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. Shane Freiberg

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

Worship Plan for Sunday, November 30, 2025 * First Sunday of Advent

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

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: Advent Signs

Few things in life are as jarring as awakening to the shriek of a fire alarm. Of course, that is by design. The safety of those gathered indoors calls for a blaring warning of impending danger so that all might be delivered from harm. Jesus offers a similar signal to his beloveds today, begging us to pay attention to the seriousness of the message he bears: *Be ready! Keep awake! Pay attention to your surroundings! Deliverance is coming soon!*

Advent is a season of preparation, directing our focus toward the incarnation, toward Christmas, when God becomes human and the weary world rejoices. Sometimes preparations take the form of monthslong laborious planning, as we might do for an international trip or the renovation of a home. Other times, preparations must happen immediately, within hours, minutes, or seconds. When a fire alarm sounds, there's no time to plan: We must act quickly, gathering what is most important to get to safety together.

This first Sunday of Advent is a chance to take stock of what is most important in life, to attune our spirits to the reign of heaven that God is birthing in our world. We may be unsettled by these gospel images of the great flood and of field workers being disappeared. Such stories indeed may spark fear, anxiety, and distrust. Yet God comes to be with us amid all the great uncertainties of life, amid the atrocities of human violence, amid the worst of our losses and fears. Jesus reminds us that God is always drawing near to the world, always extending mercy, always acting with love. Mercy and love are Advent signs worth paying attention to, worth staying awake for. Be ready, beloveds, and fear not! God's deliverance is coming soon.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL: Come, All You People (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

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, Shane Freiberg. We're in the season of Advent - the season of expectation and preparation not only for the birth of the Christ child, but for the coming of the permanent pastor God has in mind for us. While this is a time for prayer and discernment, it's also a time for action. So let's all tune into where the Holy Spirit is leading us and then jump in. Multiple blessings await as we work together to experience and share the love of Jesus Christ here at Faith and beyond our doors.

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by the Sinclairs celebrating the glory of God.

This Wednesday, the 3rd is the first of this year's Advent Worship & Soup Suppers! This week's worship will consist of the Holden Evening Prayer Service and a dramatic reading/monologue by Roderick Sinclair entitled "A Wise Man Remembers." Come for worship at 5:00 and stay for the soup supper!

This Friday, Dec. 5th at 10:30 there will be a Celebration of the Life of Thordis Moe. All are welcome to attend and there will be a reception with lunch following the service.

Next Sunday, Dec. 7th at 3:00, we will be treated to a Big Band Christmas Concert right here at Faith! Bring your friends, family and neighbors! The concert, hosted by the Ackleys, is a fundraiser for the Faith Lutheran Youth Summer Camp fund. There is no cost for the concert, but a free will offering of \$10 per person would be appreciated!

Tea's the Season! The Women of the ELCA Christmas event is Saturday, Dec 13 from 2-4pm. Pick up a flyer as you leave today and sign up in the Narthex. Plan to attend and let's have a wonderful time of fellowship!

This quarter (October - December) Outreach is collecting the following items for MilVet: Chewing gum (individually wrapped packs) and beef sticks (individually

wrapped). The items will be used in monthly boxes sent to deployed military. The donation box is in the Narthex.

For December, we are collecting canned tuna or meat, 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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Marlene Rosselli

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!

ADVENT LITANY

P: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,

A: Wake us up to your coming.

AM: We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable. O Emmanuel,

A: Wake us up to your coming.

P: We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields. O Emmanuel,

A: Wake us up to your coming.

AM: We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant hope within us. O Emmanuel,

A: Wake us up to your coming.

