



Forecaster

Faith Lutheran Church * March 2026



As we anticipate a time of reflection during the Lenten season, we prepare our hearts for a time of reflection, repentance and a so-called “Spring Cleaning for the Soul.” We enjoyed Shrove Tuesday together as a way of indulgence and reminder of the many blessings we enjoy in abundance, and then we moved into Ash Wednesday. And on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, hundreds of millions of Christians received ashes on their foreheads in churches all over the world.

Why ashes? Since Old Testament times, ashes have been used as a symbol of mortality. When ashes are placed on our foreheads we hear the words: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” It’s a reminder that the world, which often seems so important to us at this moment is passing and we need to give more thought to what comes at the end of our earthly life, which is: eternal life.

Ashes are also a sign of our need for repentance and a heartfelt acknowledgment that we are sinners and fall short of the glory of God. To many in the modern world, the very concept of sin seems old-fashioned. Yet, sin is part of our human nature, brokenness is our human condition and we NEED Jesus. We need to repent and trust the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) will show up for us again and again.

If you intentionally hurt a good friend, whether you are religious or not, something deep inside of you tells you that you need to say you’re sorry. What’s more, whether you say it out loud to your friend, or just think it to yourself, you’ll resolve not to hurt them again. But chances are good that someday you will. And that is similar to the all-too-human cycle of sin and sorrow and sinning again.

As the Church points out, we are all sinners and we all need repentance. We all need to confess our sin and sinfulness and ask for God’s forgiveness. And as people of the resurrection, we trust and lean into God’s gift of abundant grace. Lent gives us an intentional time of the year to do just that (although our prayer is that we practice confession and repentance year-round).

The word “Lent” comes from an old English word for springtime. Think of it as a form of spring cleaning for the soul. In the early years of the Church it was confined to a few days before Easter. But by the fourth century it was extended to forty days before Easter, a period associated with the forty days and nights that Jesus spent in the desert, tempted in the wilderness, just after his baptism (Matthew 4:1-11). “Forty days before Easter” may be somewhat misleading. The Church doesn’t count Sundays among the forty days, so the period of Lent, lasting from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, actually covers 46 days. Whether 40 days or 46 days, in the great scope of things Lent is a momentary pause to rethink the fundamental purpose of our lives. But it can also be the occasion of a momentous transformation; a first step on the path, at the crossroads, of becoming the people God has called us to be. I’ll see you at the crossroads of this journey.

Borrowed from: Pastor Greer, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church



Thanks to all who participated in our 2025 Annual Meeting. 16 members were needed for a quorum and 44 were present. We were able to elect our new Council members, Endowment Board members and our two representatives to the 2026 Synod Assembly being held on June 20, 2026.

Ballot counters were Judy Adams, Robert Posey and Walli Weitz. Gina Howe assisted with check-in of our members. Thank you all very much.

Approval of Minutes from the February 23, 2025 Annual Meeting

Yes – 43

No – 0

Corrections – None

Ballot for 2026 Council

Pat Adams, Incumbent (3 Year) – 43

Linda Blanche (3 Year) – 43

Diane Molina (3 Year) – 43

Madeline Puccio (3 Year) – 43

Ballot for 2026 Endowment Fund Board

Jean Miles (1 Year) – 41

David Moe (2 Year) - 41

Approval of 2026 Synod Assembly Representatives

Bill Brauer Yes – 43 No – 0

Mike McGavran Yes – 42 No – 0

Approval of 2026 Budget - Passed with a verbal vote

Approval of Constitutional Change – Section C12.06.d “The Congregation Council may authorize expenditure of up to \$10,000.00 for items not included in the budget.” - Passed with a verbal vote.

New Council for 2026

President – Bea Olsen
 Secretary – Diane Molina

Vice President – Linda Blanche
 Treasurer – Madeline Puccio

Liaisons to Committees – Each Council member is responsible for a committee{s} to be the official Council contact to bring information both to and from the rest of Council.

Call Committee – Marlene Rosselli
 Education – Marlene Rosselli
 Endowment – Pat Adams
 Fellowship – Madeline Puccio
 Finance – Madeline Puccio
 Homebound/Cheer – Bea Olsen

Outreach – Joanne McGavran
 Property – Madeline Puccio
 Stewardship – Marlene Rosselli
 W-ELCA & Kitchen – Bea Olsen
 Worship & Music – Marlene Rosselli

Thank you all for your support this past year and your continuing support in 2026.

