

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the ELCA

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

Email: faithlutheranmenifee@gmail.com

Lay Preacher: David Moe

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

***Worship Plan for Sunday, May 17, 2026 * Seventh Sunday of Easter: The
Ascension of Our Lord***

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

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: A Focus on Relationship

The prayers of Jesus in today's reading come at the conclusion of what is called the "Farewell Discourse" in John's gospel, which takes place prior to Jesus' arrest in the garden. In this discourse Jesus repeatedly emphasizes themes of relationship, mutual love, and service as he teaches, gives final instructions, and prays for the disciples.

In John, more than in the other three gospels, *relationship* is the ultimate focus of the life of faith. Jesus' mission on earth is to bring people into knowledge of and relationship with God the Father. Jesus exemplifies perfect relationship with the Father and wants all people to know this same intimacy with God. He also prays that his disciples might live in such a loving and mutual relationship with one another. Moreover, he prays that we might be one, so that our unity reflects the unity of the Father and the Son.

Our relationship with God is strengthened and refreshed in faith communities that worship together, attend to each other's needs, and serve others and creation in acts of love and compassion. In the Bantu languages and philosophy of Africa, *ubuntu* refers to the moral conviction that "I am because you are," or "I am because we are." Ubuntu recognizes that our well-being and our futures are bound up in the well-being and the future of others.

Christianity is a religion of relationship, not of self-efficacy. In an increasingly individualistic and fragmented world, our faith in Christ demonstrates a bold witness to the power and beauty of community. How might Jesus be leading us and the church in this subversive work? How might mutual love and interdependence be signs of our faith, forging a path of healing for our broken world?

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 lay preacher, David Moe. In the same way that Jesus' disciples stood open-mouthed as Jesus ascended into heaven, we gather here today in awe of the power and majesty of our Lord, who continues to fulfill his promise that they, and we, "will be baptized with the Holy Spirit". The Holy Spirit is alive and well here at Faith! Everyone is welcome to participate in any and all of the many ways in which we serve and honor God here and beyond our doors.

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by the Sinclairs, celebrating their wedding anniversary.

The next Food with Friends event is on the 27th at 5:00! Taco bar!

On Sunday, the 31st the next Big Band Concert will be held at 4:00!

The weather is warming up...time for ice cream! There will be an ice cream social on June 3rd at 6:30!

Tickets are on sale for the annual WELCA Luncheon Fundraiser on Saturday June 20. It is possible we could sell out, so purchase your \$15 tickets early! See Candy Pellechio.

Donations for gift baskets for the Luncheon Fundraiser are due by May 24. Gift cards and wine donations are still needed. See Candy Pellechio with questions.

This quarter Outreach is collecting tuna in bags/cans, small bags of nuts (any kind) and shampoo for MilVet.

For May, we are collecting canned chili, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard.

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.

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 393

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!* (ELW 393)

OneLicense Song #19793; Sources: Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Sources: Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623 (Public Domain); OneLicense # M-402221

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.

Amen.

P: PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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

In introducing his book, Luke notes to Theophilus that he is taking up where he left off with his gospel. The gospel ends with the witness to the resurrected Christ and Acts begins by bringing to a close this forty-day string of appearances. The disciples are still anticipating a kind of earthly reign (v. 6), but Jesus tells them not to be concerned with God's chronology but to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which would empower them for witness to the world. Having said this, he rose out of their sight. Two angels ask them why they are gazing heavenward. Jesus would return in the same manner in which they witnessed him go.

Luke intended his work to be the sequel, the completion of the story he had to tell. The main character, however, was not Jesus but the Holy Spirit. In order for the narrative to continue, the hero of the gospel had to leave the scene. The role of the disciples was to wait for gift of the Spirit and to be witnesses to what they had seen and heard while he had been with them. This text also contains one of

the two silliest questions in the Bible (the other is “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen, as He said).

