**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, May 11, 2025******\* Fourth Sunday of Easter***

**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:** We invite all who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus to participate in Communion. 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.***



Happy Mother’s Day!

**Introduction to the day**

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: All Your Answers Questioned**

Some years ago, a class from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago had T-shirts made with the slogan “LSTC: The place to get all your answers questioned.” What does it mean to advocate questioning at a seminary? Shouldn’t the church train leaders to provide answers? It is a common assumption that we achieve right faith by coming to a correct interpretation of divine things. Indeed, many people of faith are ready and willing to provide that correct interpretation. But faith is more than a set of propositions. It is a relationship of trust with the living Lord.

For his part, Jesus tends to resist easy answers. “How long will you keep us in suspense?” his interrogators ask in today’s gospel reading from John. “If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly” (10:24). But Jesus’ reply is hardly straightforward: “I have told you, and you do not believe, . . . because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me” (10:25-27).

We may crave clarity, but faith is not always clear-cut. It is filled with subtlety, ambiguity, tension. Even as God desires abundant life for us, God also calls us to lay down our lives for each other. The gospel encompasses both suffering and hope, death and new life. The Son of Man comes not to be served but to serve, to shepherd.

These truths are hard to “tell plainly.” That is not to say we should not seek understanding in the life of faith. But faith also means having our answers questioned, allowing God to renew our minds for the sake of our relationship with Christ who claims us for himself. After all, the gift and challenge of discipleship is not to come to indisputable conclusions about God, but to follow our Shepherd on the way.

***Please stand for the processional***

**Processional: Lift High the cross (ELW 660)**

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

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**AM: Welcome**

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church where God’s love and grace are celebrated and extended to all. A special welcome to those of you here for the first time, to those joining us online, and to our guest pastor, Pr. Ken Anderson.

As we await and prepare for a permanent pastor, our ministry to and for God’s people continues full steam ahead, here in this place, and beyond our doors. We invite each of you to consider and pray about the ways in which our generous God has gifted you, and how you might put those gifts to use here at Faith. Then jump aboard for a fulfilling, uplifting ride with your sisters and brothers in Christ! ALL are welcome!!

**AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers were provided by Tom and Judy Brosz in memory of their mothers.

Happy Mother’s Day to all mothers and mother-figures! In Celebration of Mother's Day our Sunday School kids have made cards for everyone who has ever been in a mothering role. As you leave the sanctuary today the kids will hand out the cards they made.

Today, immediately following the service, we will have a reception with cake in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our new members.

This Saturday, the 17th, come on over to Faith at 10:00 for the Blessing of the Animals! Bring your pets, pet mementos, stuffed animals and yourselves! All will be blessed!

For the month of May, we are collecting pasta, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

Your Outreach Committee is collecting items quarterly to take to MilVet for their care packages to deployed troops. This month we're asking for disposable razors and instant coffee. Please place items in the MilVet box in the narthex. See Kathy Kent with questions.

Faith and Family Night at Storm Stadium is on May 16, 2025 at 6:45 pm. There is still time to get your tickets! They are $16.95 and are on sale in the narthex. We're encouraging people to wear their FaithWear t-shirts. See Kathy Kent for more details.

Christmas in July is coming! Our patriotic giving tree will be in the Narthex from Memorial Day through July. Please help our military and veterans, if you are able.

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

**Welcome New Members!**

P: We are here this morning to welcome Robert and Karla as new members in our community of Faith Lutheran Church. We are not a building, but the gathered family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism into Jesus’ death and resurrection. Today we welcome you as members of this family in the larger body of Christ.

And so we ask, do you desire to join the membership of Faith Lutheran Church? If so please answer: “We do.”

I ask the congregation to stand and join in confessing our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**A: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**A: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**A: 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.**

P: Having together confessed our faith in the Triune God, we now welcome you into the family of our congregation and into the ministry of the church. As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread His Good News. We encourage you to accept that call through your involvement in the church.