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



Spring Cleaning!

Spring Cleaning for Easter

Come join the “fun” of sprucing up the Sanctuary for Easter!! Many hands make light work!

Saturday, March 28th at 9:00 am
Donuts & Coffee (of course!)

Bring cleaning equipment: Wood cleaning and polishing supplies, long-armed dusters, vacuum and attachment for pew cushions (2 or 3 only), etc.

Come one, Come all – the more the merrier!

The Call Committee is continuing to meet but we have received no applications during the busy holiday season, as expected. We remain hopeful for 2026.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Diane Swarts, Communicator





BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

March 4	Annie Misko
March 5	Allison McGavran
March 7	Kay Espe
March 7	Roderick Sinclair
March 9	Karla Kadow
March 10	Esther Neumen
March 10	Diana Ward
March 26	Ken Puccio
March 31	Pat Olson

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

March 11, 1961	Dick & Bea Olsen
March 22, 2019	Mikey & Berenice Varsobia



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

Evening Bible Study Survey

The WELCA survey has closed and we are reviewing the results. We should have more for you next month.





Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Communion Servers	Power Point	Ushers
1st: Joanne	1st: Diane M.	1st: Kandie	1st: Mike	1st: Annie
4th: Mars	4th: Mike	4th: N/A	4th: Candy	4th: N/A
8th: Candy	8th: Lorna	8th: Karla	8th: Bill	8th: Judy Ad.
11th: Mars	11th: Bill	11th: N/A	11th: Mike	11th: N/A
15th: Joanne	15th: Robert P.	15th: Freddericka	15th: Mike	15th: Becky
18th: Pr. Ken	18th: Pr. Ken	18th: N/A	18th: Bill	18th: N/A
22nd: Mars	22nd: David M.	22nd: Diane S.	22nd: Bill	22nd: Gina
25th: Mars	25th: Roderick	25th: N/A	25th: Mike	25th: N/A
29th: Joanne	29th: Candy	29th: Debbie	29th: Mike	29th: TBD
Attendance	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sound	Live Stream/Video
1st: Mars	1st: Jean	1st: Kandie & Kay	1st: Candy	1st: Madeline
4th: N/A	4th: N/A	4th: N/A	4th: Madeline	4th: N/A
8th: Joanne	8th: Walli	8th: Kandie & Kay	8th: Mars	8th: Madeline
11th: N/A	11th: N/A	11th: N/A	11th: Madeline	11th: N/A
15th: Pat O.	15th: Jean	15th: Mars & Diane M.	15th: Mars	15th: Madeline
18th: N/A	18th: N/A	18th: N/A	18th: Candy	18th: N/A
22nd: Diane M.	22nd: Connie	22nd: Mars & Diane M.	22nd: Candy	22nd: Madeline
25th: N/A	25th: N/A	25th: N/A	25th: Candy	25th: N/A
29th: Kandie	29th: Jean	29th: Mars & Kandie	29th: Mars	29th: Madeline



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

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!

FINANCIAL REPORT January 31, 2026

1. Comments

- a. January 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.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Actual	\$ 9,590.00											
Budget	\$ 11,058.00											
Expenses	\$ 13,873.00											



2. Financials Review

- a. **Offering Envelopes**
 - i) **For the month**, below budget at 86.72% (\$9,590 vs \$11,058).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, below budget at 86.72% (\$9,590 vs \$11,058).
- b. **Total Income**
 - i) **For the month**, above budget at 928.68% (\$161,209.76 vs \$17,359).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, above budget at 928.68% (\$161,209.76 vs \$17,359).
- c. **Expenses**
 - i) **For the month**, below budget at 79.92% (\$13,873 vs \$17,359).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, below budget at 79.92% (\$13,873 vs \$17,359).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, a surplus of \$147,336 vs the expected surplus \$0.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, a surplus of \$147,336 vs the expected surplus \$0.
- e. **Bank balances**
 - i) **Total Balance at Month-end** is \$591,717.91.

