# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH A Congregation of the ELCA

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Sun City, CA 92586 \* (951) 679-1518 Email: faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com

**Guest Pastor: Pr. Ken Anderson** 

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

### Worship Plan for Sunday, July 27, 2025\* Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

**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. We are currently on summer break.

**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

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

### **GOSPEL MESSAGE: Our Prayer**

The disciples' request that Jesus teach them to pray reveals a touching vulnerability. Jesus responds with an invitation into a prayer brimming with gratitude and expectation for the care and intimacy of the divine Parent. While the Lord's Prayer may be familiar, each time we pray it, it still possesses the grace to speak a new word to us and draw forth a desire we were not aware of. Martin Luther felt that Christians who prayed the Lord's Prayer each day, or even portions of it, could be certain their prayer would be more than adequate.

The Lord's Prayer is not the prayer of an individual but of a collective. The prayer begins with "Our Father," not "My Father," and petitions God to address *our* hunger, *our* sins, and *our* practice of forgiveness. Prayer of all kinds, including the Lord's Prayer, is not simply a private conversation between God and an individual, but a unique harmony in the immense choir of those set free in Jesus. Every time we turn our hearts to God in prayer, we do so with and alongside the entire body of Christ.

It's easy in our culture today to dismiss prayer or to trivialize it as empty wishes. And when prayer is offered as a cynical gesture in response to real pain and suffering, such dismissal seems understandable. But the truly countercultural nature of our prayer is our trust that God receives and responds to our praise, petition, and lament, that our persistence and perseverance in prayer are not in vain. The God who gives us our daily bread, forgives us our sins, and saves us from the time of trial hears our prayers animated by the trust that God will be faithful and will keep God's promises. This prayer then becomes for us a spark of hope that guides our daily action and our faith that God is making all things new and inviting us into this redemptive work.

### Please stand for the Processional

### PROCESSIONAL: Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)

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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. During this season of Pentecost, we celebrate all the ways in which the Holy Spirit moves us and empowers us to strengthen our relationships with our generous God and with our neighbors locally and globally. As our search for a permanent pastor moves forward, so does our ministry together. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in all that goes on here at Faith.

#### **AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers were provided by the Varsobias in memory of Guadalupe Rosales and by Jim Loughboro, celebrating Lynn's birthday.

Thank you to all who participated in the Panera Bread fundraiser! The sales totaled \$650.09, and we earned 30% of that, for a total of \$195.03!

This Saturday, August 2nd is Donation Drop Off day! We are open to the public from 9:00-12:00, so please stop by and drop off donations for Project Linus blankets, eyeglasses for Lions Club, and Soles4Soles shoes.

The Blessing of the Backpacks and the first day of Sunday School will be on August 10th! Save the date!

New Member classes are scheduled for August 10th and 17th immediately following the worship service. New Member Sunday will be August 24th. Please sign up in the Narthex.

For the month of July, we are collecting canned fruit, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer. So far, we have collected 75 cans.

We have started our next quarterly collection for MilVet. We are collecting protein bars and powdered drink mixes.

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

### P: SILENCE

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

### P: GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### 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!

### **AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 856**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

### GATHERING SONG: How Great Thou Art by Alan Jackson (ELW 856 v. 1, 4)

CCLI Song #14181; Text and music © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust. USA print rights administered by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188; Sources: Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989; Music: Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine CCLI License 111573116, Streaming License 22384499A

#### 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 and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

### **CHILDREN'S CHAT**

### P: WORD

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

### FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

God announces to Abraham that He will go down to see if the people of Sodom and Gomorrah have been obedient to Him or not. Abraham asks if God is going to punish the righteous with the wicked, concerned that the righteous not be collateral damage to God's rightful destruction of the wicked. In this fascinating back-and-forth between Abraham and the Lord, six times Abraham urges the Lord toward mercy but, finally, God's judgment rains down upon Sodom. People have misunderstood this story, claiming that the disaster God brought upon

these cities was their homosexuality. In reality, the judgment is due to their lack of hospitality.

