



Forecaster

Faith Lutheran Church * February 2026



We love because He first loved us

1 JOHN 4:19

For God so loved the world that He gave His
one and only Son

JOHN 3:16

Love your neighbor as yourself

MARK 12:31

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, a time when we show appreciation to those we love. I love Valentine's Day! I love wearing sweaters with hearts and seeing red and pink hearts decorating stores and offices. I have so many good memories of my parents surprising my sister and me with a special gift. And somehow, even though it was a tradition, they still surprised me every year!

I understand that not everyone is a fan of Valentine's Day. For some of us it may not be meaningful. For others it could be painful. Some may question its history or origin. I respect that. For me, I think it is a fun celebration and I have not found a Biblical reason to refrain from celebrating Valentine's Day.

The first Valentine was posted around 1806. Currently, almost one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year on or near February 14. It is second only to Christmas! That is a strong showing for the consumerist side of Valentine's. However, we don't want to idolize romantic love. This is a good time to appreciate the many forms of love in our lives and most importantly, the true Source of Love: God. The true essence of love comes from the very heart of God. 1 John 4:19 reminds us that "We love because He first loved us."

There are at least three different types of love that we find in the New Testament: eros, philos, and agape. Eros is romantic love. Philos is love between a brother, sister, or friend. Agape is divine love. It is unconditional and selfless. When we talk about love in the Christian faith, we are talking about agape love. It is a love that is patient, kind, and, most importantly, unconditional.

For Christians, the greatest love story ever told is not about cupid or roses, but about Jesus. Yes, Jesus—the Son of God, who came to earth and gave His life for you and me. The Bible reminds us, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son" (John 3:16).

Martin Luther called that Bible verse "the Gospel in sum." God's love for us is a love that goes beyond all human understanding. It is a love that sacrifices everything, even to the point of death. This love claims us in the waters of baptism wrapped in the great gift of forgiveness. No matter what

we've done, no matter where we've been, or how unworthy we might feel. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are children of God.

What a gift it is to be loved like this! Yet, in paying it forward, it is a high calling. It is a challenging one too.

In our excelling and failing, I think we see glimpses of it. As we are brought into the life of Christ, we are called to love like He did. In this world, what does it mean to love as Jesus did, especially when love is often equated with fleeting emotions or the tendency to focus on "me" or "mine"?

We mostly get to hear this scripture at weddings, but in 1 Corinthians 13, we are given a beautiful picture of love—God's love. Paul writes:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).

This is the love we are called to show—whether we're loving our families, our neighbors, our friends, or even strangers. It's not about grand gestures or perfect feelings; it's about small acts of kindness, forgiveness, and patience. It's about loving when it's difficult, and offering grace when it's needed most.

This holiday can be a beautiful reminder to broaden our view of what love can be. As Christians, we are called to love in all kinds of relationships: the love we show to our neighbors, the way we treat our coworkers, and the kindness we extend to people we don't even know. Every act of love—no matter how big or small—is a reflection of God's love for us.

In fact, one of the most profound ways we can show Christ's love is through service. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). This means caring for others, helping those in need, and finding ways to reflect God's love to the world around us. It's in these actions that the love of Christ shines through us.

Borrowed from: Pastor Adrienne Martin



ASH WEDNESDAY
BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT
JOIN US ON FEB. 18TH FOR WORSHIP AT 5:00



Dear Faith Family,

February is here with a busy schedule of events. Ash Wednesday is February 18 followed by five weeks of Lent. Our Congregation Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 22. Plus, all of the many social and volunteer opportunities that fill our calendar.

Our February 22 the annual meeting will be held in the sanctuary immediately following our worship service conducted by Pastor Ken Puccio. This meeting will be the time we elect our new Council members, new Endowment Board members and representatives to the Pacifica Synod Assembly. Our Church 2026 budget will be presented at this time for approval. This year we will conclude our annual meeting with a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Finally, I would like to thank those Council members who are leaving the Council. Their dedication and help are very much appreciated. Thanks to all of our Council members, Committee Chairs and Committee members who are keeping our congregation moving forward. Thanks to all of the many volunteers who step up to help. We couldn't do it without you. We need you all to help Faith Lutheran Church continue to grow and serve God and our community.

