



Forecaster

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH * DECEMBER 2021



A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

~ Isaiah 40:3-4, Mark 1: 2-3 ~

Dear faithful friends and fellow children of God: Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas! Yes, it's that time of the year again! I think you'll agree with me that time has seemed very strange over the last year and a half. And perhaps to match that strangeness, while I was preparing to write this piece approaching Advent and Christmas, it's not a Christmas Carol or an Advent hymn that came to mind but rather a song from the band Switchfoot. For those of you who have been in my office, you'll see that I have two big posters of Switchfoot memorabilia. They are a local band from San Diego and one of my favorites growing up. The song is called "The Shadow Proves the Sunshine." With that title perhaps you'll see why I chose this song to highlight. Read some of the lyrics below:

Oh Lord, don't be far away	I am crooked souls trying to stay	Two scared little runaways
Storm clouds gathering	up straight	Hold fast to the break of
beside me	Dry eyes in the pouring rain	daylight where
Please Lord, don't look the	where	The shadow proves the
other way	The shadow proves the sunshine	sunshine
	The shadow proves the sunshine	The shadow proves the
		sunshine

As you can see, it is a song about darkness and uncertain futures, but just as much about hopeful ways forward. I think this particular excerpt encapsulates some of our recent experiences, the first verse describing people living in the midst of storm clouds asking God to be close by and not to look away. The second verse is very Lutheran, with the author acknowledging our own confused crookedness, and yet discovering that light is miraculously present. What's more, is that that stormy darkness which seemed overwhelming cannot, in fact, win and only serves to confirm the light.

So Pr. John, what does this all have to do with us? Well, as we know and as I said before, we find ourselves in Advent, the darkest time of the year and a season about waiting and preparing for the coming light of the world on Christmas! And this year, we also continue on in the pandemic with another variant looming its dark and stormy head at us. Sometimes, it may feel like the storm clouds and darkness are overwhelming, the only things we can concentrate on. But that's exactly when God speaks to us, when we hear the words of "Hold fast to the break of daylight where the shadow

proves the sunshine” and “*prepare the way of the Lord.*” Whether we are in the desert wilderness or stormy shores, God is with us. In winter, the days are short and the nights are long, but we have nothing to fear because Christ came in the middle of the night, born into the world of chaos and confusion, out of sight in Bethlehem where it might seem hard to find him. And yet it is Christ who finds us, who hears our cries of “Oh Lord, don’t be far away” answering us by drawing near to us. As it says in John 1:5 “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” God is not just aware of us in darkness, doesn’t just casually stroll through and wave at us, no God sent Jesus to dwell with us in it all. Jesus was born into our darkness, grabbed us by our crooked shoulders, and straightened us up with light and love. We have made it this far by faith and by the grace of God’s guiding light, we will get through the storms and darkness the exact same way. May we remember that this Advent and Christmas season, gaining heart and courage from God, preparing the way of the Lord, and holding on to the break of Christmas daylight. Merry Christmas!

So, until we see each other again: “May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24-26).

Yours in Christ, Pastor John Barton

Worship Schedule FOR DECEMBER 2021

All are welcome to Worship!! December marks the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We hope you will join us for this joyous season of waiting and anticipation of the Birth of Jesus when you are able. Invite a friend!

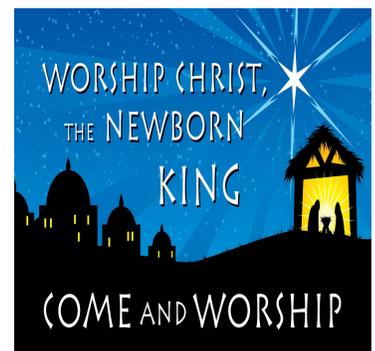
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|--------------------|--|
| December 5 | In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am. The all men’s group, “His Voice” will be singing.
<i>Lighting of Second Advent Candle</i> |
| December 12 | In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
<i>Lighting of Third Advent Candle</i> |
| December 19 | In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
<i>Lighting of Fourth Advent Candle</i> |
| December 24 | <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Communion at 5:00 pm</i> |
| December 26 | In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
<i>Service of Lessons and Carols</i> |

Those hesitant to be in larger crowds may continue to worship by choosing one of the following alternatives:

Radio: in our parking lot still broadcasted **live** on 98.9 FM

Online: at our website, any time after 2:00 pm each Sunday (Christmas Eve Worship will be posted on Christmas Day)

-The Worship & Music Committee





They who wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "Coming" with Christian Theology-the coming or second coming of Christ. Advent is the first season of the Christian church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays. Advent is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also of the preparation of the Second Coming of Christ.

The advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran Minister, Johann Hinrich Wichern, who was working at a missionary for children. He created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. Eventually the Advent Wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. The candles on the Advent Wreath symbolize, Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

We have a few fun things planned in the month of December. December 4th will be our Women of the ELCA Christmas Party-all women will be welcome. Christmas Caroling on December 12th at 2:00pm-meeting at the Church. We will be visiting seven of our church member's homes, and everyone is welcome to this fun activity. A wonderful Candle lighting Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm for everyone to attend, bring your families and neighbors.

Hope, love, joy, and peace be with all of you and your families this Christmas Season. Enjoy the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Cheerfully in Christ,

Kandie Hulme



**Do you like to give Christmas gifts to kids in need?
Well, yeah, who doesn't??**



We are accepting Target gifts cards in any denomination which will then be used to purchase electronic toys for **50...yes, 50 kids** one of our church members works with and helps out. If you are financially able, please help us bring a little extra Christmas cheer to these kids this year! Please get your gift cards to the church office as soon as possible!

FINANCIAL REPORT Ending October 31, 2021



- a. **Offering Envelopes**
 - i) **For the month**, we are on budget at 100.2% (\$12,190 vs \$12,161).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, we are on budget at 100.2% (\$107,916 vs \$107,713).
- b. **Total Income**
 - i) **For the month**, slightly over budget at 103.5% (\$15,216 vs \$14,708).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, above budget at 112.3% (\$151,764 vs \$135,118).
- c. **Expenses**
 - i) **For the month**, under budget at 90.4% (\$14,883 vs \$16,456).
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 96.2% (\$148,708 vs \$154,543).
- d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)
 - i) **For the month**, better than expected at \$333 vs. the expected loss of \$1,748.
 - ii) **Year-to-date**, much better than expected with a profit of \$3,057, vs. the expected loss of \$19,425.
- e. **Checking balance**
 - i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$19,074.
 - ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$18,741.
- f. **Comments**
 - i) Member giving for both the month and YTD are right on budget! Let's keep it up and finish the year strong!
 - ii) Visitor giving (Plate Offerings) is running above expectations.



Prayerfully submitted by Mike McGavran, Treasurer

A Note About 2022 Offering Envelopes

2022 offering envelopes will be ready for pick-up from our church mailboxes in early January. If you are homebound or otherwise unable to stop by the church office to pick them up, they will be delivered to your home. **To help avoid any confusion in record keeping, please discard any remaining 2021 envelopes at the end of December.**



Grace and peace to you, dear women or Faith, in the name of Jesus the Christ – and welcome! Welcome, *all* of you, to any and all of our activities and events!

Circle Bible Study: Women of Advent: We Draw Strength from Our Spiritual Grandmothers will be the focus of our December Circle Bible studies.

Through scripture, prayer and conversation we'll learn more about these four women - **Hannah** (1 Samuel 1-2), **Mary** (Luke 1), **Elizabeth** (Luke 1:8-25, 39-66) and **Anna** (Luk3 2:22-40) – and about ourselves, as well.

Select the Circle Bible study time listed below that is best for you and join us!

Convention & Gathering Update: Our very own Marlene Rosselli was re-elected on November 5th to the Pacifica Women of the ELCA Board for a 1-year term. Congratulations, Mars! The Gathering on the 6th was awesome! Three of us Zoomed in the Luther Library and thoroughly enjoyed the ways in which the theme “Spiritual Disciplines” was woven into and around devotions and prayer, music, and the keynote speakers. **There is still time for YOU to participate in the Love Offering**, which will be sent to **Million Kids** - working to prevent child exploitation. *Make your check out to Faith W-ELCA, with the Memo: Million Kids, and bring or mail it to the church office.*



Christmas Party with a Purpose

Saturday, December 4, 2021 - 10:00am at Church

Our Purpose: Fun, friendship, getting Christmas gifts ready for our homebound members, and writing Christmas card notes to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services' *Hope for the Holidays*. (All materials will be provided.)

Please Bring: One small, wrapped gift for an exchange between ourselves.



