

# Faith Lutheran Church \* September 2025



# God's work. Our hands. September 7, 2025

"God's work. Our hands." is an annual day of service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), where congregations serve their communities and neighbors to make God's love visible. Started in 2013 to celebrate the ELCA's 25th anniversary, it encourages members to use their talents to help others through various activities like volunteering at food pantries, repairing homes, or advocating for social justice. The initiative is a way for Lutherans to express gratitude for God's grace by serving others and is inspired by the Christian teaching of caring for one's neighbor.

#### **ORIGINS AND PURPOSE**

**ELCA Initiative:** The "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday began in 2013 as a celebration of the ELCA's 25th anniversary.

**Service to the Community:** Rather than a party, leaders chose to serve their neighbors by engaging in community service projects.

**Making God's Love Visible:** The core idea is to make God's love tangible and evident in the community through actions.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

**Wide Range of Service:** Participants engage in diverse activities based on their gifts and the needs of their communities.

#### Examples include:

- Volunteering at food shelves or soup kitchens
- Tying quilts for disaster relief or other needs
- Planting community gardens
- Building or repairing homes
- Writing letters to elected officials on social justice issues

#### THEOLOGY AND INSPIRATION

**Doing God's Work:** The phrase emphasizes that when people serve, God is working through them, not just the individual.

**Gratitude for Grace:** The act of service is seen as a powerful expression of gratitude for God's grace.

**Caring for Neighbors:** The initiative aligns with Martin Luther's emphasis on caring for one's neighbor and is rooted in worship.

#### **IMPACT**

**Community Connection:** The day provides an opportunity for congregations to work together, connect with each other, and build relationships with their community.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on September 7<sup>th</sup> to help organize men's personal hygiene items and snacks for the San Bernardino Community Wellness Center, formerly known as Central City Mission- Lutheran Social Services.

It's not too late to donate the items we're collecting!

#### **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

### Change Happens Slowly, Then All at Once



That is how it's starting to feel at Faith, even though nothing has really accelerated. But we are starting to see results. The sound system project began years ago, debuted last November, and Live Streaming was added last May. This week, the council is considering the feasibility of replacing the two dead monitors in the Sanctuary with new, bigger, more affordable versions.

Meanwhile, after years of discussion and a couple of security incidents, we are starting the process for a new ADT security system with cameras, motion detectors, and secure access.

And more than three years ago work was started for selling our unused land to the city for a park. This is finally in escrow and the council is discussing plans for prudent management of the one-time proceeds. This is the light at the end of the tunnel for our 60+ year old building.

And what about a new pastor? The Transition team completed the MSP (Ministry Site Profile), the Call Committee has been trained and is active, and the part time pastor position has been posted! It may take a while, but our supply pastors continue to be excellent.

Financially we are solid, at least for now. The addition of a new pastor will have us running a deficit at our current giving levels, but pledge season is just around the corner, and our congregation is growing!

-Steve Kent, President



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	<b>Communion Servers</b>	Power Point	Ushers
7th: Roderick	7th: Pat A.	7th: Kathy	7th: Bill	7th: Gina
14th: Joanne	14th: Diane M.	14th: Debbie	14th: Mike	14th: Annie
21st: Candy	21st: Danielle	21st: Kandie	21st: Bill	21st: Judy Ap.
28th: Roderick	28th: David M.	28th: Diane S.	28th: TBD	28th: TBD
Attendance	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sound	Live Stream/Video
7th: Judy Ad.	7th: Jean	7th, 14th:	7th: Mars	7th: Steve
14th: Shirley	14th: Dave F.	Kandie, Debbie	14th: Mars	14th: Steve
21st: Pat O.	21st: Jean	21st, 28th:	21st: Mars	21st: TBD
28th: Kandie	28th: Jean	Marlene, Diane M.	28th: Mars	28th: Madeline



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!

# Faith Lutheran is now a Drop-Off Location! Facebook is spreading the word!

Faith Lutheran Church has started 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. Keep sharing the information with friends and neighbors. In August those dropping off all indicated they saw the information on Facebook; please share the info to your Facebook page as it is posted!

We need a second person to sign up for a Saturday, only 4 left in the year!







# SOLES 4 SOULS



The Taco Bar is back! The Fellowship Committee will provide all the fixings for tacos! Please bring your favorite salad, fruit, and/or dessert to share.