Blessings to you all, *Bea Olsen, Council Vice President*



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

February 2
February 7
February 20

Robert Jeckell
Deane Meckler
Bea Olsen



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

February 14

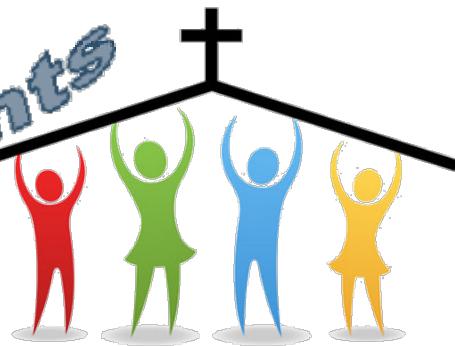
Randy & Kandie Hulme



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

Worship Assistants

February



| Asst. Ministers | Lectors | Communion Servers | Power Point | Ushers |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1st: Roderick | 1st: Candy | 1st: Kandie | 1st: Bill | 1st: Annie |
| 8th: Candy | 8th: David M. | 8th: Diane S. | 8th: Bill | 8th: Becky |
| 15th: Joanne | 15th: Mars | 15th: Fredericka | 15th: Mike | 15th: Judy Ad. |
| 18th: Pr. Ken | 18th: Danielle | 18th: Diane S. | 18th: Bill | 18th: Annie |
| 22nd: Joanne | 22nd: Robert P. | 22nd: Karla | 22nd: Mike | 22nd: Gina |
| 25th: Pr. Ken | 25th: David M. | 25th: N/A | 25th: Mike | 25th: N/A |
| Attendance | Greeters | Altar Guild | Sound | Live Stream/Video |
| 1st: Judy Ad. | 1st: Jean | 1st: Mars, Diane M. | 1st: Mars | 1st: Madeline |
| 8th: Dave F. | 8th: Shirley | 8th: Mars, Diane M. | 8th: Mars | 8th: Madeline |
| 15th: Pat O. | 15th: Walli | 15th: Kandie, Fredericka | 15th: Candy | 15th: Madeline |
| 18th: Judy Ad. | 18th: Jean | 18th: Mars, Kandie | 18th: Candy | 18th: N/A |
| 22nd: TBA | 22nd: Jean | 22nd: TBA | 22nd: Candy | 22nd: Madeline |
| 25th: N/A | 25th: N/A | 25th: TBA | 25th: Candy | 25th: N/A |



Hunger Never Rests!
The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard
is in need of Peanut Butter for February!

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 Join the *Lentathon*

Once again two great traditions come upon us: The beginning of the church season of Lent and **Baseball!** Are you ready for Spring? Are you ready to get back in the swing of things? Here's your chance. Pastor Ken's annual Lentathon is upon us. I invite you to join me in a time of both physical and spiritual conditioning.

As teams report to Spring Training to prepare for the coming baseball season, they devote themselves to the disciplines of **physical training**. This is my personal time each year to commit myself to a three-fold commitment:

- Eat Healthy
- Eat Less
- Exercise More

I ask you to participate with me in any of 3 ways.

1. **Join** in the program with me. We'll meet on Sunday mornings to compare results and pray for one another.
2. **Pledge** your support. Since weight loss is a happy result of this program, pledge your support of our efforts. Your financial pledge can be as a flat amount or as so many dollars or cents for each pound I lose. Pledges will be tabulated on Easter Sunday and the proceeds forwarded as a contribution to Lutheran World Hunger.

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/elca-world-hunger>

3. **Pray** for the participants.

LENT IS A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TO THE JOY OF EASTER SUNDAY.

I invite you to join me also in a time of **spiritual preparation**.