P: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

Advent Wreath Lighting Candle 1 (Hope)

Amber, Lucas and Yolia Rose Concepcion

LIGHTING SONG: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (performed by Tommee Profitt)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Music: French processional, 15th cent

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 239

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: Hark, the Glad Sound! (ELW 239)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751; Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

P: WORD

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

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION:

This text is an indictment concerning the sinfulness of the people. The verses following our pericope pick up the theme of judgment. However, our text is a triumphant vision of the distant future when the temple in Jerusalem would be the focal point for universal peace, knowledge, and righteousness.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION:

This song of ascent expresses a note of joy at the prospect of worshiping God at the temple. "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" (v. 1). This verse would function well as a call to worship. Psalm 122 is also a prayer that Jerusalem would live up to her name and truly be a city of peace.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 122

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- ² Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
- ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.
- ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.
- ⁸ For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION:

This text appears in the context of a block of Paul's ethical teachings (Romans 12:1- 15:13) and directly follows a discussion showing how love is lived out in various relationships. Immediately preceding our text, Paul states that love is the fulfilling of the law. Using the image of day and night, light and darkness, Paul reminds his readers that the return of Jesus is imminent. Therefore, believers should strip off the filthy works of darkness — such as drunkenness, debauchery, quarreling, and jealousy — and put on the Lord Jesus Christ. If we are so attired, we will be ready for Christ's second advent, whenever that may occur.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in

quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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:

Our text appears within a block of "last day" material (Matthew 24:1—26:2) which contains several passages on spiritual preparedness. This gospel is straightforward. The disciple is to be ready at all times for the end of the age. The Son of Man will come suddenly and unexpectedly, like a thief in the night, so be ready at all times! Not even the Son of Man is cognizant of that day.

P: GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 254

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254)

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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 our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing, especially Briana; Ian Berger; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Eileen Johnson; Mike Latchford; Don Little; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Dee Mills; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Nancy Randolph and family; Marilyn Rieti; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Kiki Thomas; Nicholas Thomas; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; 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. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

hear 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

P: OFFERING

Today's Ministry Highlight is Small Groups. These are smaller groups who meet for specific reasons. For instance, the "4 + 1" group which meets the third

Tuesday of each month at 10am is designed for sharing how God is active in our lives using scripture as a "conversation starter". The "Plus One" is Jesus. Small Groups are designed to lead us into closer relationship with others. Confidentiality is maintained by mutual agreement. Please keep these groups in your prayers. All are welcome.

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: "Jesus, I Need You in Everything I Do" (sung by Ella Scott)

Music and Text by Ella Scott, 2025

AM: OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to

judge the world in righteousness. 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) (ELW #190)

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 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: What Feast of Love (ELW 487)

OneLicense Song #98260; Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland OR 97213. All rights reserved. Music: English ballad, 16th cent.; OneLicense #40221

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

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

OL song #00891 Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense License Number M-402221

P: COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Communion Dismissal

AM: PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and

to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 287

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: Let All Together Praise Our God (ELW 287. Vs. 1, 5, 6)

OneLicense Song # 60421; Sources: Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; Music 0 Public Domain; Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version; Music: Nikolaus Herman; OneLicense #402221

AM: INVITATION

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

AM: DISMISSAL

AM: Go forward in peace and anticipation of the Savior's Birth.

C: Thanks be to God, we will!

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, the 2nd: Worship & Music meets at 10:00

Wednesday, the 3rd: Advent Worship & Soup Supper begins at 5:00

Thursday, the 4th: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00

Friday, the 5th: Thordis Moe's Celebration of Life begins at 10:30; Al-Anon meets

at 10:30

Saturday, the 6th: Donation Drop Off Day begins at 9:00

Sunday, the 7th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rex; the Holiday Big Band

Concert begins at 3:00

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:
ASSISTING MINISTER: Roderick

LECTOR: Diane M.

COMMUNION SERVER: Freddericka

POWER POINT: Marlene

USHER: Judy Ad.

ATTENDANCE: Joanne

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Marlene and Debbie

SOUND: Candy

LIVE STREAM: Madeline

To give directly to Faith Lutheran Church electronically, you may use one of the below QR codes.











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