#### FINANCIAL REPORT July 31, 2025

#### 1. Comments

- a. YTD Member giving continues to be below budget and below 2024 giving.
- 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 Call processes.
- c. 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.
- d. The Park Land Sale has entered the escrow phase & proceeds will be deposited to the existing account at Provident Bank at the close of escrow. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures up to \$250,000 per depositor, per bank. The Finance Committee has prepared recommendations for the Church Council on how to split the funds between financial institutions to ensure that no more than \$250,000 is on deposit at any financial institution.





#### 2. Financials Review

#### a. Offering Envelopes

- i) For the month, below budget at 79.46% (\$10,391 vs \$12,860).
- ii) **Year-to-date,** still below budget at 84.75% (\$84,055 vs \$98,539).

#### b. Total Income

- i) For the month, above budget at 84.11% (\$13,035 vs \$15,498).
- ii) **Year-to-date,** below budget at 94.57% (\$106,723 vs \$112,845).

#### c. Expenses

- i) For the month, below budget at 71% (\$11,433 vs \$16,101).
- ii) Year-to-date, significantly below budget at 73.11% (\$81,770 vs \$111,841).
- d. Net Operating Income (Total Income minus Expenses)
  - i) For the month, a surplus of \$1,602 vs the expected deficit of \$603.
  - ii) **Year-to-date,** a surplus of \$24,953 vs the expected surplus of \$1,004.

#### e. Checking balance

- i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$38,345.30.
- ii) Previous Month-end balance was \$36,790.00.

Submitted by Madeline Puccio, Treasurer



# BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Sept. 2	Connie Gibson
Sept. 8	Gina Howe
Sept. 9	Valerie Holmes
Sept. 15	Linda Blanche
Sept. 17	David Moe
Sept. 18	Tina Peteroski
Sept. 19	Ellie Nony
Sept. 29	Emma Peteroski



#### **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS**

Го

Sept. 21 Lucas & Amber Concepcion



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 Spaghetti Sauce and Diced Tomatoes for September!

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!



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 (September 10) at 10am in the library. September 's lesson with focus on "Money, Stewardship and Generosity." We tackle the easy and difficult biblical principles together.
- Lydia Evening Bible Study is studying women of the Bible. They meet on the third Thursday of the month (September 18) at 6pm in the library.

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

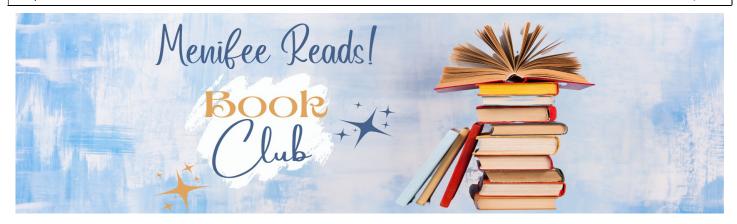
## Coffee, Conversation and You



We will be moving to a shared responsibility for Coffee Hour. We need up to 5 teams of two (2) volunteers on a Sunday to help with serving and cleaning up. Coffee Hour ends at 11:30am, although people are welcome to stay and talk. With 5 teams we can assure coverage without a large task on just a few generous souls.

Additionally, we are gladly accepting home-baked goods for Coffee Hour. We ask that no more than two (2) people bring home-baked goods on any Sunday. There will be a sign-up sheet in the kitchen for bringing home-baked goods and a sign-up sheet for coffee hour volunteers.

Please sign up to be a team of two (2)!



Menifee Reads! (a book club) is reading "The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn. The September meetings are Wednesday, September 17, 7pm and Thursday, September 18 at 2pm in the library. ALL ARE WELCOME! Don't forget Faith's Food With Friends on the 17th at 5pm. Come and join in the fun!

The New York Times bestselling author of The Diamond Eye and The Rose Code returns with a haunting and powerful story of female friendships and secrets in a Washington, DC, boardinghouse during the McCarthy era.

Washington, DC, 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-the-heels all-female boardinghouse in the heart of the nation's capital where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when the lovely, mysterious widow Grace March moves into the attic room, she draws her oddball collection of neighbors into unlikely friendship: poised English



beauty Fliss, whose facade of perfect wife and mother covers gaping inner wounds; policeman's daughter Nora, who finds herself entangled with a shadowy gangster; frustrated baseball star Beatrice, whose career has come to an end along with the women's baseball league of WWII; and poisonous, gung-ho Arlene, who has thrown herself into McCarthy's Red Scare.

