desserts.**



The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held July 28–Aug. 2, 2025, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

For more information: <https://www.elca.org/about/leadership/churchwide-assembly>



Your Outreach Committee will soon be collecting donated men's personal hygiene items and snacks for Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino (Lutheran Social Services of So. California)!

There will be more information in the August Forecaster, announcements and bulletins/emails.

Please join us as we prepare to do God's work with our hands!

July 2025

July 2025							August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 29	30	Jul 1	2	3	4	5
9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Rex 12:30pm AS-Grace&Mercy 4:00pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal		10:00am Worship & Music 1:00pm Communion Asst Training 6:30pm AF-Vagabond	10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study	9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 6:30pm AF-Vagabond	Independence Day 10:30am AI-Anon	9:00am Donation Drop Off 11:00am AF-Vagabond Rehearsal
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Rex 12:30pm AS-Grace&Mercy 4:00pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal		10:00am Hymn Planners 12:30pm WELCA Board 2:30pm Outreach Team 6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal	10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study	4:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic Team 6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	10:30am AI-Anon 6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal	11:00am AF-Vagabond Rehearsal
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Volunteer Appreciation Sunday 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Ken A. 12:30pm AS-Grace&Mercy	1:00pm Strategic Planning	2:00pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal	5:00pm AF-Food with Friends 7:00pm Menifee Reads! Book Club	9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 2:00pm Menifee Reads! Book Club 6:00pm WELCA Bible Study 6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal	10:00am Stewardship 10:30am AI-Anon 6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal	6:00pm AF-Big Band
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Shane 11:00am AF-Vagabond Rehearsal 12:30pm AS-Grace&Mercy	6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal	6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal	Forecaster Deadline 1:00pm Finance Team-In Person & Zoom 6:30pm AF-Ice Cream Social	7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	10:30am AI-Anon	10:00am AF-Vagabond Set Build
27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2
9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Ken A. 12:30pm AS-Grace&Mercy 4:00pm AF-Vagabond Set Build	1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom	6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal	ELCA Churchwide Assembly-Phoenix 6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal	6:30pm AF-Vagabond Rehearsal		