**C: We welcome you as brother and sister in Christ, and thank God for this unique opportunity to serve God and one another. May the God to whom we belong equip us for every good work that we do together in God’s name.**

**New Members: We welcome and accept your invitation and commit ourselves to using our time and talents for the good of the congregation.**

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as you called James and John, Simon and Andrew to fish for people, so you have called us to serve you with our own talents and resources. We thank you for bringing Robert and Karla to us as new members of Faith Lutheran Church. You have told us that wherever two or more are gathered in your name, there you are with them. Help us, we pray, to see and feel that presence and that others may come to know you through our interactions and through your ever-present love and grace. We pray all of this in the name our Savior Jesus Christ,

**A: Amen**

P: Let us welcome our new members as they return to their seats!

**AM: Please turn to hymn 641**

**WELCOME HYMN: *All Are Welcome* (ELW 641, vs. 1, 3)**

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**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 377**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* (ELW 377)**

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

**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.

**O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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.

**Lector: First Reading:** Acts 9:36-43

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” 39 So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Psalmody:** Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

2 **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

3 You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**Amen.**

**Lector: Second Reading:** Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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.**

**P: Gospel:** John 10:22-30

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; 26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. 30 The Father and I are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 789**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day:*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* (ELW 789)**

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847 Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868 Public Domain

***Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession***

**Pastor and Assisting Minister: Prayers of Intercession**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care, especially Lynn Bennett; Judy Brosz and family; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Ray Paxton; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; 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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

This Mother’s Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

**P: Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**P: Offering**

The Offering Highlight for this month is the Snip ‘N Stitch ministry sponsored by the Women of the ELCA unit here at Faith. This dedicated group of women meet twice a month (first and third Thursdays at 9am) to design, stitch and tie together a wide variety of quilts. These quilts are then given away to various people and organizations to be used where there are needs. In the past, quilts were given to The Care Project, Inc and the local Domestic Violence Against Women Shelter. All are welcome to join the quilters, stop in anytime and check them out! We have a variety of jobs that do not require sewing skills. Come give of your time and talents and also enjoy the fellowship that goes along with busy hands.

**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.**

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

**Musical Offering:*Borning Cry* (sung by St. Olaf’s Choir)**

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

**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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. 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) (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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 commune the bread first, turn over the vessel and then carefully open the grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets on your way back to your seat.

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:**

***One Bread, One Body* (ELW 496)**

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

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***Here Is Bread* (ELW 483)**

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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 537**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:*On Our Way Rejoicing* (ELW 537)**

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879 Public Domain

**AM: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Invitation**

The Church Council Members invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that we can meet and welcome you. All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

**THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

Monday, the 12th: Strategic Planning meets at 1:00

Tuesday, the 13th: Hymn Planners meet at 10:00; WELCA Board meets at 12:30; Outreach Team meets at 2:30

Wednesday, the 14th: Mary Circle meets at 10:00

Thursday, the 15th: Snip 'N Stitch begins at 9:00; WELCA Bible Study begins at 6:00

Friday, the 16th: Synod Assembly begins; Al-Anon meets at 10:30; Storm Baseball game begins at 6:45

Saturday, the 17th: Blessing of the Animals starts at 10:00; Synod Assembly ends

Sunday, the 18th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Shane

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**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Candy Pellechio

**LECTOR:** Kathy Kent

**MEDIA CREW:** Bill Brauer, Steve Kent, Marlene Rosselli

**USHER:** Judy Appel

**ATTENDANCE:** Pat Olson

**GREETER:** Judy Adams

**ALTAR GUILD:** Kandie Hulme, Diane Molina

**PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS**

**FAITH MEMBERS:** Lynn Bennett; Judy Brosz and family; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Patsy Loughboro; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Diana Ward; Darren; the homebound; the emergency responders; those grieving and those anticipating surgery/tests.

**FRIENDS & RELATIVES OF MEMBERS:** Donna McCain; Michael Myers; Ray Paxton.

**FRIENDS & FAMILY IN MILITARY SERVICE:** Pr. Shane Freiburg; Ryan Wenman (Moes’ grandson); Austin Olson (Olsons’ grandson) and all families involved with the military.

Happy Mother’s Day!