- (1) Provident Bank General Checking - \$175,178.63
 - (2) US Bank General Checking – \$30,727.11
 - (3) US Bank Property Sale - \$219,248.53
 - (4) ELCA FCU Savings - \$33.26
 - (5) ELCA FCU Property Sale CD – 86,513.59
 - (6) ELCA FCU Pastor Reserve Fund CD - \$80,006.79
- ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$447,203.61.

Submitted by Madeline Puccio, Treasurer

Volunteer for Coffee Hour!



Have you signed up for a turn at Coffee Hour? When everyone takes a turn, many hands make light work.

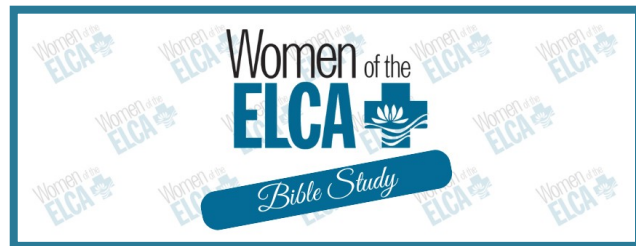
We need teams of two (2) volunteers on every Sunday to help with serving and cleaning up. Coffee Hour ends at 11:30am, although people are welcome to stay and talk and turn off the lights when they leave.

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)



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 (January 14) at 10am. Over the next several months we will study God's name and God's promise.

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



Meniffee Reads! (a book club) is reading “Broken Country” by Claire Leslie Hall.

A REESE’S BOOK CLUB PICK | A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

“The farmer is dead. He is dead, and all anyone wants to know is who killed him.”



Beth and her gentle, kind husband Frank are happily married, but their relationship relies on the past staying buried. But when Beth’s brother-in-law shoots a dog going after their sheep, Beth doesn’t realize that the gunshot will alter the course of their lives. For the dog belonged to none other than Gabriel Wolfe, the man Beth loved as a teenager—the man who broke her heart years ago. Gabriel has returned to the village with his young son Leo, a boy who reminds Beth very much of her own son, who died in a tragic accident.

As Beth is pulled back into Gabriel’s life, tensions around the village rise and dangerous secrets and jealousies from the past resurface, this time with deadly consequences. Beth is forced to make a choice between the woman she once was, and the woman she has become.

A sweeping love story with the pace and twists of a thriller, *Broken Country* is a novel of simmering passion, impossible choices, and explosive consequences that toggles between the past and present to explore the far-reaching legacy of first love.

SOLES 4 SOULS

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

1,465 pairs of shoes!

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

Can we hit the 2000 pair mark in 2026?

WELCA SPRING EVENT at FAITH

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 1-3pm

Come share the afternoon with Women of Faith and hear Matresa Lee speak about Alternatives to Domestic Violence. Some fun activities are planned! We will also be presenting quilts from Snip 'N Stitch to the shelter. Please sign up to attend and bring cookies, brownies, cookie bars. A sign up sheet is available in the narthex.



Gift Baskets for the WELCA Fundraiser

We are on our way thanks to donations from several of our members. 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.



- 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, movie night, and lottery ticket baskets are all great ideas or come up with one of your own.
- 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! Let Candy Pellechio (908-601-4540) know if you are putting together a basket and the theme! All donations are due by Sunday, May 31st.

THRIVENT: HOW THEY HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Some of you may have heard the Outreach team or WELCA mention the \$250 Thrivent cards we utilize to fund much of our community outreach, such as the WELCA Annual Luncheon Fundraiser, Blessing of the Animals, God's Work, Our Hands, etc. This year, we have expanded our thinking and planned use of these cards. Let me tell you a little about Thrivent and their Action Cards.

Who is Thrivent?

Founded in 1902, Thrivent (formerly known as Thrivent Financial for Lutherans) is a not-for-profit financial services organization headquartered in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The membership-owned fraternal benefit society provides a range of financial services, including insurance, investment products, and community support, with a mission to help members live generous lives and serves nearly 2.3 million members across the United States.

With a connection to the Lutheran Church from its inception, many long-time Lutherans have financial products with Thrivent.

