

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the ELCA

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Email: faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com

Guest Pastor: Pr. Shane Freiberg

OFFICE HOURS: Tues & Thurs 8:30 - 5:00; Fri 8:30 - 12:30

Worship Plan for Sunday, October 26, 2025 * Reformation Sunday

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, where grace and love abound. While we wait and prepare for a new pastor, we invite you to participate fully in the vibrant life of the congregation, and to join us in prayer as we continue to serve God and God's people during this time of transition.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Enriching lives through faith and God's grace.

MEMBERS & GUESTS: Please fill out a worship attendance card found in the pew racks. Prayer requests may be included on the reverse side for one Sunday or bulletin publication.

INVITATION TO BAPTISM: We would like to extend to you the blessing of Baptism and encourage you to contact the church office to be baptized.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Christ is truly present through the power of God's Holy Spirit. We invite everyone to come forward and be renewed in the covenant God made with us in our baptism. All are gladly invited and welcome. If, in coming forward, you choose not to receive the Sacrament, we ask you to fold your hands over your chest so you may receive a pastoral blessing. The Sacrament will be brought to those unable to come forward to the altar (notify an usher). Available upon request: gluten-, wheat-, corn-, dairy-, and soy-free wafers.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNION: Families are encouraged to come to the rail together during the distribution. Children may receive Communion or a special blessing from the Pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School for children of all ages is immediately following the Children's Chat.

CELL PHONES: Please silence your cell phones before Worship.

Following worship, ALL are invited to join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Introduction to the day

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: Home, Sweet Home

Whether you have lived in several places or very few, you probably have a method for transforming a space to live into a home. Maybe you put family photos on the walls, set out mementos, or spread a favorite quilt on the bed. These touches are important if we want to feel like we belong in a new space.

Jesus offered the gift of belonging to people who newly believed in him, but they had a hard time accepting it. He said if they would continue, or abide, in his word, they would be his disciples, know his truth, and be set free. They would receive the gift of belonging to his household forever.

To us the listeners' response is surprising, as if the new believers had shut their ears as soon as they heard Jesus say, "The truth will make you free." They didn't want to accept that there was anything they needed to be set free from. On a deeper level, they didn't want to believe that someone else would need to set them free. Jesus' words invite us to reflect on where our freedom comes from, and where we belong, as his disciples.

On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate how the Holy Spirit is constantly reforming the church, the community of Jesus' disciples. We give thanks for the gospel message that Jesus saves us from sin and death through his cross and resurrection. We don't have to earn our salvation; we can simply trust that Jesus is the one who makes it possible. That's how we receive genuine freedom—as a gift of God's grace. Thanks to Jesus, we have a permanent home. No matter how many times we move, we abide with Jesus forever. This festival day encourages us to keep listening to Jesus' word, growing in faith as his disciples, and giving thanks that with him, we are always at home.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” sung by The Good and Beautiful Children

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AM: WELCOME

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church where grace and love abound. A special welcome to those of you here for the first time, to those joining us online, and to our guest pastor, Pr. Shane Freiberg. As we highlight our Stewardship theme of “All Creatures Great and Small”, we pray that God will increase our awareness of God’s abundant generosity, and lovingly nudge us into asking ourselves, “What can I do to help make a positive difference here at Faith and beyond our doors?” While our Spirit-filled Call Committee continues the search for a permanent pastor, the life and purpose of our congregation move ahead full-force. Multiple opportunities are offered here at church and out in the community. Say YES to God’s gentle nudge! All are ALWAYS welcome!

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by Mike and Joanne McGavran, celebrating Gregg's birthday.

Today we will be writing the names of loved ones – family friends, neighbors – who have passed on to be with the Lord, on small colored sticky notes. These will be assembled onto a cross for remembrance on November 2nd, All Saints Day. Stop by the table in the Narthex to add as many names of those you wish to honor.

This Saturday, November 1st is Donation Drop Off day! We are open to the public from 9:00-12:00, so please stop by and drop off donations of (new) blankets for Project Linus, eyeglasses for Lions Club, Soles4Souls shoes, and clean towels and blankets (no batting) for Animal Friends of the Valleys.

Next Sunday, November 2nd is Stewardship Pledge Sunday. Be sure to bring your completed pledge cards with you to church.

Flyers for the Free Holiday Family Photo event are available in the Narthex for you to share with all your friends and families. This **free** holiday photo opportunity on Nov 9 and Nov 16 is specifically for **NEW** visitors and families.

All Faith's current regular attendees / families can schedule to get a free holiday photo on Sunday, Nov 2 or other photo days. Please sign up for a scheduled time slot in the Narthex. One (1) digital photo shot and/or (1) printed photo shot will be available for pick up about 2 weeks after being taken.

This quarter (October - December) your Outreach Committee is collecting the following items for MilVet: Chewing gum (individually wrapped packs) and beef sticks (individually wrapped). The items will be used at MilVet's monthly packing event, where boxes are packed and sent to deployed military. Please show your love and support! The donation box is in the Narthex.

Ladies, this year's Pacifica WELCA gathering is November 14th-15th and will be held at Clairemont Lutheran in San Diego. Registration and Scholarship forms are on the table in the narthex, along with suggested hotel information. For questions, contact Joanne McGavran.

For October, we are collecting stuffing, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office.

