



Forecaster

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH * SEPTEMBER 2021



Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

~Isaiah 35: 4-6~

Dear faithful friends and fellow children of God:

I started my Forecaster message back in July talking about the receding of the pandemic and its restrictions. At the time it seemed like we were finally seeing the end of this terrible period in our lives, that we would continue in the trajectory of lifting restrictions and getting on with our lives, regaining some sense of normalcy. The feelings we all had, the desire for and sample of lifted stresses and restrictions seem bizarre now that things have taken steps back into more restrictions. On top of that, there have been plenty of other events featured in the news and looming in the back of our minds; things like natural disasters and troubling ends to global conflicts. It seems like we have received some sort of social and emotional whiplash, moving in a good direction only to be snapped back the way we had just come from. This kind of whiplash is painful, confusing, and discouraging. And yet...

And yet, the Lord tells us: "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God!" Not in some heaven light-years away; our God is right here, amidst the whiplash, among our beloved community of Faith Lutheran Church, and every other community around the globe which might have reason to have fearful hearts. God knows our hearts, God knows our frustrations and even grief around being pulled back into mask mandates and postponements and precautions. God dwells with us in all of the swirling emotions dealing with the world today, acute crises which spike our anxiety, as well as the long-term effects of a pandemic that has spanned over 17 months.

God equips us to cope with all of this, giving us tools and even turning the tables on bad situations to provide us with valuable lessons learned for the future. For example: We have developed and adapted new patterns and routines and strategies of living over the last year and a half especially, not to speak of all of our experience developed over our lifetime. It will all serve us well to remember the training we have garnered from the ordeals of life.

Faith and our faith community. When the world seems to feel distant, know that God draws closer to you. So, too, you should draw closer to God and your fellow children of God. Even as we maintain social distancing, don't drift away from your faith or community of faith. Lean in.

Hope springs eternal in God. The author and bringer of hope, God gives hope when we feel our most angry, worn out, and shaken. When there's nothing left in our tanks, God ALWAYS provides us with hope. God interweaves and splices hope into the reality we find ourselves in and into the real expectations of precautions and actions for safety. We have and are going through traumatic times in our individual and collective lives; that's real. And so is the hope God gives us, hope and eagerness for the normalcy we got a taste of back in July, hope for when that is no longer

a short reprieve but rather the new reality we inhabit. If God can open the eyes of the blind, make the deaf to hear, and the lame to leap, then God can get us through any crisis we encounter. God will lead the way, will take each of us by the hand, pulling us out from anxiousness and replacing fearful hearts with ones that shout for joy. That day will come, this is most certainly true.

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 SEPTEMBER 2021

Psalm 84: 2 & 10 – My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord...For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Hoping to see you in our humble "courts of the Lord" when you attend worship.
Bring a friend!!

September 5 In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
Guest Preacher: Pastor Rex Wignall

September 12 In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
Guest Preacher: Pastor Rex Wignall

September 19 In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
Guest Preacher: Pastor Rex Wignall

September 26 In-Person (and Drive-In) Worship & Communion at 9:30 am
(Pastor John returns)

Communion is now being administered using individual containers which are on the table in the Narthex immediately to the left of the entry door. Each has a small wafer on top under a purple - colored plastic film and a second lid over the grape juice. Remove the top first "take and eat" and the second lid to "take and drink". Small napkins are provided to use in case of any leaks or spills. Dispose of the containers as you exit the sanctuary.

Trouble reading the monitors? Remember you may print your own paper version from the website (faithmenifee.com) and bring it with you on Sunday morning as a bulletin.

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

Radio: in our parking lot broadcasted live on 98.9 FM at 9:30 am

Online: at our website, any time after 2:00 pm each Sunday

USPS: Receive a paper copy of the service via mail

-The Worship & Music Committee

**God's work.
Our hands.**



In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

Bishop Eaton invites us to "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday, September 12th. She states that this annual day of service is an opportunity for us to celebrate who we are as the ELCA-one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors.

