



Forecaster

Faith Lutheran Church * April 2026



Every year we look forward to Easter Sunday, but in reality, every day is Easter! Everyday we're blessed with new life. Everyday, God's promises reach out to us with outstretched hands. You wouldn't know that from the news, however. But Jesus embraced even the worst of "bad news"—he took into himself betrayal, rejection, hate, and suffered the worst of deaths, a victim of human sin. John's gospel is probably the clearest of the gospels when it comes to this theme. In John 12:32 Jesus says, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all people to myself." And if we didn't already know what Jesus meant, John tells us that he's talking about His crucifixion.

In the Orthodox tradition, they highlight how Jesus as God's Son, as fully divine, does a *cosmic thing* with his death and resurrection. "All people," "all things," are restored, renewed, in this event. God came out of eternity and entered into time—human time—once and for all. Fifteen billion years (the approximate age of the universe) is nothing to God in God's eternity. But God entering fully into time, in the person of Jesus, entering fully into our humanity, hallows all of time, and God does this out of love for us. We, as beings with a soul—a soul that intersects with God's eternal will for us—are "raised" through faith here and now. St. Paul calls that becoming a "new creation," and a way of life follows. There is *now* "no longer male or female, Jew or Gentile, slave or free," but Christ is in all things (Galatians 3:27-29; Colossians 3). So "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience" (Col. 3:12); we have an Easter ethic—modeled on Jesus' Way.

As God's beloved creation, breathing with the breath of God, we will be caught up into Christ's Holy Spirit at the end of created time. On that Easter Sunday, it was as if Jesus had one foot in time and space, and one foot in eternity. The God who has given us a spirit, a soul, promises us that the same will happen to us. That is Easter *today and every day*. We live in mortality—we are reminded of that every day—but God's loving Spirit is with us; death has been swallowed up (I Corinthians 15:54-56). And may the Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead, give life to your mortal bodies.

Borrowed from: Pr. Christian, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church



Dear Faith Family,

We are three months into 2026 and what a blessed time this has been. We as a church family are so blessed to have so many people sharing their time, talents and financial giving with us.

The end of November 2025 saw the close of the sale of part of our land to the city of Menifee for the building of a park in Sun City. What a blessing to now have those proceeds to help in our growth and ministry with our congregation and the greater community.

In early 2026 Faith Lutheran Church received a legacy gift from the estate of Jan Williams, a longtime member of Faith, in the amount of \$147,570. This amount will be shared by the Endowment Fund, Women of the ELCA and the general budget. At our church service on March 15 Faith was presented with a check for \$18,000 from Trinity Lutheran Church of Hemet. This is a gift from them as they are closing and will no longer be a church of God.

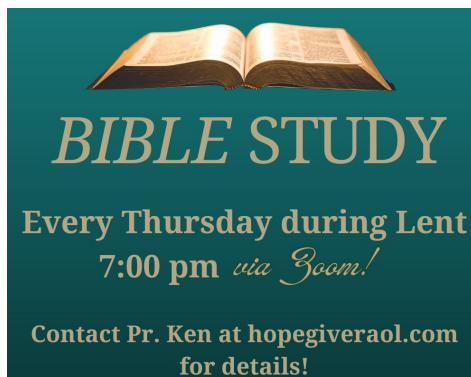
All of these gifts are a great blessing to Faith as we proceed in our quest to spread God's word and support groups that are helping those in our community and throughout the area.

All of these gifts are in addition to your giving of support, both financial and physical. With this bounty of blessings, it may be tempting to reduce your financial giving. However, this bounty will provide a solid financial foundation, or "safety net", once we call a permanent Pastor. These financial blessings will provide supplemental financial support until our expenses no longer exceed member giving. We thank you for your continued giving in all ways.

Easter Sunday will be here in a few days. The season of Lent has been a spiritual journey for all as we prepare for the joy of Easter Sunday.