LECTOR: FIRST READING:

A reading from Acts 1:1-14

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

This psalm came from a small collection celebrating the sovereignty of God. It was probably used at the annual celebration of the enthronement of God as

Israel's true monarch. This is an enthronement psalm, a group of psalms used on festival occasions when God was declared king. Our lesson celebrates God's enthronement as king of all nations.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 47

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

² **For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**

³ who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

⁴ **who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

⁵ God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

⁶ **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷ For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

⁸ **God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**

⁹ The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

This is the heart of a typical Hebrew barakah, (bah-rah-kah) or celebratory prayer of praise and thanksgiving. Here Paul, or some other author writing in his name, celebrates the sovereignty of God represented by the redemptive work of Christ. This poetic passage exalts Christ as the sovereign who is above every authority and power throughout the universe. God has put all things under his feet. Christ assumes this power not just for his benefit but for the sake of his body, the church (v. 22). The power of Christ's resurrection is manifested in the lives of believers and in the church.

LECTOR: SECOND READING:

A reading from Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe,

according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. 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' final appearance to his disciples included a slightly different account of the ascension. Before leaving, he taught them how the Jewish scriptures told of his messianic mission for which he now commissioned them. The risen Christ interprets to his disciples how his ministry, especially his death and resurrection, is a fulfillment of the scriptures. The purpose of this is that forgiveness of sins might be offered to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. He reminds them that they are witnesses of all these things, but that before beginning their witness, they should wait until they have received the promised Spirit from on high. Christ led his disciples to Bethany, and while he lifted his hands in blessing, he ascended to the Father. The disciples responded to these events with unsurpassed joy and praise as they worshipped continually in the temple.

P: GOSPEL: Luke 24: 44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you

what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Who Was Jesus? by David Moe

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 416

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *At the Name of Jesus* (ELW 416, vs. 1, 4, 5)

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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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick, especially Judy Appel; Susan Bauerle; Ian Berger; Mary Booth; Arnette Calkins; Rich and Sandy Chandler; Jeff Cook; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Sandy Evers; Ray Fenstermacher; Frank Harrison IV; Doris Hays; Gina Howe; Sarge Hunter; Sharon Lawyer and family; Donna McCain; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Janet Oster; Tina Peteroski; Judi Pietch; Maricar Rodriguez; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; 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. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Loving God, be with us during this time of discernment as our search for a permanent pastor continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility, especially the Call Committee. Fill all our leaders and members with wisdom and patience. Keep us all mindful of the work you would have us do to further the work of your kingdom. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

P: OFFERING

Let us remember at this time of Offering, that all we have and all we are given are gifts from God. Our offerings of time, talent and treasures are expressions of gratitude to God for all we have received. May we show abundant gratitude. During the musical offering, the usher will bring the offering plate forward to be lifted up to the Lord.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Here I Am, Lord* (sung by the Luther College Cathedral Choir)

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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.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. 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

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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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

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: *Here Is Bread* (ELW 483)

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***You Are Holy* (ELW 525)**

OneLicense Song #00877; Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, administered by Augsburg Fortress in North America, South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean; Sources: Text: Per Harling, b. 1948; Music: Per Harling; OneLicense #M-402221

***Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW 471, vs. 1-3)**

Public Domain. Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual

***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 543

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (ELW 543)

With Pr. Ken on guitar

OneLicense Song # D6E59E25; Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House; Outside USA: Arr. from The English Hymnal, © Oxford University Press 1906; Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008, alt.; Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958; OneLicense # M-402221

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: Go in peace, awaiting the Holy Spirit's arrival

C: We will wait until God empowers us for ministry.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, the 19th: 4 Plus 1 Group meets at 10:00; Fellowship meets at 2:00

Wednesday, the 20th: Finance meets at 11:00; Menifee Reads! meets at 7:00

Thursday, the 21st: Snip 'N Stitch begins at 9:00; Menifee Reads! meets at 2:00

Friday, the 22nd: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 24th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Ken Puccio; Endowment meets at 11:00

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joanne

LECTOR: Pat A.

COMMUNION SERVER: Freddericka

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Annie

ATTENDANCE: Pat O.

GREETER: Pat A.

ALTAR GUILD: Kandie, Mars

SOUND: Maddie

LIVE STREAM: Madeline

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

NO FEES
to Faith Lutheran



Zelle
fclfinance1518@gmail.com



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