

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 Puccio

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

Worship Plan for Sunday, January 25, 2026 * Third Sunday of Epiphany

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

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: Just How Near Is It?

This anxious question is as old as Christians’ faith: How near? How near is the kingdom of heaven? Near when angels announce a holy birth. Now? Near when Jesus unrolls a scroll in the synagogue, declaring the acceptable time. Now? Near when miracles of sight and sound and speech, bread and water and wine astound. Now? Near when the Son of David trots into Jerusalem on a donkey, talks of paradise at Golgotha, abandons the tomb. Now? Near when parades of calculations and predictions, numbering of days and decoding of signs make their guesses. Now?

John the Baptizer, eagerly baptizing converts and then, if hesitantly, Jesus himself—John the broadcaster, on behalf of a Savior for the world—gets arrested and executed. The hailed Messiah, Jesus, takes up residence in a tiny fishing village in a land overtaken and occupied by an empire of corruption and death. It would seem—or it *should* seem, if it does not—to anyone paying attention that the kingdom of heaven, if anywhere at all, was nowhere near.

“Repent” was Jesus’ inaugural message. Such a hard thing for people enduring in the hardest of times to hear. Repent of what, for what? By that time, ancient promises made in the name of God must have worn thin at best, if they had not already been tossed out as defective. In how many ways had unreliable promises and hopes for some heavenly kingdom been smashed in their collisions with each dawning day that proved to be just a copy of the grueling one before it?

Repent. Turn around. Pursue life in another direction. A gutsy dispatch! But it caught fire. It spread. It drew crowds because everywhere Jesus went, all through the everyday places of hard-hit dreams and suffering spirits and pained bodies—exactly in those places—Jesus showed himself to be the heavenly good news that heals, the joyful reason to repent of fear. So, welcome and become the kingdom of heaven now and here.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL *Come, All You People: Uyaimose* (ELW 819)

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt. Text © 1986 World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland, and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music, notation and English paraphrase by I-to Loh.

AM: WELCOME

Good morning! It's wonderful to see all of you this morning! Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, where grace and love abound and the Holy Spirit uplifts and inspires us. A special welcome to those joining us on line, to those of you who are here for the first time, and to our guest pastor, Ken Puccio. Exciting things are happening here during our search for a permanent pastor, and everyone is encouraged to participate fully, whether you are a first-time visitor, or have been here awhile. You are ALWAYS welcome!

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by Mickey Diehl, celebrating Bruce and Kevin, and by Karla Kadow celebrating Richard's 90th birthday.

Faith Lutheran will be making a donation to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in memory of Pastor Ken Anderson. If you'd like to make a donation to be added to the Faith donation, please put it in the offering plate with a memo: Pr. Anderson memorial or make it online via Zelle, Vanco, Venmo, or PayPal with a memo: Pr. Anderson memorial. Today is the deadline.

Worship and Music is looking for five readers to do a dramatic reading during the Wednesday evening Lenten Worship Services beginning February 25. One person per Wednesday to read a prepared narration in lieu of a sermon. Please see Marlene Rosselli or Pastor Ken Puccio if you are interested in participating in one of these Narrative pieces.

A New Member class will start today immediately following the worship service and New Member Sunday will be February 8th. See Joanne for more information.

After the NFL games today, we will know who is playing in the NFL Superbowl, so it's time again for the Faith Lutheran Soup-er Bowl! Beginning this week, in the Narthex you will find 2 large boxes each marked with the logos of the Superbowl teams. Bring as many cans of soup as you'd like by Superbowl Sunday (Feb 8th) and put them in the box representing the team you're cheering for! All cans of

soup will be donated to the Community Cupboard. In Faith's Soup-er Bowl, there are no losers...only winners!!

Be sure you've marked Feb. 22nd as the date for our Annual Meeting!

WELCA is taking a survey for anyone interested in an in-person evening Bible Study. Please pick up and complete the one-page survey by Sunday, February 8.

Plan to join the Project Linus Blanket Brigade beginning Saturday, Feb 7 from 9am-12pm. Bring your friends and enjoy some good fellowship time while you sit and tie fleece blankets for Project Linus. Pick up a flyer in the narthex for details.

New Donation Day flyers are available in the narthex. Please note the additional items of non-perishable food (for Community Cupboard) and 100% cotton fabric for quilting (Snip 'N Stitch) that can also be donated.

Please be sure to sign up to donate flowers, and empty out your mailboxes.

This quarter (January - March) Outreach is collecting the following items for MilVet: Protein or Granola Bars and Body Wash (for men or women). The items will be used in monthly boxes sent to deployed military. The donation box is in the Narthex.

For January, we are collecting canned soup, 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.

SILENCE

P: 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 513

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *Listen, God Is Calling: Neno lake Mungu* (ELW 513)

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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.