*Blessings to you all, Bea Olsen
Faith Lutheran Council President*

The Gospel of John



We've been moving through Lent toward our wonderful Easter celebration. There will be no class during Holy Week. Instead, we invite you to worship with us on Maundy Thursday at 5:00 P.M. After Easter, we will return to our twice monthly schedule, meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:00 P.M.

Contact Pastor Ken at hopegiver@aol.com for log in information. You need not have attended prior classes to appreciate the lessons. You can join at any time!



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS
To

April 4	Daniel Conner
April 5	Carol Kobersteen
April 7	Peggy Westby
April 9	Debbie Ehrig
April 15	Ray Olson



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS
To

April 12, 1993	Tex & Lesly Culp
April 24, 2010	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"

Hunger Never Rests!

The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of Pasta and Sauce for April!

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!



I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers, birthdays cards and best wishes for my Birthday. I appreciate all your kindness!

Esther Neumen

Worship Assistants

April



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Communion Servers	Power Point	Ushers
2nd: Joanne 3rd: Joanne 5th: Joanne 12th: Joanne 19th: Pr. Ken 26th: Pr. Ken	2nd: Candy 3rd: Multiple* 5th: David M. 12th: Diane M. 19th: Robert P. 26th: Pat A. *Lorna, Candy, David, Mars	2nd: Diane S. 3rd: N/A 5th: Karla 12th: Freddericka 19th: Debbie 26th: Kandie	2nd: Mike 3rd: Mike 5th: Mike 12th: Mike 19th: Bill 26th: Bill	2nd: Annie 3rd: Vacant 5th: Annie 12th: Becky 19th: Annie 26th: Judy Ad.
Attendance	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sound	Live Stream/Video
2nd: Judy Ad. 3rd: Freddericka 5th: Connie 12th: Shirley 19th: Pat O. 26th: Diane S.	2nd: Jean 3rd: Jean 5th: Jean 12th: Dave F. 19th: Jean 26th: Walli	2nd: Mars & Jean 3rd: Multiple** 5th: Mars & Jean 12th: Mars & Jean 19th: Kandie & Debbie 26th: Kandie & Debbie **Debbie, Jean	2nd: Mars 3rd: Mars 5th: Mars 12th: Mars 19th: Candy 26th: Candy	2nd: Madeline 3rd: Madeline 5th: Madeline 12th: Madeline 19th: Madeline 26th: Madeline

We Have a New Monitor in the Sanctuary!



FINANCIAL REPORT

February 28, 2026

1. Comments

- a. February 2026 Member giving was below budget and below 2025 giving.
- b. Expenses continue substantially below budget because we've budgeted for a half-time Pastor, however, that position is currently vacant. Our Pastoral expenses only include payments made to 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.

2. Financials Review

- a. **Offering Envelopes**
 - i) **For the month**, below budget at 78.62% (\$8,693 vs \$11,058).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, below budget at 81.23% (\$18,974 vs \$23,358).
- b. **Total Income**
 - i) **For the month**, near budget at 98.14% (\$15,184 vs \$15,474).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, above budget at 588.20% (\$176,394* vs \$53,563).*
- c. **Expenses**
 - i) **For the month**, below budget at 79.92% (\$15,433 vs \$17,355).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, below budget at 86.93% (\$31,048 vs \$35,715).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, a deficit of \$249 vs the expected deficit of \$1,881.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, a surplus of \$148,675 vs the expected surplus \$17,847.*
- e. **Bank balances**
 - i) **Total Balance at Month-end** is \$736,534.16
 - (1) Provident Bank General Checking - \$321,863.82
 - (2) US Bank General Checking – \$27,304.12
 - (3) US Bank Property Sale - \$220,403.30
 - (4) ELCA FCU Savings - \$33.26
 - (5) ELCA FCU Property Sale CD – \$86,732.60
 - (6) ELCA FCU Pastor Reserve Fund CD - \$80,197.06
 - ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$591,717.91

*Includes gift from Jan Williams Estate: FLC General Fund-\$66,406.48, FLC Endowment-\$66,406.47, WELCA-\$14,757

Submitted by Madeline Puccio, Treasurer

Volunteer for Coffee Hour!