Grace's weekly attic-room dinner parties and window-brewed sun tea become a healing balm on all their lives, but she hides a terrible secret of her own. When a shocking act of violence tears the house apart, the Briar Club women must decide once and for all: who is the true enemy in their midst?

Capturing the paranoia of the McCarthy era and evoking the changing roles for women in postwar America, *The Briar Club* is an intimate and thrilling novel of secrets and loyalty put to the test.

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

The Fellowship Team invites you to enjoy our final Ice Cream Sundae Summer Social for 2025! Come on out on Wednesday, September 24th from 6:30 – 7:30.

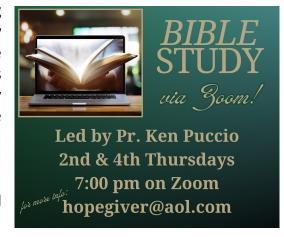
Bring your friends! ALL are Welcome!



## Grace, Not Judgment

We live in an age where, if someone doesn't like something you've said or posted on social media, you are immediately judged. I've had members of my own family attack me online and tell me that my late parents would be rolling in their graves if they had seen what I posted, when my comment actually promoted inclusiveness. Jesus didn't judge; He showed grace and kindness, reaching out to lift people up and not tear them down. – Pastor Ken Puccio

Our Bible study focuses on events in Jesus' life where He could have judged, but didn't. See how these themes can apply in your life.



September 11 The Woman Who Washed Jesus' Feet with Her Tears

September 25 Zacchaeus, the Tax Collector

Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month

Log In: 874 9381 9047

Password: 10311517 (think Reformation Day)

Contact Pastor Ken at hopegiver@aol.com to receive a copy of the lessons.



Do you have plastic bottles, glass bottles and/or aluminum cans laying around that you're dying to get rid of? Well, bag them up and bring them to church! Our Fellowship Hall needs a new sound system, so are recycling to earn money for this project! So far, we have collected \$51.00!





## WELCA Fall Quarterly Meeting



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

Sign up in the narthex and bring a small snack or dessert to share. Activities will revolve around pets, your beloved animals. We will be collecting some items for Animal Friends of the Valley. More information to be announced shortly!







On August 24<sup>th</sup>, Faith Lutheran welcomed 2 new members to our congregation! If you haven't yet had a chance to meet **Margit Andersson** and **Barbara Khan**, please be sure to say hello and welcome them to our Faith Family!



#### 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

Food with Friends: 3rd Wednesday at 5:00

Al-Anon: Every Friday at 10:30







SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 11AM-9PM





Have a delicious meal (or 2 or 3) and earn money for Faith Lutheran!
Eat at the Habit Burger & Grill on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 9pm using the code "GIVEBACK" and Faith will earn 20% of your purchase(s)!
Grab a flyer in the Narthex!

#### **Faith Lutheran Church**

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Menifee, CA 92586

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

September 2025	er 2025			Su Mo Tu We Th  1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25 28 29 30	Fr Sa Su Mo 5 6 6 19 20 12 13 26 27 26 27	October 2025  Tu We Th Fr Sa 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25 28 29 30 31
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 31	Sep 1 Labor Day	2 10:00am Worship & Music	ε.	4 9:00am Snip 'N Stitch	5 10:30am Al-Anon	6 9:00am Donation Drop Off
God's Work. Our Hands. 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Rex 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	ω	9 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	12 10:00am Stewardship 10:30am Al-Anon	13
14 9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Ken A 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	15	16.00am 4 Plus 1 Group 2:00pm Fellowship Team	5:00pm 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	19 9:00am WELCA Set up 10:30am Al-Anon	20 11:00am WELCA Fall Quarterly Meeting 6:00pm Big Band Rehearsal
21 9:30am Worship Service-Pr Shane 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	22	53 Forecaster Deadline 6:00pm Call Committee	24 1:00pm Finance Team-In Person & Zoom 6:30pm Ice Cream Social	7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	26 10:30am Al-Anon	27
9:30am Worship Service-Pr. Shane 11:00am Habit Burger Fundraiser 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	29	30	Oct 1	2	m	4