1. **Pray each day** for the renewing power of God's Holy Spirit in your life.
2. **Worship each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening**, regenerated by the love of Jesus, our Savior.
3. **Study God's word – Join a Bible study!** Faith offers several opportunities for study. The Mary Circle has a study that meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 A.M. My Zoom class at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday evenings is focused on the Gospel of John and the "I Am" sayings of Jesus. Feed your body with soup on Wednesdays and your souls with a Lenten study on Thursday.

Pastor Ken



FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2025

1. Comments

- a. December 2025 Member giving was below budget. YTD Member giving is 19.5% 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 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.
- d. The Park Land Sale Escrow closed on 11/13/2025 and **\$446,500** was deposited in the Provident bank account via wire transfer. \$240,000 was withdrawn from Provident via Cashier's Check and deposited in the new US Bank account. An additional \$5,000 was transferred on 11/21/2025 from Provident to US Bank. Repayment to Endowment in the amount of **\$50,828.89** was issued on 11/21/2025, leaving a balance of **\$395,671.11** as the remaining property sale proceeds.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Actual | \$ 9,541.00 | \$ 9,978.00 | \$ 13,127.00 | \$10,208.00 | \$14,631.00 | \$11,979.00 | \$ 10,391.00 | \$11,460.00 | \$ 8,670.00 | \$ 10,063.00 | \$12,027.00 | \$ 10,847.00 |
| Budget | \$ 13,154.00 | \$13,154.00 | \$ 14,496.00 | \$13,154.00 | \$13,154.00 | \$14,054.00 | \$ 12,860.00 | \$13,665.00 | \$13,417.00 | \$ 13,549.00 | \$14,931.00 | \$ 13,549.00 |
| Expenses | \$ 11,598.00 | \$11,057.00 | \$ 10,941.00 | \$12,531.00 | \$11,383.00 | \$13,536.00 | \$ 11,433.00 | \$11,255.00 | \$13,976.00 | \$ 10,382.00 | \$14,638.00 | \$ 9,503.00 |



2. Financials Review

a. Offering Envelopes

- i) **For the month**, below budget at 80.06% (\$10,847 vs \$13,549).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, still below budget at 81.38% (\$132,692 vs \$169,929).

b. Total Income

- i) **For the month**, above budget at 107.70% (\$19,502 vs \$18,108).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, below budget at 93.54% (\$182,416 vs \$195,020).

c. Expenses

- i) **For the month**, below budget at 59.25% (\$9,503 vs \$16,038).



- ii) **Year-to-date**, well below budget at 71.35% (\$139,152 vs \$195,020).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, a surplus of \$8,826 vs the expected surplus \$2,070.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, a surplus of \$40,001 vs the expected deficit of \$0.
- e. **Checking balance**
 - i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$108,812.92.
 - ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$241,780.74.



Submitted by Madeline Puccio, Treasurer

Volunteer for Coffee Hour!



Thank you to all those who signed up to help with coffee hour in December. We had a bevy of helpers; can we repeat this in January? Please sign up to help!

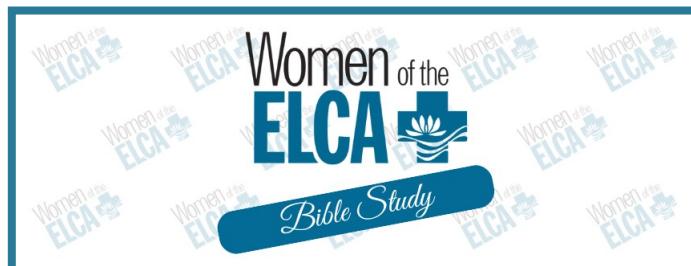
Having a shared responsibility for Coffee Hour can mean that many hands can make coffee hour an enjoyable fellowship time. **We need teams of two (2) volunteers on every Sunday to help with serving and cleaning up.** Coffee Hour ends at 11:30am, although people are welcome to stay and talk and turn off 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.

What do you know about the Bible?

*a ministry of Women of the ELCA (WELCA)



Has God called you to be in a relationship with him? 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 group meets on the second Wednesday of the month (February 11th) at 10am.

