

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, September 21, 2025 * 15th 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.

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

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: True Riches

Being stuck in unjust systems is exhausting. Perhaps they are designed to frustrate and impede any efforts to undo their power. The manager in Jesus’ parable does what he can to make the most of his precarious position, but his resolution still leaves a lot to be desired. Does the rich man remain in his wealthy and powerful position? What about all the others who still owe the estate? Why does the manager, and not the rich landowner who holds all the cards, become the object lesson?

It seems Jesus is getting serious here about our relationships with money, riches, and power: “You cannot serve God and wealth” (Luke 16:13). That much is clear. But perhaps Jesus is drawing our attention to the larger implications of God’s economy and what it means to lean on one another for the sake of justice in our world. Luke’s gospel began with Mary’s song, after all, extolling the ways the poor will be lifted up in the kin-dom Jesus brings. In this new reign, all resources are brought into the service of those who need them most. Faithful living here and now might look different from what we’re accustomed to when we consider what God has in mind, especially when we are used to unhelpful contemporary mantras like “Might makes right” and “Winner takes all.”

True to Mary’s song, Jesus indeed turns our world upside down, which distresses those of us who appreciate good order. But in the end, this turning does what is needed to make the world right. In our world today, we may struggle with the forgiveness of debts and the redistribution of wealth, but Jesus doesn’t. God brings the true riches of justice and love for all and will not fail to do what is needed to make sure every last beloved person on earth has what they need to truly live.

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. Ken Anderson. As the season of Pentecost continues, and the days grow shorter and finally cooler, the Holy Spirit fills us with renewed energy, physically and spiritually. As our search for a permanent pastor moves forward, so does our ministry together to and for God's people. Exciting things are happening here, and everyone is encouraged to participate fully. Join in - ALL are welcome!

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by the Ehrigs praising God from whom all blessings flow.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall tomorrow, the 22nd from 1:00-3:00 for a Fraud Prevention seminar! Learn how to protect yourself and your family from scams and identity theft.

Grace, Not Judgment - Zacchaeus, the Tax Collector

Tax collectors were hated by the people. Not only were they collecting taxes for the Romans, but they were also cheats, collecting more than necessary and pocketing the profit. Despite Zacchaeus being despised as a corrupt tax collector, Jesus singled him out of the crowd and invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house. Eating in someone's home was a sign of acceptance. Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 P.M. Log In: 874 9381 9047 Password: 10311517 (think Reformation Day)

Contact Pastor Ken at hopegiver@aol.com to receive a copy of the lessons.

Have a delicious meal (or 2 or 3) and earn money for Faith Lutheran! Eat at the Habit Burger & Grill on Sept. 28th from 11am – 9pm using the code "GIVEBACK" and Faith will earn 20% of your purchase(s)! Grab a flyer in the Narthex and take it with you!

For September, we are collecting canned spaghetti sauce and diced tomatoes, 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.

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 686

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (ELW 686)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.; Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantic Lauda*, 1850

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.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

P: WORD

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

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

Of all the OT prophets, none is more passionate about social justice than Amos. This outburst of prophetic wrath promised nothing but destruction for Israel caused by the grave injustices of the times. It would appear that normal business operations were postponed during the festival celebrating the beginning of a new month ("the new moon" in vs. 5) and also for the weekly sabbaths. That prevented the merchants from making as much profit as they would have liked. The return for scarce produce of the poor was being manipulated by false balances, inaccurate measures and low prices (vss. 5b-6). Amos promised that God will not

forget any of these misdeeds. Is that not often the attitude of many in every generation who achieved made great wealth through less than just means?

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." ⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

This psalm of praise also conveys a message of social justice in God's concern for the poor and the homeless woman seeking shelter for her children. It also conveys some of the fundamental theological concepts of the Old Testament. These unusual words contain a vignette of the way many poor people the world over still eke out a meagre existence by rooting in the garbage discarded by the more affluent. For the psalmist, this social upheaval based on economic realities is a token of Yahweh's absolute sovereignty over human affairs.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 113

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.
² **Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.**
³ From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.
⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.**
⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,
⁶ **but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**
⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**
⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus are what's known as the Pastoral Epistles. They specify some of the intentions that believers today should keep in mind regarding the community's prayer. The prayer is for everyone, expressing the Pastoral Epistles' concern for universal salvation. The diverse country in which we live mirrors that of the first-century Roman Empire of the Pastoral Epistles. They were diverse in terms of class in that household owners mixed with their day laborers and slaves in the community. Christians were aware of how religious views exposed them both to ridicule and even persecution.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

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

In the parable, the rich master who owns enslaved peoples and commends dishonesty for the sake of profits is not condemned. Jesus creates a dichotomy between slaving (*douleuo*) for God and for wealth, given that wealth is generally built upon the backs of the enslaved, women, the poor, and the oppressed; that wealth for one usually presumes poverty for many. The larger the wealth gap in favor of a few, the more people are impoverished. We should choose to be more conscious and strategic in our daily transactions and speech so that we contribute

less to the pursuit of wealth for ourselves and others, particularly in the service of greed and creation of poverty, and at the expense of equality and the justice and love of God.

P: GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.'
³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'
⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'
⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'
⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "Faithful in Little, Faithful in Much" by Pr. Ken Anderson

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 824

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *This Is My Father's World* (ELW 824)

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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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones, especially Ian Berger; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Don Little; the

Loughboro/Holmes family; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Candy Pellechio; Tina Peteroski; Marva Posey; the Puccios; 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. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,
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. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Additional petitions.... God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

P: OFFERING

Today we remember how the gifts of our time, talent and treasure help to sustain the CHEER Ministry here at Faith. Cheer is the ministry of caring for our members who are unable to attend worship regularly. This care takes the form of visiting, bringing communion, sending cards, and making phone calls. We appreciate all

those whose offerings of time, talent and treasures help in this crucial ministry. Why not visit, phone or send a card to someone this week? During the musical offering, the usher will bring the offering plate forward to be lifted up to the Lord.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Holy Forever* sung by CeCe Winans

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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.

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 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: *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.

Communion Dismissal

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 669

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* (ELW 669)

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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

As we go forth rooted in God's grace,
we will joyfully witness and serve!

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Monday, the 22nd: Scams and Identity Theft seminar will be from 1:00 - 3:00

Tuesday, the 23rd: The Call Committee meets at 6:00

Wednesday, the 24th: Finance meets at 1:00; Ice Cream Social begins at 6:30

Thursday, the 25th: Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study begins at 7:00

Friday, the 26th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 28th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Shane and the Habit Fundraiser is from 11:00 - 9:00

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Candy

LECTOR: Danielle

POWER POINT: Bill

USHER: Judy Ap.

ATTENDANCE: Pat O.

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Kandie, Debbie

SOUND: Marlene

LIVE STREAM: Marlene



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