Church Council wants to make hygiene kits for the homeless this year. We will be passing door hangers out to our neighbors with information about our church and our service project. Donations will be so welcomed-please bring your items to the church. We will have boxes in the fellowship hall. The following travel size items are some suggestions for donations to our kits:

Toothpaste

Razors

Dental floss

Lotion

Mouthwash

Washcloths

Shampoo

Socks

Hair conditioner

Applesauce

Comb/brush set

Granola Bars

Deodorant

Fruit snack

Powder

Crackers with peanut butter or cheese

On the 12th after church, we would appreciate volunteers to help assemble our kits and place in zip lock bags. We will be delivering some of them to the police station, but we can also keep some in our cars and give out to someone in need. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Cheerfully in Christ,

Gale Eury and Kandie Hulme, co-Presidents

HYGIENE KIT



FINANCIAL REPORT Ending July 31, 2021

a. **Offering Envelopes**

- i) **For the month**, we are significantly above budget at 127.2% (\$10,333 vs \$8,124).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, we are just over budget at 101.8% (\$76,291 vs \$74,919).

b. **Total Income**

- i) **For the month**, significantly above budget at 131.7% (\$13,151 vs \$10,283).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, well above budget at 117.2% (\$111,722 vs \$95,366).

c. **Expenses**

- i) **For the month**, under budget at 95.7% (\$14,515 vs \$15,168).
- ii) **Year-to-date**, under budget at 95.5% (\$102,960 vs \$107,826).

d. **Net Operating Income** (Total Income minus Expenses)

- i) **For the month**, we had a small loss of \$974 vs. the expected loss of \$4,886.
- ii) **Year-to-date**, much better than expected with a profit of \$8,763, vs. the expected loss of \$12,460.

e. **Checking balance**

- i) **Balance at Month-end** is \$24,768.
- ii) **Previous Month-end balance** was \$25,729.

f. **Comments**

- i) July Member giving was above budget for the second month in a row. As a result, our YTD member giving is now slightly over budget at 101.8%. In-person Worship services seems to be helping our finances.
- ii) YTD Total Income and Net Operating Income are way above budget due to \$15,000 in Special Offerings from deceased members earlier this year.



Prayerfully submitted by Mike McGavran, Treasurer





Dear Spirit-filled Women of Faith,

September, the beginning of fall, with all its beautiful colors and bountiful harvest is here!

Our fall Bible studies include three sessions on the gift of the Spirit. Celtic Christians likened the Holy Spirit not to a dove, but to a goose. In these three sessions of the **fall Gather Bible study**, the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith, associate pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa, will lead us on our own divine Wild Goose chase. We'll track the Holy Spirit's actions throughout the Bible and throughout our lives. We'll explore how the Spirit moves God's people into adventures and lives we would never dare risk on our own.

The Holy Spirit might be the most misunderstood or mysterious member of the Trinity, but the Spirit of scripture is not shy. In **September's Session 1, "Spirit of God: Revealer and Resource"**, we'll uncover the bold, truth-telling Spirit active in our lives. After a quick review of the mystery of the Trinity, we'll read parts of Jesus' farewell discourse, and hear how the Spirit continues to reveal the truth of Jesus to us and to the world. We'll discuss how the gift of the Holy Spirit is a resource for God's people, giving us power we need to do God's work. **Select the time that's best for you, and join in the conversation!** Circle Bible studies meet the second Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. **See the calendar below and come – you are ALWAYS welcome!!**

Thank you to Pastor John for leading our August 11th All Circles Bible Study in the third and final session of "Just L.I.F.E. (Liberation is for Everyone)! 13 women met in the sanctuary, and 2 on Zoom. We began with a quick review of Session 1: "Just Wisdom", which would guide us into all truth, Session 2: "Just Truth", even when challenging, and Session 3: "Just Hope" – now is the perfect time for hope! Christ is our hope and bigger than our human situation.

In July our **Lydia Circle Bible study** met at Pacifica Senior Living. To better accommodate our several Faith members now living there, Lydia Circle will continue meeting at Pacifica. Call Kandie Hulme (951-244-7641) if you wish to meet at church and go together to Pacifica. **Mary Circle** will continue to meet at church – in person and on Zoom.