Featured: Devotions, Election of W-ELCA Officers, Fellowship-to-Go

Masks and Social Distancing: Because of the recent continued dramatic increase in positive COVID case rates in the city and county, it is necessary that everyone must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, during worship and all other in-person gatherings at Faith Lutheran Church. This policy is necessary for us to continue having in-person gatherings and we appreciate your participation and understanding. If you forget your mask, we're happy to provide one for you.

Coming Up:

- **Faith W-ELCA Christmas Party-With-A-Purpose:** Saturday, **DEC 4th**, 10:00am at Church
- **Pastor John Meets with Circle Bible Study Leaders:** Monday, **DEC 6th**, 1:00pm at Church
- **Mary Circle Bible Study:** Wednesday, **DEC 8th**, 10:00am at Church and Zoom
- **Lydia Circle Bible Study:** Tuesday, **DEC 14th**, 10:00am at Church
- **W-ELCA Board Meeting:** Wednesday, **DEC 15th**, 10:00am at Church

May the gift of faith, the blessings of hope, and the peace of Jesus' love be yours this Advent and Christmas season and always!

Joanne McGavran, W-ELCA President





BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

Dec. 1, 1938	Mimi Houghtaling
Dec. 8, 1948	Bill Brauer
Dec. 10, 1939	Mary Ann Whitford
Dec. 12, 1932	JoAnne Schriock
Dec. 14, 1933	John Neff
Dec. 21, 1929	Iver Linge Jr.
Dec. 22, 1995	Kally Homchick
Dec. 22, 1970	Amy Sinclair
Dec. 24, 1943	Carol Fultz
Dec. 26, 1931	Erma Hinkel
Dec. 28, 1939	Harold Whitford
Dec. 29, 1954	Audie Carr
Dec. 29, 2015	Hunter Holmes
Dec. 31, 1943	Sharon Lawyer
Dec. 31, 1928	Earlean Wagner



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

Dec. 19, 1959	Len & Carol Morris
Dec. 28, 1965	Mike & Joanne McGavran

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 Tuna for December!

Your donations are still welcome and needed! You may 1) Drop your items off at The Cupboard at 26944 Cherry Hills Blvd (951/301-4414). 2) Call Pastor John (949/258-3452) for pick up and delivery! 3) Bring your donations to the church office during our regular hours. When you drop off your donations please inform the Community Cupboard you are from Faith Lutheran. If you are a Thrivent member you may wish to use your Thrivent Action Card to purchase up to \$250.00 of food for the Cupboard. For more information, call David Moe at (951) 230-8493.

Ruth Ditsch - Community Cupboard Liaison





Spotlight on Ministry: Altar Guild

Without the ministry of the Altar Guild, Worship would be very different. Their service to their tasks is a vital part of worship every Sunday. Every Saturday a team of two persons meets at church to prepare the following things by:

- Preparing, setting up the communion elements, then cleaning them up after worship
- Properly dressing the altar with paraments indicative of the church season, refilling candle oil, replacing the Eternal Light Candle and other items as needed
- Cleaning and maintaining the neatness and supplies in chancel and choir loft and dusting the piano and organ
- Setting up the Advent Wreath, Christmas tree and other decorations during the Advent and Christmas seasons, then putting it all away.

We welcome anyone able and interested in serving on this ministry to notify any of the following people who so faithfully serve on the Altar Guild: Kay Espe, Lorna Harrison, Kandie Hulme, Jean Miles, Marlene Rosselli and Sharon Seims. Better yet, why not find a friend to partner with and join together in this most vital ministry?

Marlene Rosselli



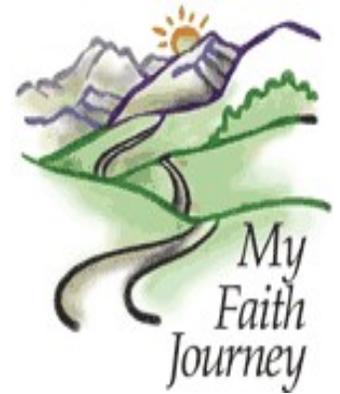
Stewardship Update: 97 tokens were tossed into Ministry Buckets last month.... Yahoo!!! A huge THANK YOU! to all of you who participated and are willing to serve in the Ministry Areas you've chosen. While the buckets and posters are tucked away until next year, you can ALWAYS volunteer! Just **complete the "Faith Journey" sheet** included in this newsletter and bring it to church, pop it in the

mail, or scan and email it to faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com. Or come to a committee meeting or planning session and learn more about what's happening – you are always welcome! Or call the church office – Lynn will help steer you in the right direction.