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

Evening Bible Study Survey

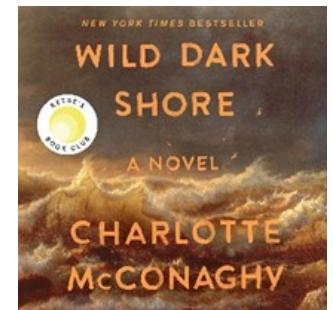
In January 2026 WELCA will survey the congregation to ascertain if there is a continued interest in an in-person evening Bible Study. We will explore possibilities of interest for co-ed study, as well as, day of the week, start time, etc. Please pick up a brief survey and share your interest and preferences so that we can plan how to best serve our Faith Lutheran community.



Menifee Reads! (a book club) is reading "Wild Dark Shore?" by Charlotte McConaghay.

A family on a remote island. A mysterious woman washed ashore. A rising storm on the horizon.

Dominic Salt and his three children are caretakers of Shearwater, a tiny island not far from Antarctica. Home to the world's largest seed bank, Shearwater was once full of researchers, but with sea levels rising, the Salts are now its final inhabitants. Until, during the worst storm the island has ever seen, a woman mysteriously washes ashore.



Isolation has taken its toll on the Salts, but as they nurse the woman, Rowan, back to strength, it begins to feel like she might just be what they need. Rowan, long accustomed to protecting herself, starts imagining a future where she could belong to someone again.

But Rowan isn't telling the whole truth about why she set out for Shearwater. And when she discovers sabotaged radios and a freshly dug grave, she realizes Dominic is keeping his own secrets. As the storms on Shearwater gather force, they all must decide if they can trust each other enough to protect the precious seeds in their care before it's too late—and if they can finally put the tragedies of the past behind them to create something new, together.

A novel of breathtaking twists, dizzying beauty, and ferocious love, *Wild Dark Shore* is about the impossible choices we make to protect the people we love, even as the world around us disappears.

New Member Sunday

Be sure to attend the worship service on February 8th and join us in welcoming our new members!



Gift Baskets for the WELCA Fundraiser

It is never too early to start thinking about the 2026 WELCA fundraiser on June 20! Check out these tips for how you might be able to help.

- Pick up your favorite hot sauce and donate it for a BBQ basket!
- Did you get a gift you might never use, but might be good in a gift basket, donate it!
- 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.
- Know someone who makes items for sale, a small business owner, ask them if they will donate an item or a basket.
- Do you frequent a restaurant often? Why not ask them to donate a gift card?
- Do you love to shop? Start shopping now and look for items throughout the year in clearance sales, etc. that might be good to make a gift basket.
- Do you have extra large baskets you need to get rid of? Donate them for the gift baskets.



Did you know you do not have to wait until May to donate? We can accept your gift basket donations anytime of the year! See Candy Pellechio for questions or donations.



Saturday, March 21: WELCA Spring Event

Saturday, June 20: Luncheon Fundraiser to benefit the Community Cupboard

Saturday, September 19: Fall Event

Saturday, December 12: Holiday Event

WELCA – DID YOU KNOW?

At the Pacifica Synod WELCA Convention and Gathering in November, our own Diane Molina was elected as one of 3 voting members to the WELCA Triennial Convention in July 2026, representing the Pacifica Synod! Congratulations Diane!



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

Protein or Granola Bars
Body Wash (for men or women)

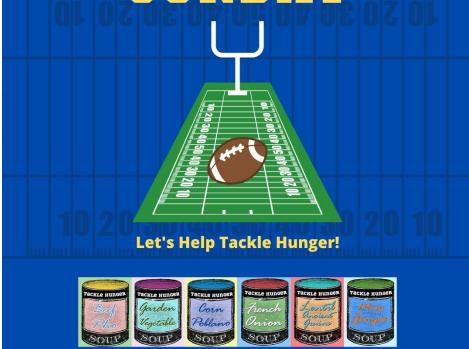
These items will be used at MilVet's monthly packing event, where boxes are packed and sent to deployed military. Thank you for your love and support!

ARE YOU READY FOR SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY?