COMING UP:

W-ELCA Board Meeting: Wednesday, **SEPT 1**, 11:00am at Church and Zoom

Mary Circle Bible Study: Wednesday, **SEPT 8**, 10:00am at Church and Zoom

Lydia Circle Bible Study: Tuesday, **SEPT 14**, 10:00am at Pacifica Senior Living

Pacifica W-ELCA Convention: Friday, **NOV 5**, 6:30-8:30pm on Zoom (Elections & Business)

Pacifica W-ELCA Gathering: Saturday, **NOV 6**, 1:00-4:00pm on Zoom (Worship/Speakers/More)

Faith W-ELCA Christmas Party-With-A-Purpose: Saturday, **DEC 4th**, 10:00am-noon at Church

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. (Romans 8:26)

One in the Spirit with you!

Pat Olson, Faith W-ELCA Vice President

“CALL” TO PRAYER & WORSHIP

- Are you one of the many members who does not have internet?
- Do you still have a land line telephone or just a cell phone but no internet?
- Do you have these services, but are not a fan of Zoom??
- Still not quite ready to be around others in light of the COVID virus?

Then this is the small group for you! “Call” to Prayer & Worship was set up *especially* for those who wanted some contact with other members but did not have internet access as well as those who are homebound and cannot attend worship or participate in worship online. All you need to do is phone (“CALL”) in to participate!! It is a kind of conference call. Easy!

This is our format:

- Quick introductions and catch-up time
- Prayer requests
- Musical parts of the worship service
- Scripture and a question to answer if you are so moved
- A hymn or other musical selection
- Closing prayer that includes our requests

Please consider joining us the ***First and Third Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm***. We meet no longer than one hour. This month we meet September 2nd and 16th. It is a meditative and spiritually uplifting experience. It can also connect you with others from church. Directions for “calling” are below.

P.S. We can only facilitate this via Zoom, but it is primarily set up for those who use the phone. Do not be intimidated by this method of contact. I will be happy to walk anyone through the process if you call me. It works great! Marlene Rosselli – Home: 951-246-0590 or Cell: 805-405-6938

Join using your Regular Telephone:

- Call the number **(408) 638-0968**.
- Enter the meeting ID number: **804 657 8088** and **press pound (#)**.
- Ignore voice request and **press pound (#)** again.
- You're there, wait for the host to let you in.





August (as hot as it was) turned out to be a good time to paint! Dan Alvarez and his company (California Paintworks) painted all the dark brown on the exterior of the building with a weather resistant low sheen latex paint. Wanting to help, I painted the wrought iron hand rails at the front doors and up the steps to the street.

Still needing attention are the A/C units on the roof and the shrubbery in front of and down the north side.

The condition of the roof is questionable. We'll know if it ever rains!

-Respectfully, Harold Whitford, Property Committee Chair



Hunger Never Rests!

**The Menifee Valley Community Cupboard is in need of
Canned Chicken/Tuna for September!**

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

- If you are not currently receiving the *Forecaster* via Email and would like to, please email your request to the Church Office at FaithLutheranMenifee@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.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

To

Sept. 5, 1937	Ray Fenstermacher
Sept. 8, 1941	Gina Howe
Sept. 9, 1992	Valerie Holmes
Sept. 11, 1942	Lou Anne Fraser
Sept. 11, 1946	Sharon Seims
Sept. 15, 1942	Linda Blanche
Sept. 17, 1938	David Moe
Sept. 18, 1982	Christina Peteroski
Sept. 19, 2019	Danielle Barton
Sept. 19, 1933	Ellie Nony
Sept. 20, 1929	Emily Rasmussen
Sept. 27, 1940	Ed Fultz
Sept. 29, 2013	Emma Peteroski



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

To

Sept. 29, 2018 Pastor John & Sarah Barton

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



The Endowment Board



The Endowment Board would like to share some wonderful news with the congregation! In July, the Board awarded scholarships to two outstanding applicants from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Charbel Zgheib and Samantha LaDue. Their combined scholarships totaled \$2500. Then, thanks to a helpful administrator at PLTS, the Board learned that it was possible to apply for matching funds for those students through a program known as Congregational Partners in Education (CPE). After submitting the necessary forms, the Board members were pleased to learn that Charbel's and Samantha's accounts would be credited with the matching funds. Overnight, Faith's \$2500 in awarded scholarships had turned into \$5000, and those two students had received extra encouragement in their quest to follow God's call. Thanks be to God!

