

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the ELCA

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

Email: faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com

Guest Pastor: Pr. Rex Wignall

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

Worship Plan for Sunday, August 2, 2026 * Tenth 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 today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: True Abundance

In our gospel reading, Jesus hears about John the Baptizer's death and wants to be alone, to withdraw "to a deserted place" (Matthew 14:13). But the crowds follow him, the disciples follow him, and it seems everyone wants something from him. Jesus' response is compassionate, and he meets their needs, healing those who were sick. Then evening falls, and the disciples come to him with a request: "You've healed everyone. Now send them home. They can buy food in the villages for themselves."

Some compassion is needed here for the disciples too. With the twelve of them plus Jesus, there are at least thirteen people to feed with what they have—just five loaves and two fish. That's not enough even for them.

So Jesus does this miracle—he takes what he is given and multiplies it so everyone has something to eat, and there are twelve baskets left over. (Twelve baskets means one for each disciple to carry and then realize that true abundance comes from Jesus!)

The miracle fed the people, but it also taught the disciples that, with Jesus, there is always compassion and always enough to share. After feeding the thousands, each disciple now had a basket full of food. By sharing what they had, through Jesus they received back more than they had to begin with.

This is the true message of Matthew's text today: God gives us what we need, we share what we have with others, and in the end, we are given more than we could ever imagine. This is loving the neighbor. This is being God's grace in the world. At no time is sending people away God's answer. Jesus taught his disciples this important lesson, and we continue to learn and struggle with it today.

AM: WELCOME

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church where grace and love abound. A special welcome to those of you here for the first time, to those joining us online, and to our guest pastor, Pr. Rex Wignall. During this season of Pentecost, we celebrate all the ways in which the Holy Spirit moves us and empowers us to strengthen our relationships with God and with our neighbors locally and globally. As our search for a permanent pastor moves forward, so does our ministry together. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in all that goes on here at Faith.

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by Ken and Madeline Puccio, celebrating Charlie's 13th birthday.

Menifee National Night Out is this Tuesday, the 4th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. We will have a booth and need volunteers! There is info in the Narthex.

This Wednesday, August 5th, join us at 6:30 for the Ice Cream Social.

Sunday School is coming! Our first day back will be next Sunday, August 9th! During Worship, we will have a special blessing of the backpacks for back-to-school, followed by Sunday School! All are welcome! All grades, all ages!

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

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

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 807

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

Public Domain: Sources: Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.; Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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.

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through 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

Like a hawker on the street, God bids his people to come to him for spiritual food and drink, which will satisfy the deepest longing of their souls. The prophet issues God's invitation to come to him, the water of life. Jesus picks up this metaphor when he says: "I am the fountain of the water of life." Water is to the body as God's Spirit is to the soul. The Lord urges: "Listen carefully to me and eat what is good" (v. 2b). We consume a lot of things that aren't food, which don't satisfy: countless material gadgets and trinkets, music which arouses our aggression, magazines which fill our minds with garbage. God's word is that which truly satisfies our deepest hunger. In verse 1, we are encouraged to let the Lord satisfy the thirst of our souls. In verse 2, we are invited to come to God for food. In verse 3, we are told to turn the inner ear of our souls to God and heed the word of the Lord, so that we might live. When we listen to the word of God, we have all that we need to live.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for

that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

Reiterating the theme of the Isaiah passage, this excerpt characterizes God as one who is gracious, merciful and faithful to all. Is this not God's Spirit in action, in the history of our time, in the same way the psalmist saw God's generosity poured out on the exiles returning from Babylon? The language of Psalm 145 is straightforward and simple. The words "The LORD is" occur five times, and their object is usually "all" or "every" of some category—for example, "all who are falling" (verse 14). Another type of statement is on based actions of the Lord, such as "raises," "gives," "fulfills," "hears," and "watches." In other words, it is what we first learned at the dinner table: "God is great. God is good. Let us thank Him for our food."

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶ You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ **You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

¹⁹ **You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them.**

²⁰ You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy.