### **LECTOR: FIRST READING:** Genesis 18:20-32

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know." <sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. 23 Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." 30 Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." 31 He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." 32 Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM INTRODUCTION**

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving, speaking of God's steadfast love and faithfulness. It is also profitable to note what is unique about the psalm. For instance, although the psalmist affirms that his or her prayer has been answered, he or she seems still to "walk in the midst of trouble" and the final line of the psalm is a petition that communicates ongoing neediness: *Do not forsake the* 

work of your hands. The ability to live thankfully at all times and to entrust life and future to God is grounded ultimately in the conviction that God is supreme.

### AM: PSALMODY: Psalm 138

- $^{1}$  I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.
- <sup>2</sup>I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
- <sup>3</sup> When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.
- <sup>4</sup> All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- <sup>5</sup> They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.
- <sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- <sup>8</sup> You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

  Amen.

#### SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

This passage captures the dynamics of Christian discipleship. Paul encourages the Colossians to live lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, abounding in thanksgiving. This text speaks powerfully to our present time, a time in which we are bombarded by powers that feel out of our control, and we are therefore tempted to seek solace in ideologies, political parties, or the powers of wealth, control, or progress. Following the lead of the author of Colossians, we are invited to take seriously the ways the unsteadiness of our world tempts us to follow other philosophies, ones grounded in "human tradition" and not Christ.

#### **LECTOR: SECOND READING:**

A reading from Colossians 2:6-15

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through

philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

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**

Jesus' disciples ask Him to teach them to pray like John the Baptist taught his disciples. Jesus answers a fundamental question of the life of faith - how to pray - and how God will respond. The prayer serves as an affirmation of what Jesus teaches and suggests how the good news might be made manifest in us. If we ask, seek, and knock, Jesus says, we will surely receive and find and the door will be opened for us to the Father's favorite and fundamental gift, which makes possible the prayer's fulfilment: the Holy Spirit.

**P: GOSPEL:** Luke 11:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup> So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> And forgive us our

sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." <sup>5</sup> And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' 7 And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? 12 Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? 13 If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "Ask, Seek, Knock" by Pr. Ken Anderson

**AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 745** 

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright* (ELW 745) Public Domain: Sources: Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; Music: Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

**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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace,

### hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,

### hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace,

### hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. We pray especially for Monte and McKardee Anderson; Ian Berger; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Nancy Dokken; Joni Gray; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Don Little; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Candy Pellechio; Marva Posey; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Kay Thomas; 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. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace,

### hear our prayer.

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace,

# hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,

### hear our prayer.

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us, O Lord, to be about the work of your kingdom even as the search for a new pastor continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility, and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

### P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

### P: OFFERING

Let us remember at this time of Offering, that all we have and all we are given are gifts from God. Our offerings of time, talent and treasures are expressions of gratitude to God for all we have received. May we show abundant gratitude.

#### 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.

**AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 608** 

Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along MUSICAL OFFERING: Softly and Tenderly sung by Concordia Choir (ELW 608)

Public Domain: Sources: Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909; Music: Will L. Thompson

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.

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

CCLI Song # 7036352

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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.

### **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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

### P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 860

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me (ELW 860)

Public Domain: Sources: Text: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual; Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

**AM: DISMISSAL** 

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### **AM: INVITATION**

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

### THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Monday, the 28th: Council meeting begins at 1:00

Friday, August 1st: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 2nd: Donation Drop Off day from 9:00 - 12:00 Sunday, the 3rd: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rex Wignall

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY: ASSISTING MINISTER: Marlene

**LECTOR:** Kathy

**COMMUNION SERVER**: Diane S.

**POWER POINT: Bill** 

**USHER:** Diane M.

**ATTENDANCE:** Judy Adams

**GREETER:** Jean

**ALTAR GUILD:** Marlene & Debbie

**SOUND:** Candy

LIVE STREAM: Steve Kent

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