-Pat Adams, Chair of the Faith Endowment Board



Spotlight on Ministry: WOMEN OF THE ELCA (W-ELCA)

GIVING GENEROUSLY OF THEMSELVES TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: FAITH, GIVING, EXHORTATION, SERVICE

Something happens when women of God come together! Actually, SomeONE happens – the Holy Spirit! Whether it's over a cup of coffee in Bible study, at the quilt-tying table, in a planning session, scrubbing the kitchen sink, or wherever "two or three are gathered in Jesus' name", (Matt. 18:20) Jesus is there among us – strengthening our relationships with each other and with our generous, loving God. If you are not already participating in W-ELCA, we urge you to give it a try! Feeling a bit shy about jumping in or have questions? Call the church office and Lynn will connect you with the right person. ALL women are welcome at ALL of our W-ELCA activities! Check the *Forecaster* each month for what's happening, and jump in. You'll love it!

OCTOBER 3RD HAS BEEN SET ASIDE AS WOMEN OF THE ELCA THANKOFFERING SUNDAY. Thankofferings, given in thanksgiving for the many ways in which God blesses us, are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. Some set aside small amounts at home throughout the year. Others choose, as do we, to include **the entire congregation** by having an Annual Thankoffering Service so that everyone may give their special offerings of thanks. **WHERE WILL OUR THANKOFFERING DOLLARS GO?** They will be sent directly to Churchwide Women of the ELCA, in support of their ongoing ministries such as online and printed communications, justice and advocacy work, leadership training and development, grants and scholarship programs, and so much more. (Go to womenoftheelca.org for more info.)

HOW DO WE CONTRIBUTE? Look for the little blue envelope in your church mailbox. Bring it with you on October 3rd - or mail or bring it to the church as you are able. Make your **CHECK PAYABLE** to **FAITH LUTHERAN W-ELCA**, and **WRITE THANKOFFERING ON THE MEMO LINE**. Thanks and praise be to God, from whom ALL blessings flow!

Faith Lutheran Church

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Menifee, CA 92586

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

Email: FaithLutheranMenifee@gmail.com **Website:** www.faithmenifee.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: FaithLutheranMenifee@gmail.com

September 2021

September 2021

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	

October 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 29 Asst. Minister: Marlene Rosselli Guest Preacher: Pastor Rex Wignall Lector: Bill Brauer 9:30am Worship-ALL	30 Labor Day (United States)	31 9:30am Bible Study Leaders Meeting 11:00am WELCA Board-At Church and Zoom	Sep 1 9:30am Hymn Planners-Zoom 4:00pm Call to Prayer & Worship-Phone or Zoom	2 9:30am Hymn Planners-Zoom 4:00pm Call to Prayer & Worship-Phone or Zoom	3 10:15am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	4 10:15am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
5 Asst. Minister: Marlene Rosselli Guest Preacher: Pastor Rex Wignall Lector: Bill Brauer 9:30am Worship-ALL	6 Labor Day (United States)	7 10:00am Lydia Circle-Pacifica Senior Living 2:00pm Cheer Visitation-In Person & Zoom	8 10:00am Mary Circle-In Person & Zoom	9 2:00pm Bible Study-In Person	10 10:15am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	11 10:15am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
12 Asst. Minister: Joanne McGavran Guest Preacher: Pastor Rex Wignall Lector: Marilyn Reiti 9:30am Worship-ALL	13 1:00pm Exec Board-In Person & Zoom	14 10:00am Lydia Circle-Pacifica Senior Living 2:00pm Cheer Visitation-In Person & Zoom	15 1:00pm Finance Team-Zoom	16 4:00pm Call to Prayer & Worship-Phone & Zoom	17 10:15am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	18 10:15am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
19 Asst. Minister: Roderick Sinclair Guest Preacher: Pastor Rex Wignall Lector: Madison 9:30am Worship-ALL	20 10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group - Church	21 10:00am 4 Plus 1 Group - Church	22 10:00am Stewardship-In Person & Zoom 1:00pm Finance - Zoom	23 Forecaster Deadline 2:00pm Bible Study-In Person	24 10:15am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall	25 10:15am Al-Anon - Fellowship Hall
26 Asst. Minister: Marlene Rosselli Lector: Valerie Holmes 9:30am Worship-ALL are Welcome!	27 1:00pm Council-In Person & Zoom	28 10:00am Remembering & Honoring-In Person	29 10:00am Remembering & Honoring-In Person	30 10:00am Remembering & Honoring-In Person	Oct 1	2