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. Rex Wignall

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

Worship Plan for Sunday, August 3, 2025* Eighth 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

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: The Challenge of Money

Jesus' parables about money continue to trouble his listeners to this day. In fact, they may seem even more challenging to today's Christians in North America, a culture so saturated with wealth and consumerism, than they were to our first-century counterparts. It can be easy to approach these parables by attempting to justify our behavior, to try to determine the exact point where desire becomes greed or where consumption becomes gluttony, often in an effort to retain what we already have. But this attitude transforms generosity and simplicity into a law rather than an act of true freedom initiated in the love of Jesus.

The parable of the rich fool reveals the absurdity of greed and its justification. Tomorrow is not promised, and the pathological accumulation of wealth and material goods seems silly, even cruel, in a world as unpredictable and challenging as ours. Freedom in Jesus releases us from the belief that we can secure our own future with wealth and possessions. It opens us to the radical generosity of God's neighborhood, where the security of our future lies in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and in the practice of self-emptying love for our neighbor.

It's fair to say that Jesus would make for a very challenging church treasurer. The fundamental economic posture of the gospel is one of redistribution and radical trust that, in community, God will provide everything we need. Parables like this one about the rich fool are meant to stretch and challenge our assumptions and actions. If the choices we make about money seem to come easily, that just may be an invitation to reflect on the grounds of our own economic practices. The self-emptying generosity Jesus invites us into will always feel risky, but we can take comfort in the assurance that God, who makes all things new, will care and provide for the common good and the flourishing of true community. Thanks be to God.

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. Rex Wignall. 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 Mike and Joanne McGavran, celebrating Lynn's birthday.

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 August, we are collecting canned fruit again, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

We are collecting protein bars and powdered drink mixes for our quarterly collection for MilVet. Just drop the items in the box in the Narthex.

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 768

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: Lead Me, Guide Me (ELW 768, vs. 1, 2)

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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.

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through 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

The author of the psalm, known as the teacher of Wisdom, is a man who has seen it all, done it all, tried it all. According to him, life is monotonous, tedious, and futile. There's "no good news." In the second portion of the text, the preacher says that applying wisdom leads to the conclusion that God has left humans with a hard task. This is a wonderful example of how the writers of the Bible were able to express God's message within the context of their own life experiences. The task of living is ours, and sometimes, life is hard. Things happen over when we have no control -- sickness, job losses, the end of significant relationships. Life can be hard, but it's important to keep this passage in context with the rest of Scripture. Yes, life can be hard, but God is always with us.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. ^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be

master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

For many readers, the book of Psalms is a collection of songs or hymns and prayers. Fewer might be aware of the different types of psalms. Therefore, the reader might be surprised to find that there are what are referred to as "wisdom psalms," wise sayings accompanied by music. Wisdom has been defined both as knowledge, experience, and good judgment and the teachings of ancient wise men. They sought to instruct and exhort their audience to be faithful in trying times.

AM: PSALMODY: Psalm 49:1-12

- ¹ Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
- ² you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.
- ³ My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
- ⁴ I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.
- ⁵ Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
- ⁶ the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?
- ⁷One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;
- ⁸ for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it, ⁹ in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.
- ¹⁰ For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.
- ¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

¹² Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

This passage, the final of the four passages from Paul's letter to the Colossians, is divided into two segments. There is theology in vss. 1-4 and a discussion about ethics in vss. 5-11. The resurrection of Christ which we now share through baptism and faith, is the source of the power to live the Christian life. This life is now available to all who believe as is the promise to share the eternal glory of Christ beyond death. For many of the people to whom Paul wrote this letter, the implications of this counsel meant radical change in their customary behavior. It does do so for us too. Using metaphors about stripping off and putting on clothes, it portrays how we might actually live into our baptismal union with the Messiah's death and resurrection. This passage is a powerful reminder that ours is a God of diversity.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. ⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

Many a farmer or business entrepreneur has been troubled by this parable. Jesus appears to say that making a good living and increasing one's wealth is totally wrong. Not so. That isn't the issue Jesus is dealing with in this family quarrel. What is wrong lies in the greed, envy and lack of sharing which Jesus challenged as a result of someone's demand for the division of a family inheritance. It does sound very familiar, doesn't it? That is an issue whether one thinks of it on a purely personal scale or on the wide spectrum of international affairs where the gap between the rich and poor nations is growing greater year by year.

P: GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God." The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "How Much Is Enough?"

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Seek Ye First (sung by The Marantha! Singers)

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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.

Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear, especially 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. Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. 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.

Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along MUSICAL OFFERING: One Day at a Time (sung by Lynda Randall)

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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.

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: PLFASF TURN TO HYMN 537

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: On Our Way Rejoicing (ELW 537)

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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

Tuesday, the 5th: Worship & Music meets at 10:00

Thursday, the 7th: Snip 'N Stitch starts at 9:00; Bingo begins at 4:00

Friday, the 8th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 10th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Ken Anderson

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Roderick

LECTOR: David M.

COMMUNION SERVER: Debbie

POWER POINT: Candy

USHER: Annie

ATTENDANCE: Connie

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Kandie & Mars

SOUND: Mars

LIVE STREAM: Steve Kent

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