Whether you are a football fan or not, I think it's safe to say we're all fans of tackling hunger! Faith's Soup-er Bowl will begin soon and will be played through February 8th! Keep an eye out for the containers in the Narthex, then bring cans of soup to the church and put them in the container for the team you're cheering for! Patriots? Seahawks? It doesn't matter! In our Soup-er Bowl everyone wins!



SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY



FAITH LUTHERAN IS A GRANT RECIPIENT!

In October of 2025 Outreach applied for a Matthew 25 grant from the Pacifica Synod. The grants can be up to \$1000. The purpose of The Matthew 25 Fund is to honor Christ as he spoke in Matthew 25:35-40. Jerry and Lynda Engelhardt established the fund through a strong desire to help people as in the verse. The primary criteria for making awards shall be Matthew 25:35-40. A secondary criterion shall be to evaluate if the proposed project will help establish or maintain congregational outreach and unity as in the spirit of the verse.

In late December 2025 Faith Lutheran Church, via the Outreach Committee, was awarded \$1000 specifically for the City of Menifee Thanksgiving Dinner put on by the Menifee Interfaith and Community Council for 2026. What a wonderful way to contribute to our community!



Donation Drop Location at Faith!

The next Donation Drop Off day is Saturday, **February 7**, from **9-12**. We continue collecting (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 Soles4Souls) and 100% cotton fabric (for Snip 'N Stitch quilts made by Faith Lutheran Church). On the first Saturday each month we are open from 9-12 noon, and the public has access to drop off contributions for these ministries.

There is a 2026 signup sheet in the Narthex for helpers. We need 2 people to be onsite 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. Please share the info on your personal Facebook page as it is posted on the church Facebook page. Everyone in Menifee should know about these donation opportunities!

Project Linus



Providing Security Through Blankets



SOLES 4 SOULS

JOIN THE BLANKET BRIGADE

Are you ready to be part of the Blanket Brigade? Beginning in February 2026, on the first Saturday of each month, from 9-12 noon, 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!



Shrove Tuesday

Head on over to the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 17th at 5:00 and let's commemorate Shrove Tuesday! The Fellowship Committee is hosting a pancake dinner! Bring your friends...all are welcome!

Women of the ELCA-Pacific Synod 2026 Spring Gathering



Saturday, March 7, 2026, 9am - 3pm
 Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
 10842 Fury Lane, La Mesa, CA 91941

REGISTER by February 28, 2026. Find forms in the narthex and sign up to carpool.

The Gospel of John



**BIBLE
STUDY**
via Zoom!

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

for more info:

Throughout the Epiphany and Lenten seasons, Pastor Ken will be conducting his Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Zoom Bible study. The topic is the gospel of John. We will consider major themes in the gospel with particular emphasis on Jesus' "I Am" sayings. Currently meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, however, during Lent, the class will meet weekly. Members can access the class using the ID: 874 9381 9047. The password is 10311517 (think of Reformation Sunday).

This is the class photo taken at the course on Diaconal Ministry which Roderick attended in January in Chicago.



**Save
the
Date!**

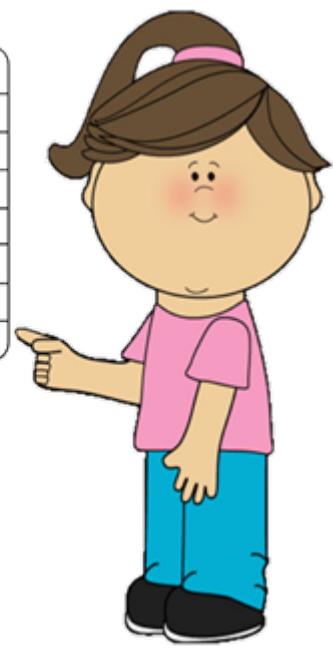


Mark your calendar and save the date!
 Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on
February 22, 2026!

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:** 4th Wednesday at 11:00
- **Council:** the last Monday of each month at 11:00
- **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

| Fun at Faith! | | | | | | |
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Faith Lutheran Church

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Website: www.faithmenifee.com

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