Have you signed up to serve at Coffee Hour? When everyone takes a turn, many hands make light work. **Can you help?**

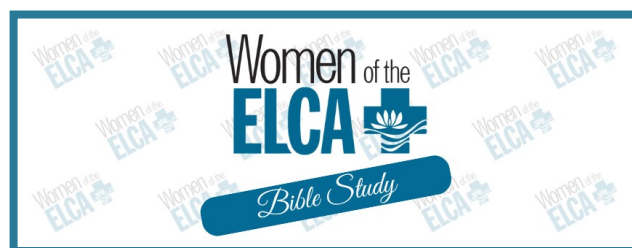
We need teams of two (2) volunteers on a Sunday to help with serving and cleaning up. Coffee Hour ends at 11:30am, although people are welcome to stay and talk and turn off the lights when they leave.

Can You Help?

Home-baked goods are welcome 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.

Come Study With Us!

*a ministry of Women of the
ELCA (WELCA)



What have you done to understand the nature and love of God, of his son Jesus Christ? All of us are called to know him. One way to do that is to study his Word, the Bible. Studying with other believers can be more enlightening and helpful than reading Scripture alone. Here at Faith, WELCA gives you opportunities to study God's Word in a community of believers, a safe space to question, learn and grow.

- **Mary's Circle** uses studies from Gather Magazine. The study for March, April and May is a series of 3 studies on the I AM statements of our Lord. The group meets on the second Wednesday of the month (April 8) at 10am.

Come when you can and grow in faith! All are welcome.

Lentathon

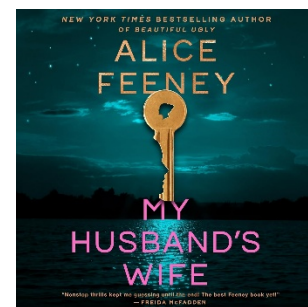
Pastor Ken's very successful Lentathon has ended. Results will be announced at the Easter Sunday service. Donations and pledges can be marked "Lentathon." Money will be forwarded to a local food bank.

In fact, it was so successful, we're going to do it again. This time Pastor Ken is calling it a Pentathon, continuing his spiritual disciplines of worship, prayer, and Bible study as well as his physical disciplines of eating healthy, eating less, and moving more between Easter and Pentecost.



Meniffee Reads! (a book club) is reading “Her Husband’s Wife” by Alice Feeney for April.

Eden Fox, an artist on the brink of her big break, sets off for a run before her first exhibition. When she returns to the home she recently moved into, Spyglass, an enchanting old house in Hope Falls, nothing is as it should be. Her key doesn’t fit. A woman, eerily similar to her, answers the door. And her husband insists that the stranger is his wife. One house. One husband. Two women. Someone is lying.



Six months earlier, a reclusive Londoner called Birdy, reeling from a life-changing diagnosis, inherits Spyglass. This unexpected gift from a long-lost grandmother brings her to the pretty seaside village of Hope Falls. But then Birdy stumbles upon a shadowy London clinic that claims to be able to predict a person's date of death, including her own. Secrets start to unravel, and as the line between truth and lies blurs, Birdy feels compelled to right some old wrongs.

My Husband’s Wife is a tangled web of deception, obsession, and mystery that will keep you guessing until the final minutes. Prepare yourself for the ultimate mind-bending marriage thriller and step inside Spyglass—if you dare—to experience a story where nothing is as it seems.

WELCA Luncheon Fundraiser

Tickets will go on sale later in April

Saturday, June 20, 10 AM, Luncheon Fundraiser to benefit the Meniffee Community Cupboard

- \$15 entry fee plus a non-perishable food item for the Meniffee Community Cupboard.
- Featuring Rancho Rockers (Ukelele Band), and a sing-along
- Wonderful Gift Baskets up for grabs!