²¹ **My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Paul remained a faithful Jew throughout his life. He could never break away from his religious and cultural heritage as a 'son of the covenant'; (Heb. = b'nai b'rith). This accounts for his deep anxiety and compassion for his fellow Jews long after his conversion to the faith that Jesus of Nazareth was Israel's true Messiah. This comes to the fore in this brief passage at the beginning of a new section of his letter. He knew, moreover, that there were Jews in the Roman community who had reservations about this new faith which so many of their fellow Jews had embraced. It was to them in particular that Paul addressed these words. Paul expresses his anguish for the salvation of his fellow Jews. If possible, he would even exchange his own salvation for that of his people.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Romans 9:1-5

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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

Jesus had just heard about the execution of John the Baptist. It was an ominous turn of events. He wanted to be alone not only to mourn but probably to talk with His disciples privately about the dangers He now expected lay ahead for Himself and for them.

Jesus tries to find some solitude, but the crowds of needy folks find Him. His compassion prompts Him to heal the sick, but it is getting toward evening, and the disciples want to dismiss them so the people can find food for supper. Picture Jesus speaking to the disciples with an absolute deadpan face when He asks them to do the apparently impossible, provide food for all these people. “You give them something to eat” (v. 16). Astonished, they reply: “We have only five loaves and two fish” (v. 17). Jesus commands that the loaves and fish be brought to him. He blesses the food, and the disciples distribute it to the multitudes. All are fed to their satisfaction, with twelve baskets of leftovers. The miracle not only shows the miraculous power of Jesus but God’s compassion for the needs of the people. It also demonstrates that all needs can be met if we but share with God and with one another that which God has placed in our grasp.

P: GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "YOUR PART IN A MIRACLE" BY PR. REX WIGNALL

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 712

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (ELW 712)

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AM: 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.

AM: 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.

For your church in every place, that it satisfies those who hunger for your word. Bless the ministry of readers, translators, Bible study leaders, and writers, that God's word is broken open and shared with all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For your wondrous creation and all the bounty it provides, that your creatures are fed and nourished. Bless the work of farmers, farmworkers, those who fish, and all whose labor brings your abundance to our tables. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For your children in every nation, that they learn to love justice and live in harmony. As this week we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, keep us mindful of the horrors of war; draw our hearts instead toward your reign of love, hope, and peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all who cry out with great sorrow and unceasing anguish, that they are comforted. Feed all who struggle with food insecurity; have mercy on all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit, especially Briana; Everado Aguilar; Ian Berger; Mary Booth; Judy Brosz; Rich and Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doug Ferguson; Doris Hays; Rick Heenan; Sarge Hunter; Mike Latchford; Don Little; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Dee Mills; Michael Myers; Janet Oster; Marlene Rosselli; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Kiki Thomas; Nicholas Thomas; Diana Ward; the homebound; those in care and rehab 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.

For this congregation, that it bears faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in you. Bless all your faithful people gathered here, that they may become blessings for this community. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With thanksgiving for the faithful who now rest in your mercy, that their witness continues to inspire the church. By their example, may we trust your promises in life and in death. 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: *God Will Work It Out* (sung by Naomi Raine)

CCLI Song # 7177864; Aaron Moses | Adale Jackson | Chris Cleveland | Israel Houghton | Naomi Raine | Nate Moore

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AM: 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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I am the Bread of Life (ELW 485)

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

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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 638

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Blessed Assurance* (ELW 638)

With Pr. Ken on guitar

Public Domain; Sources: Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

AM: INVITATION

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

AM: DISMISSAL

AM: 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 4th: Worship & Music meets at 10:00 on Zoom only; Menifee National Night Out is at Audie Murphy Park from 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Wednesday, the 5th: Ice Cream Social begins at 6:30

Thursday, the 6th: Snip 'N Stitch begins at 9:00

Friday, the 7th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 9th: Worship, Blessing of the Backpacks and the first day of Sunday School 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:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Roderick

LECTOR: Diane M.

COMMUNION SERVER: Karla

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Annie

ATTENDANCE: Kandie

GREETER: Bev

ALTAR GUILD: Kandie and Diane M.

SOUND: Madeline

LIVE STREAM: Maddie

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