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

"I Will Make You Fishers of Men," with Pr. Ken on guitar

P: WORD

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

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

We recall our Christmas worship when this lesson was employed as a fulfillment of the expectation of the birth of the Messiah. In the context of Epiphany, it is used as a fulfillment of the promise that the Messiah would be a light for all the nations. This passage was written during a time of great darkness for the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali - subjugated by the Assyrians in 734 BC. Yet, the prophet envisions a brighter future through the protection of the messianic king.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

The content of this psalm conflicts with its superscription, "Of David." Actually, it is one psalm composed from what originally existed as two separate psalms (vss. 1-6; 7-14). The first is a psalm of trust by one who sought God's presence in the temple in gratitude for a secure and comfortable life. The second part has the form of a lament petitioning God for help in some situation approaching despair at the malice and false charges of personal enemies.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.” Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.
Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Paul receives word from a woman named, Chloe that there are problems in the Corinthian congregation, the chief problem being a lack of unity. Paul addresses these issues in chapters 1-6, the first four of which deal with the unity-disunity issue. The rest of the letter deals with various other issues brought to him. The apostle seeks to pour the cool water of unity on the fires of dissension and party spirit.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be

emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

L: 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

There are many things going on in this lesson. Matthew seeks to demonstrate how Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah 9. the arrest of John is Jesus' signal to commence his ministry. Following his baptism and temptation in the wilderness, Jesus leaves Nazareth and establishes residence in Capernaum, which is situated along the Sea of Galilee. Jesus is the Anointed One who brings the light of eternal truth to this cosmopolitan, yet darkened region. From that time, Jesus begins his proclamation of the Good News: "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near." He initiates the reign of God by calling his disciples together as the nucleus of a redemptive community of witness. Andrew, Peter, James, and John perceive the urgency of the call and immediately leave their worldly pursuits.

P: GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to Matthew 4:12-23

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: “How to Grow a Church” by Pr. Ken

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 574

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Here I Am, Lord* (ELW 574)

With Pr. Ken on guitar

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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.

AM: Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

PASTOR AND ASSISTING MINISTER: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God’s beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick, especially Emily, the family of Stephen Altherr; Susan Bauerle; Ian Berger; Mary Booth; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; the family of Freddie Connelly; Jeff Cook; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Debbie Ehrig; Sandy Evers; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Shalonne Stone; Joyce Stromberg; Diane Swarts; Diana Ward; Harold Whitford; the homebound; the emergency responders; the San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God,
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. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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. During the musical offering, the usher will bring the offering plate forward to be lifted up to the Lord.

This morning's offering, including our prayers and pledges, will now be brought forward and lifted up to God during the Musical Offering.

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

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

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AM: OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ALL SING)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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: *What Feast of Love* (ELW 487)

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***Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW 471, vs. 1-3) with Pr. Ken on guitar**

Public Domain; Sources: Text: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual

Break Now the Bread of Life (ELW 515)

Public Domain: Sources: Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.; Music: William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

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.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our 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 798

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons (ELW 798)*

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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

P: Unto us a Savior is born! Go share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God!! We will!

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Monday, the 26th: Council meeting begins at 11:00

Tuesday, the 27th: Call Committee meets at 6:00

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

Sunday, the 1st: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rex

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Mars

LECTOR: Pat A.

COMMUNION SERVER: Karla

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Gina

ATTENDANCE: Joanne

GREETER: Walli

ALTAR GUILD: Mars, Freddericka

SOUND: Candy

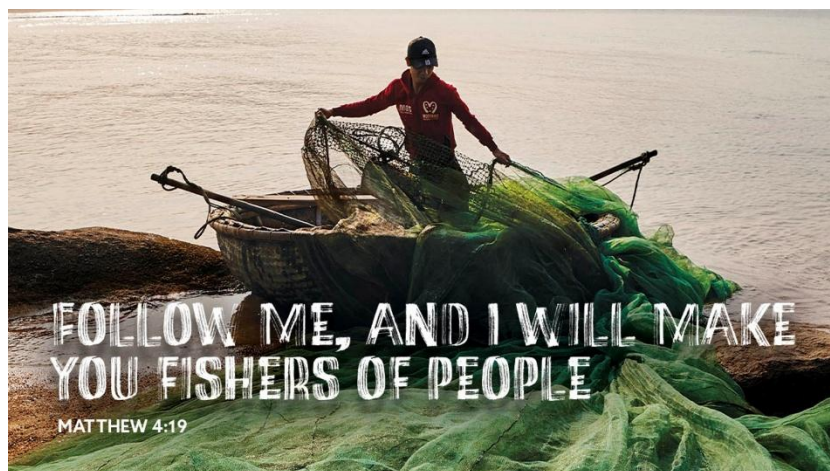
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