AM: We are in the middle of our Stewardship campaign and will now hear from Robert Posey about why he pledges.

P: SILENCE

Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

P: GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: O God, how manifold are your works!

C: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

P: The world is bright and beautiful, and yet full of shadows.

C: We will not live in fear, but in courage, for God is our shepherd.

P: Together we can care for each other, loving our neighbors so that all might thrive.

**C: Together we can make a difference for all God's creatures, great and small.
Come let us worship God!**

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 504

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)

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P: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

P: PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

P: WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

In Jeremiah 17:1, the prophet speaks of the sin of Judah being etched in stone with a diamond- tipped pen of iron. In this lesson, the prophet asserts that God will cut a new covenant with his people, not written on parchment or etched in stone, but written on the human heart. God will bestow not only the desire but the power to do his will. This new covenant will be intrinsic rather than external. It will not be a covenant of judgment but of grace (v. 34).

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

If I were to ask any of you to name the hymn that is most closely associated with Luther and the Reformation, we would probably all say that is “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” Would you be surprised that there is a legend that Luther first conceived of this hymn in a Bavarian tavern? The tune to this church hymn is *Ein feste burg*, in English, “a strong fortress.” Luther used this tune, with the opening lines of psalm 46, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.”

Once Luther discovered that his relationship with God was based on the actions of Jesus and not his ability to please God, his life was far more secure and his self-image far more positive. Instead of seeing God as an angry judge who was going to blast him for any transgression, enormous or minuscule, God was the refuge to whom he could turn when he needed help.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Paul lifts out the purpose of the law: to make us aware of our sins and our need for grace. No person can be described as righteous and acceptable to God by keeping the law of God. Nobody can earn salvation from keeping the law, since no one can observe it completely. The person who breaks part of it, is deemed guilty of it all. The good news proclaims that the righteousness of God is available to all people as a gift of grace. This righteousness becomes possible through Christ's sacrifice. Through faith, we are declared by God as righteous and acceptable to God. Paul is anxious to establish not only our righteousness through the gospel but God's righteousness. The sacrifice of Jesus shows that God takes sin seriously and dealt with it decisively through the cross (vv. 25-26).

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

“The truth will make you free.” What an appropriate Gospel reading for Reformation Sunday!

What frees us? Not our works. Not groveling before God. Not institutions, whether political or religious. Only the truth. Jesus promises His hearers that if those who believe remain in His word, they will know the truth, and the truth will make them free. Just as Nicodemus thought that Jesus is talking about physical birth and the Samaritan woman thinks that Jesus is talking about literal water, the listening Judeans immediately assume that Jesus is suggesting that they are slaves who need to be freed from their earthly masters.

P: GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 858

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (ELW 858)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

AM: APOSTLE'S CREED

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy

Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

PASTOR AND ASSISTING MINISTER: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill, especially Briana; Ian Berger; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Mike Latchford; Don Little; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Kiki Thomas; Nicholas Thomas; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those on the Call Committee who shall discern a pastor for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

P: OFFERING

I have something of a trick question for you: what do we put in the plates at the entrance to the sanctuary each week? The answer is money, right? Checks and bills, a coin or two – that's true enough. But what is money, anyway, these special pieces of paper? Money is a symbol for *value* – so that's one answer to what we put into those plates: we fill them with *value*. But let's go one more step: what we value here at Faith Lutheran and what we invest in when we give to Faith Lutheran is *love*. It's loving God and neighbor, not just sentimentally, but also practically, putting our love into action. Therefore, what do we fill these plates with each week? *LOVE IN ACTION*. This morning's offering will now be brought forward during the Musical Offering and lifted up to God.

Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Victory in Jesus* (sung by The Band Steele)

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AM: OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

P: GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ALL SING)

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

P: THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and

suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION

As you are comfortable, you are invited to come forward to receive communion. All of God's children are welcome to Christ's table. Gather at the altar rail to receive the communion elements or if you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may commune yourself once you've received the communion elements. Please hold out your hands to receive the bread from the Pastor. Then pick up a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the Communion Server. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets/trays on your way back to your seat unless they are

collected at the altar. If you would like communion brought to you at your seat, indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

P: INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

DURING DISTRIBUTION: *Come to the Table*

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As the Grains of Wheat (ELW 465)

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Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life (ELW 472)

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P: COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

Communion Dismissal

AM: PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

P: BLESSING

O God, how manifold are your works! Let us now go in peace into God's world to love and serve, caring for all God's creatures, great and small. In the name of the Creator, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Amen.

P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 652

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Built on a Rock* (ELW 652)

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AM: INVITATION

We would like to invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that our council members can welcome you, and you can join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

AM: DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace, loving and caring for all God's creatures great and small.
Thanks be to God for all of them!!

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Monday, the 27th: Council meets at 1:00

Friday, the 31st: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, Nov. 1st: Donation Drop Off is open from 9am – 12pm

Sunday, Nov. 2nd: Stewardship Pledge Sunday and All Saints Day! Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rex

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joanne

LECTOR: Mars

COMMUNION SERVER: Sandy

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Becky

ATTENDANCE: Kandie

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Mars, Diane M.

SOUND: Mars

LIVE STREAM: Madeline

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The
truth
will make
you
free

JOHN 8:32



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Church electronically, you may use one
of the below QR codes.



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