A huge **SHOUT OUT**, too, goes to all of you who completed and returned your **Financial Pledge Cards**. If that slipped your mind, no worries. You may bring or mail them to church as you are able.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, dear Family of Faith, for the faithful and generous giving of your love, time, energy, and resources throughout 2021 to our ministry here at Faith and beyond our doors! **Keep up the good work as you continue to "Let Your Light Shine" to the Glory of God!**

What Will Your Faith Journey Be At Faith Lutheran Church?



Date: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all [people]."
-- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)

Our church is run by volunteers under the guidance of our dear Pastor John Barton. As such, there are many areas where you could use your gifts to the Glory of God. Below you will find where volunteers are utilized in our church, and a place to fill in other ways in which you'd like to serve. Please peruse the following lists and mark areas you might have an interest in. Perhaps you are not sure where your gifts would fit into the many ministries that we have established here at Faith Lutheran Church. To help with that we would like to get to know you better:

Are you currently employed? ___ or retired? ___ What type of work? _____

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy? _____

Do you have other Volunteer commitments? _____

If you do know where you want to use your gifts, please place a mark by the places you have an interest in, or are currently working in. Regardless, **please return this form to the Church Office. THANK YOU!**

Church Leadership

_____ Council Member & Committee Liaison _____ Council Vice President _____ Council Treasurer
_____ Council President _____ Council Secretary _____ Council Recorder

Clerical/Computer Skills

_____ Assemble Bulletins _____ Assist in Church Office _____ Computer Work at Home
_____ Help with Mailings _____ Help Out During Vacations _____ Restock Pew Supplies

Creative Skills

_____ Arts and Crafts _____ Event Decorating _____ Photography/Video _____ Music - Singing or Instrument

Education Ministry

_____ Committee Member _____ Sunday School Teacher _____ Adult Class Leader
_____ Committee Chair _____ Sunday School Assistant _____ Special Children's Activities
_____ Cradle Roll

Fellowship Ministry

Committee Member Youth Activities Event Planning
 Committee Chair Sign-Ups/Ticket Sales Telephone Calls/E-mails
 Sunday Fellowship Hour Volunteer

Finance Ministry

Committee Member Committee Chair Offering Counter Financial Secretary

Men of the ELCA (for ALL men)

Bible Study Group Bible Study Leader Treasurer

Outreach Ministry

Committee Member Sponsor New Members Contact New Visitors
 Committee Chair MSJC Campus Ministry Community Outreach

Property Ministry

Committee Member Electrical Clean-Up
 Committee Chair Garbage Pick-Up Day Painting
 Plumbing Repairs / Maintenance Woodworking

Services to Our Homebound

Committee Member Cheer Visitor (in person or phone) Provide Transportation
 Committee Chair Prayer Chain Coordinator Altar Flowers to Homebound
 Eucharistic Minister

Stewardship Ministry

Committee Member Committee Chair Event Planning

Women of the ELCA {WELCA} (for ALL women)

Bible Study Leader WELCA President WELCA Treasurer
 Circle Member WELCA Vice President WELCA Event Planner
 Circle Leader WELCA Secretary Snip 'n Stitch Quilting Group

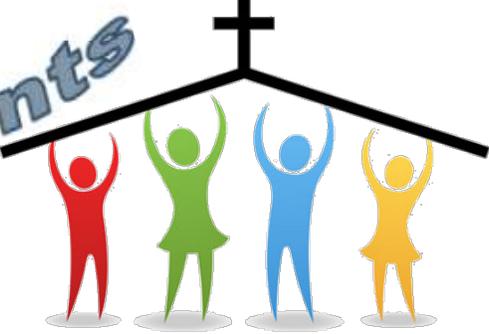
Worship and Music Ministry

Committee Member Communion Server Choir Member
 Committee Chair Lector Song Leader / Soloist
 Altar Guild Greeter Instrumental Musician
 Worship Volunteer Coordinator Usher Audio/Visual Operator
 Assisting Minister Head Usher Hymn Planning

Other Ways I'd Like to Serve:

Worship Assistants

December



Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Power Point
5th: Roderick Sinclair	5th: Marilyn Reiti	5th: Judy Appel	5th: Mike McGavran
12th: Harold Whitford	12th: Amy Sinclair	12th: Kandie Hulme	12th: Sarge Hunter
19th: Marlene Rosselli	19th: Andrew Quinn	19th: Erma Hinkel	19th: Lynn Bennett
24 th (Christmas Eve): Joanne McGavran	24 th (Christmas Eve): David Moe	24 th (Christmas Eve): Annie Misko	24 th (Christmas Eve): Michael McGavran
26th: None	26th: Marlene Rosselli & Roderick Sinclair	26th: Marlene Rosselli	26th: Sarge Hunter
Greeters (all month): Rudy & Evelyn Bosinger Attendance (all month): Kandie Hulme		Altar Guild: All members of Altar Guild and anyone who wants to help.	