DON'T MISS IT – THIS ONE MAY SELL OUT!!!

WELCA Gifts Quilts



On Saturday, March 21, WELCA welcomed Matresa Lee from Alternatives to Domestic Violence as Our speaker. She shared a lot of great information about the local women's shelter here in Menifee and the amazing work they do. We were pleased to gift them with 25 quilts from our Snip 'N Stitch group. Each woman who stays at the shelter is gifted a quilt and takes it with them as they are able to move to other housing options.

They have offered to give us a tour of the shelter. If you are interested, please sign up in the narthex and we will arrange a date for a tour. All visitors will need to sign a non-disclosure form in order to take part in the visit and tour.

With our latest drop off of shoes, over the past 2 years, Faith Lutheran Church has collected

1,465 pairs of shoes!

Our thanks to the **Menifee Community Cupboard** who is donating shoes they cannot sell to Faith Lutheran's Souls4Soles ministry. In March they donated 150-200 pairs of shoes (not unpacked and counted yet). They will be continuing to share shoes with us on an ongoing basis!

These contributions add to the ongoing ministry of donated shoes all at Faith are doing. Together we make quite an impact! Can we hit the 2000 (or 2500) pair mark in 2026? Don't forget to pick up flyers in the narthex to share with your friends.

Congratulations to all who share the ministry with others and all who have donated shoes! Together we make quite an impact!

SOLES 4 SOULS



This quarter (Jan.-Mar.) your Outreach Committee is collecting the following items for MilVet:

Tuna in bags/cans * Small bags of nuts(any kind) * Shampoo

These items will be used at MilVet's monthly packing event, where boxes are packed and sent to deployed military. Thank you for your love and support!

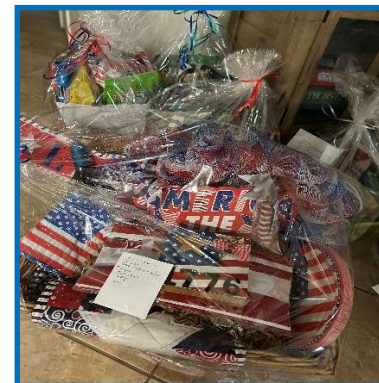
Gift Baskets for the WELCA Fundraiser

We are in full gear collecting Gift Baskets you may choose to donate to make this year's gift baskets the best yet! Check out how you might be able to help.



- Start picking up **gift cards** now: \$10, \$25, \$50, don't wait! Any amount can be part of a basket.
- Do you craft, knit, crochet, quilt, woodwork, or other creative hobby? Plan now for what you might want to donate for the gift baskets.
- **Wine** and chocolate are always big hits!
- **Create your own basket and theme**, coffee, tea, reading, games, pampering, baking, beach party, and movie night, and baskets are all great ideas or come up with one of your own.
- **Sponsor** the ever-popular **lottery scratch-off ticket basket**

Do not wait to donate! We can accept your gift basket donations anytime of the year! Let Candy Pellechio (908-601-4540) know if you are putting together a basket and the theme! **All donations are due by Sunday, May 24th.**



THRIVENT MAKES MINISTRY HAPPEN AT FAITH

YOU CAN HELP TOO!

Faith Lutheran Church would like to expand our community outreach, and the Thrivent Action Cards are a relatively easy way to make this happen. Here is how you can help us:

- **Thrivent Members who currently own products** – please sign the Thrivent sheet in the narthex so that we can help you utilize these cards on a yearly basis. Just let us know you are members!
- **Willing to become an Associate Member (cost of \$20/year)** – please sign up on the Thrivent sheet in the narthex and let us know. For your \$20 investment you can get a \$250 gift card we can use for an outreach event. We will then look to schedule some sessions to help you sign up!

