

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the ELCA

28200 Portsmouth Drive, Sun City, CA 92586 * (951) 679-1518

Email: faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com

Guest Preacher: Pat Adams

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

Worship Plan for Sunday, August 23, 2026 * Thirteenth 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 who have been instructed in the meaning of Holy Communion may receive the Sacrament or else a 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

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: Revealing God

Jesus came to earth as God *incarnate*, meaning "in or having bodily form." This was no accident. The prophets of the past had used their bodies and their words so people could understand God. In Christ, God was revealed in flesh and blood, allowing us to know who God is and what God's priorities are for creation.

Peter points this out to us, saying that Christ is "the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). As a *living* God, moving among us as Jesus Christ, God reveals Godself directly. God reveals the divine nature and priorities through Jesus' earthly life. Jesus lives without possessions, sharing in the suffering of people who are poor and oppressed. On the Galilean coast he feeds thousands of people before teaching them. He befriends outcasts like Zacchaeus the tax collector and the Canaanite woman. He calls out the greed and misplaced priorities of the wealthy by flipping tables. Instead of merely telling us, Christ incarnate shows us that God has a serious concern for all people on the margins of society.

As the church is formed into the body of Christ, we too now reveal to the world who God is and what God's priorities are. How does our ministry show God's concern for those who are poor and marginalized today? Do we seek out and walk alongside people cast out by dominant society? Do we not only preach the word but make sure people are fed as well?

By accompanying our neighbors in their struggles for dignity, justice, and the right to flourish, we do the good work of followers of Jesus, striving with God for the end of all oppression and death, for a world made whole.

LITURGIST: 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 preacher, Pat Adams. 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 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.

LITURGIST: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by Tom and Judy Brosz, celebrating their birthdays.

When Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, we are always connected to our Lord. Pastor Ken's class on the Gospel of John looks at this passage, particularly examining how God is the Gardener. Come and see how God's Holy Spirit will speak to you. See Pastor Ken after church or contact him at hopegiver@aol.com for log in information for Thursday's Bible Study at 7:00.

This Saturday, the 29th, the Menifee Seniors group is hosting a Grandmas Just Wanna Have Fun Dance Party here at Faith at 4:00! This event is for ALL girls, ALL ages and is a FREE EVENT! You must include one GIRL in your group who is 55 years of age or older! This is an 80s themed event (like OMG!), and will include a live band, dinner, dancing, games and prizes! You MUST register for this event! Call 951-531-3188 today to make your reservation!

Next Wednesday, Sept. 2nd is our final ice cream social for this year. Come on over at 6:30!

Next Thursday, the 4th at 4:00 is our next Bingo event! All are welcome!

For August, we are collecting oatmeal, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Work Our Hands is coming up...September 13th! Your Outreach Team has chosen the San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus (men's shelter) to be the recipient of our church day of service. Please look in the Narthex for information on items needed, etc.

This quarter Outreach is collecting beef sticks, beef jerky and body wash/shower gel (any size) for MilVet.

You will find more information about what's happening at Faith in the Narthex.

SILENCE

LITURGIST: Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

With Pr. Ken on guitar

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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!

P: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

P: PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, 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

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end. Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

Can you recall those times when our elders taught us “the magic words,” please and thankyou? For example, they would urge, “What do you say?” when someone gave you something or did something nice. Of course, “Thank you” is the appropriate response. We see this sentiment demonstrated in Psalm 138, where the psalmist delivers a song of thanksgiving for having been rescued by God from danger, and teaches us that the proper response to the Lord’s deliverance is gratitude.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Paul's theology, preaching and letter writing all had one goal: to bring his audience to an understanding of the faith in its Christian form and to commit themselves to a life of discipleship to Jesus Christ. He proclaimed primarily, if not exclusively, an ethical gospel and theology. Nowhere in all the letters attributed to Paul does this come to the fore more explicitly than in this passage. In many respects, this form of exhortation has become a standard preaching method ever since. A preacher sets forth the truth of the gospel, then exhorts the congregation in ways to carry it into daily living.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. 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

Now, at this climactic point in Jesus' ministry, Jesus comes to the point of asking His disciples, "Who am I?" God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades. In the answer to the question of who Jesus is, everything tied together: the past, the present, and the future. If you answer that question as Peter did, you put time and eternity together. The response of the disciples to Jesus' penetrating questions casts the importance of the event into sharp relief. They linked him with Israel's prophetic history. Undoubtedly the general populace saw him as one of the prophets, as did they. The tradition held that Elijah would return to announce the coming of the Messiah. John the Baptist fitted that role and had suffered death by execution at the order of Herod Antipas, half-brother of Philip.

P: GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "THE MOST REAL ID" by Pat Adams

LITURGIST: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 652

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Built on a Rock* (ELW 652, VS. 1, 3, 4)

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LITURGIST: APOSTLES' CREED

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' 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.

LITURGIST: Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

PASTOR AND ASSISTING MINISTER: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day,

especially Briana; Ian Berger; Mary Booth; Rich and Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Don Little; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Dee Mills; Michael Myers; the Raynor family; Amy Sinclair; the Stone family; Joyce Stromberg; Nicholas Thomas; Diana Ward; the homebound; those in care facilities; 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. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Loving God, be with us during this time of discernment as our search for a permanent pastor continues. Fill all Ministry Leaders and Call Committee members with wisdom and patience as we continue to further the work of your kingdom. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING: “Come Jesus Come” (sung by CeCe Winans)

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LITURGIST: OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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

All of God's children are welcome to Christ's table. Gather at the altar rail. If you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may choose from red wine or white grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Come to the Table (sung by Sidewalk Prophets)

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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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LITURGIST: 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 742

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (ELW 742)

With Pr. Ken on guitar

Public Domain: Sources: Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886; Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

LITURGIST: INVITATION

We would like to invite guests and visitors to come and join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

LITURGIST: DISMISSAL

LITURGIST: You have been empowered for ministry.

C: Thanks be to God. We will share the good news of Jesus.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, the 25th: Call Committee meets at 6:30

Wednesday, the 26th: Finance meets at 11:00

Thursday, the 27th: Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study begins at 7:00

Friday, the 28th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 29th: Grandmas Just Wanna Have Fun begins at 4:00

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

If you know of someone on our prayer list who no longer needs urgent prayer, please notify the church office.

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

LITURGIST: Pr. Ken

LECTOR: Robert P.

COMMUNION SERVER: Debbie

POWER POINT: Bill

USHER: Karla

ATTENDANCE: Diane M.

GREETER: Bev

ALTAR GUILD: Kandie & Debbie

SOUND: Madeline

LIVE STREAM: Maddie

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