With the shrubs having been trimmed and the backflow issue behind us we're looking forward to decorating for Christmas! Sarge and I got the banners put on the "Monument" up by the sidewalk on Portsmouth and will be joining others to decorate on December 4th.

In my dreams I see a beautiful park behind the Church in place of the weed field!

Merry Christmas! May there be Peace on Earth!

Respectfully, Harold Whitford, Property Committee Chair



WELCOME

new members



Ron Biggs
25881 Lancaster Dr.
Sun City, CA 92586
(951) 526-3431 cell

Thelma Dyal
28220 Chula Vista Dr.
Menifee, CA 92586
951-288-1583 cell



Connie Gibson
26224 Leos Trail
Menifee, CA 92586
(951) 679-2848 home
(909) 635-4497 cell
cgibson902@live.com

Diane Swarts
26118 Desert Rose Ln.
Menifee, CA 92586
(949) 500-7986 cell
dswarts13@verizon.net



- If you are not currently receiving the **Forecaster via Email** and would like to, please email your request to the Church Office at FaihtLutheranMenifee@gmail.com.
- If you would like to **receive Prayer Chain emails or phone calls**, please notify the Church Office. **To request prayer**, please contact Lynn Bennett at 909-553-5080 or faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com.

Faith Lutheran Church

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Menifee, CA 92586

Office Phone: (951) 679-1518 **Pastor John's Direct Phone:** (949) 258-3452

Email: FaihtLutheranMenifee@gmail.com **Website:** www.faihtmenifee.com

Church Office Hours:

Tues & Thurs 8:30am-5:00pm

Fri 8:30am-12:30pm

Our Staff:

Pastor: Rev. John Barton

Email: prfaithmenifee@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Lynn Bennett

Email: FaihtLutheranMenifee@gmail.com

December 2021

January 2022

December 2021

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

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4
Asst Min: Roderick Sinclair Lector: Marilyn Rieti 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome! 10:30am Decorate the	10:00am Mutual Ministry-Ruth's House		9:30am Bible Study Leaders Meeting	9:30am Hymn Planners-Zoom 3:00pm Call to Prayer & Worship-Phone or Zoom	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	9:00am Altar Guild (all who can attend)-In Person 10:00am Faith W-ELCA Christmas Party-With-A-Purpose
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Asst Min: Roderick Sinclair Lector: Marilyn Rieti 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome! 10:30am Decorate the	10:00am Mutual Ministry-Ruth's House	10:00am Lydia Circle-In Person at Church 2:00pm Endowment Board	10:00am Mary Circle-In Person & Zoom 1:30pm Stewardship-In Person & Zoom	10:00am Dialogues on Race FollowUp-In Person & Zoom 2:00pm Bible Study-In Person and Zoom	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	10:00am Altar Guild (all who can attend)-In Person
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Asst Min: Harold Whitford Lector: Amy Sinclair 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome! 2:00pm Christmas	1:00pm Exec Board-In Person & Zoom	10:00am Lydia Circle-In Person at Church 2:00pm Endowment Board	10:00am WELCA Board-In Person 10:00am Worship & Music-In Person & Zoom	3:00pm Call to Prayer & Worship-Phone & Zoom	10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	10:00am Altar Guild (all who can attend)-In Person
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Asst Min: Marlene Rosselli Lector: Andrew Quinn 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome!	2:00pm Remembering & Honoring-In Person	10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group - Church	1:00pm Finance Team-Zoom	Forecaster Deadline 2:00pm Bible Study-In Person and Zoom	Asst Min: Joanne McGavran Lector: David Moe 10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall 5:00pm Candlelight	Christmas Day (United States)
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 22
Lectors: Marlene Rosselli & Roderick Sinclair 9:30am Lessons & Carols for Worship-ALL are Welcome!	1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom				New Year's Eve (United States) 10:30am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	