Thrivent Action Cards

One of the amazing benefits is that members with Thrivent products can apply for two (2) \$250 Thrivent Action Cards each year. These cards (like a debit gift card) can be used for fundraisers, educational events and service activities—like a school supply drive, buying fleece to make Project Linus blankets, purchasing batting, labels and supplies for Snip 'N Stitch's quilts, etc. Thrivent provides up to \$250 in seed money with each card.

Associate Members

Those who do not have Thrivent products can join and become an Associate Member. This costs only \$20 per year. Associate members can apply for one (1) Thrivent Action Card per year. Imagine you can pay \$20 and access a \$250 Thrivent Action Card that Faith can use to continue building and investing in our community outreach. AMAZING!!

Why Share This Information?

Faith Lutheran Church would like to expand our community outreach, and the Thrivent Action Cards are a relatively easy way to do this. 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. 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.



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!



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

Donation Drop Location at Faith!

The next Donation Drop Off day is Saturday, **March 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



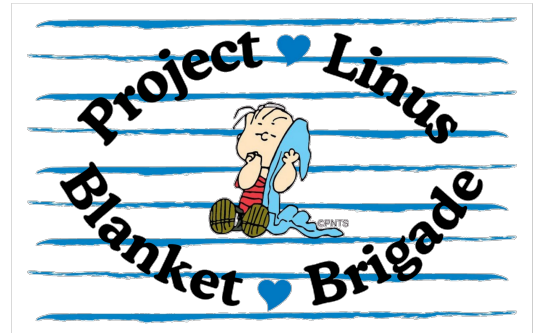
Providing
Security
Through
Blankets



SOLES 4 SOULS

JOIN THE PROJECT LINUS BLANKET BRIGADE

Are you ready to be part of the Blanket Brigade? The next date is Saturday, March 7 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!!



Ladies of Faith... Final Call!!

Women of the ELCA-Pacific Synod 2026 Spring Gathering




Theme: Spreading God's Love
Saturday, March 7, 2026, 9am - 3pm
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
10842 Fury Lane, La Mesa, CA 91941

REGISTER by March 1, 2026. Find forms in the narthex and sign up to carpool.

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John is more than the story of Jesus' life. It's the telling of his message, how the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14) to proclaim God's message of light, life, and love. Join Pastor Ken's Zoom Bible study on Thursday evenings at 7:00 P.M. to learn more about this poetic book of the Bible. Attendance at prior classes is not necessary. You can jump in or out at any time. Contact Pastor Ken at hopegiver@aol.com or 951/775-2778 for log in information.



BIBLE STUDY
Every Thursday during Lent
7:00 pm *via Zoom!*
Contact Pr. Ken at hopegiver@aol.com
for details!

March 2026

March 2026							April 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
29	30	31											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 1 9:30am Worship-Pr. Rex 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	2	3 10:00am Worship & Music	4 5:00pm Lent Soup & Vespers	5 9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 4:00pm Bingo 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	6 10:30am AI-Anon	7 9:00am Donation Drop Off 10:00am Blanket Brigade
8 9:30am Worship-Roderick 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	9	10 10:00am Hymn Planners 10:00am WELCA Board 2:30pm Outreach Team	11 10:00am Mary Circle Bible Study 5:00pm Lent Soup & Vespers	12 4:00pm Cheer/Eucharistic Team 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	13 10:30am AI-Anon	14 10:00am Menifee Children's Business Fair
15 9:30am Worship-Pr. Shane 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	16	17 2:00pm Fellowship Team	18 5:00pm Lent Soup & Vespers 7:00pm Menifee Reads! Book Club	19 9:00am Snip 'N Stitch 2:00pm Menifee Reads! Book Club 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	20 10:00am Stewardship 10:30am AI-Anon	21 1:00pm WELCA Quarterly Meeting 6:00pm Big Band Rehearsal
22 9:30am Worship-Pr. Shane 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	23 Forecaster Deadline	24 6:00pm Call Committee	25 11:00am Finance Team 5:00pm Lent Soup & Vespers	26 7:00pm Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study	27 10:30am AI-Anon	28 9:00am Spring Cleaning
29 Palm Sunday 9:30am Worship-Pr. Shane 12:30pm Grace&Mercy	30 11:00am Council Meeting	31	Apr 1	2	3	4