If you have any questions, please speak with Candy Pellechio 908-601-4540

ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

“Every occupation has its own honor before God.” – Martin Luther

In the spirit of Martin Luther’s statement about occupations, each year the Endowment Fund Board accepts scholarship applications from students who are pursuing a wide variety of careers. The online scholarship application can be accessed by opening the Scholarship tab on the church’s website at faithmenifee.com. The two kinds of available scholarships are explained there.



Applications for the 2026-2027 school year will be accepted until the deadline of May 1, 2026. Please encourage students who are pursuing higher education in college, seminary, or trade school to apply. Each scholarship will have a minimum value of \$500. Recipients will be notified by June 1, 2026. Thanks for helping to spread the word about this special opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact the Board’s Scholarship Coordinator, Freddericka Bradshaw. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile endeavor.

--Pat Adams, Church Council Liaison to the Endowment Fund Board

Donation Drop Location at Faith!

Facebook is spreading the news!

The next Donation Drop Off day is Saturday, **April 4, from 9-12**. On the first Saturday each month we are open from 9-12 noon, and the public has access to drop off contributions. We are accepting donations of:

- ❖ (**new**) homemade blankets (for Project Linus),
- ❖ eyeglasses (for Lions Club),
- ❖ used towels and blankets (**no batting**) (for Animal Friends of the Valley),
- ❖ gently used or new shoes (for Soles4Soles)
- ❖ Non-perishable food items (for Menifee Community Cupboard)
- ❖ 100% cotton fabric (for Snip ‘N Stitch quilts made by Faith Lutheran Church).

There is a 2026 signup sheet in the Narthex for helpers. We need 2 people to be on site each Donation Day to accept donations. (it’s a pretty easy job and you can sit most of the time)

Please share the information with friends and neighbors. Flyers are available in the narthex.

Project ♥ Linus



Providing
Security
Through
Blankets



SOLES4 SOULS

JOIN THE PROJECT LINUS BLANKET BRIGADE



Are you ready to be part of the Blanket brigade? Next date is Saturday, April 4 from 10-12 noon (**notice time change**), everyone is welcome to drop by for some fellowship time with friends and help tie fleece blanket for Project Linus. This monthly event is open to the Menifee community, so bring your coffee and some friends. Do good while spending time with friends!

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 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:** Wed. before Council meets at 11:00
- **Council:** Last Monday of each month at 11:00
- **Cheer Team:** 2nd Thursday at 4:00
- **Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study:** 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7:00
- **Food with Friends:** 4th Wednesday at 5:00 (beginning in May)
- **Al-Anon:** Every Friday at 10:30



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

April 2026

April 2026							May 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
9:30am Worship-Pr. Ken 12:30pm Grace&Mercy				9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 1:00pm WELCA Decorations Committee 5:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	Good Friday 10:30am AI-Anon 5:00pm Good Friday Worship	9:00am Donation Drop Off 10:00am Blanket Brigade
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am Worship-Pr. Shane 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	10:00am Worship & Music		10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study	4:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic Team 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	10:30am AI-Anon	10:00am Menifee Seniors Event
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Worship-Pr. Rex 11:00am Endowment Board 12:30pm Grace&Mercy		10:00am Hymn Planners 12:30pm WELCA Board 2:30pm Outreach Team	7:00pm Menifee Reads! Book Club	9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 2:00pm Menifee Reads! Book Club	10:00am Stewardship 10:30am AI-Anon	1:00pm Celebration of Life-Jason Stone 6:00pm Big Band Rehearsal
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Worship-Pr. Rex 11:00am Endowment Board 12:30pm Grace&Mercy		10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group 2:00pm Fellowship Team	11:00am Finance Team	Forecaster Deadline 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	10:30am AI-Anon	9:00am Blessing of the Animals & Photos
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
9:30am Worship-Pr. Rex 12:30pm Grace&Mercy 2:00pm Storm Game	11:00am Council Meeting	6:00pm Call Committee				