

Faith Lutheran News

Happy Fathers' Day

June, 2022 Page 1

Faith Lutheran Church

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Faith Lutheran Church, Murphys

Pastor Karen Johnson

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Office Hours:

Contact Pastor for an appointment

Tuesday and Wednesday

Church Council

President: Rob Westerhoff

Vice President: Wayne Earthman

Treasurer: Kimberly McCarthy

Financial Secretary:

Anne Anderson

Secretary: Judy Earthman

Director of Worship & Music:

Kaarn Egge Westerhoff

Property Chairperson:

KC Anderson

Parish Nurse:

Kathy Walsh

Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge

Pastor's Message

Now a bishop must be above reproach... (1 Timothy 3:1)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this, it's been a few days since the 2022 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly finished up. I am still reeling from it and all that has been happening since then. Much of the assembly time was spent discussing and debating whether Megan Rohrer should remain as our bishop. Bishop Rohrer is accused of afflicting excruciating harm to a Latino congregation by removing their pastor on the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe. The situation is complicated and wide-reaching, and it sheds light on the sin of racism which is rooted within the structures of the ELCA. Not all information is publicly available. Other questionable actions of Megan Rohrer as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, prior to being elected bishop, have also come to light in the wake of this controversy.

There were many harsh, angry, and sorrowful words spoken at the assembly. A resolution to remove Bishop Rohrer needed two-thirds to pass, and received 57%, so *they** were still our bishop at the end of the assembly. The day after the assembly, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton announced that she had suspended Bp. Rohrer and initiated a discipline process against *them*. We also learned that Bp. Rohrer had resigned, but this announcement came on social media, not from an official source. The Synod Vice President released a statement explaining the timing of these various actions. It is, to put it politely, a painful mess.

So what happens next? When a bishop leaves before the end of their term, an interim bishop is appointed, often a retired bishop from another synod. The interim bishop serves until a new bishop can be elected. We have been told that the earliest election of a new bishop would be at the regularly scheduled 2023 synod assembly, giving a year for healing and rebuilding trust. We continue to pray for all who have been harmed; for our Synod staff, our Synod Council, and our Synod as a whole, where so many have lost trust in one another and our church structures; for our Churchwide leaders, including Bishop Eaton; and for Megan Rohrer.

Here at Faith, we held our congregational meeting in May to elect council members, and we give thanks for our faithful leaders continuing to serve: Rob, Judy, Kimberly, Wayne, KC, and Kaarn. We are in process for the sale of the parsonage, and happy to hear that our renters



Portrait of Lucas Cranach the Elde , Painted by Lucas Cranach the younger 1550, Uffizi, Florence, Italy

of five years are buying a house. We continue seeking to discern where the Spirit is leading us in this new financial situation. As we enter the long “green season” of ordinary time, we strive to follow Jesus our Lord in all the ordinary days and tasks of our lives and to be his body in the world.

In Christ and his love,

Pastor Karen

*Megan Rohrer uses pronouns *they/them*, italicized for clarity as to whom I am referring.

For a comprehensive listing of documents and commentary relating to our synod’s turmoil, see this website (warning – this is a deep rabbit hole):

<https://whathappenedinthesps.weebly.com/>

More Synod Assembly News

There were other actions at the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly besides the debate and vote on removing the bishop (which failed; see Pastor’s message).

A memorial was adopted calling for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to commit to developing a social statement on homelessness.

A resolution was passed raising the baseline compensation for full-time pastors.

A resolution was passed to “create a Reparations Fund for the purpose of payment for wrongs done to rostered leaders of African descent and of color” in our synod.

Simon Wong was elected to be the next Synod Council Vice President.

A budget of \$2.547 million was adopted for 2023-2024.

Rev. Mark Price of St. Paul, Lodi, was elected to be dean of our Sierra Central Valley conference.

Unfinished business goes to the Synod Council.

Missing from this assembly were the usual Bible studies, workshops (preempted due to extended debate), and the assembly banquet honoring significant congregation and ordination anniversaries, especially 50-year ordination anniversaries. We hope they will return next year!

Thank you to Rob Westerhoff and Kathleen Walsh for serving as our lay voting members at this difficult Assembly. More information on the resolutions, etc., here:

<https://www.spselca.net/synodassembly>



“The Kingdom of God” Bible Study continues...

Jesus talked about the kingdom of God (or the kingdom of heaven) more than anything else, but what does that mean? Our Bible study, “The Kingdom of God,” by Mark Allan Powell, a Lutheran pastor and retired professor from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, continues through June on Wednesdays at 2:00 PM on Zoom. Contact Pastor Karen to get the link.

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist is a 1526 oil on panel desco da parto painting by Pontormo, now in the Uffizi, where it has been since at least 1704.

President's Message

Pastor has updated everyone on the status of the synod and the Bishop I will update you on the sale of the parsonage.

I've been called a couple of times a week by our agent, Randy Norrie, updating me on the status of the sale. If you didn't know the council accepted an offer of \$435,000 and the church will pay for \$900 worth of termite mitigation. The money will come out of the escrow account so the church will not have to write a check for that amount. The escrow will close on or about July 15th. The new owners are planning some major renovations; then using the house as an Air BnB. Hopefully it will not become a party house! Randy has said the new owners would like a cross or other item from the church to be incorporated into the new decorations. Half-jokingly I suggested providing plaque that reads "Former Parsonage of Faith Lutheran Church. Services Sunday at 11AM."

Our current tenants Holly and Harvey Hopkins had found a new home in Susanville. They will be moving out July 1st.

The Council will be working on what ministries or programs the congregation will move forward with using the income from the sale to do the Lords work. We will be coming to you for input along the way. Keep this in your prayers.

Rob Westerhoff
President

**Council meeting
Sunday June 26**

Mountain Ranch Yard Sale Raises \$\$\$ for Ukraine

Thank you to everyone who donated items and supported the yard sale at Mountain Ranch Lutheran Church on May 28. Over \$4600 was raised for Lutheran Disaster Response for the Eastern European (Ukraine) crisis.



First Congregational Church will be holding Vacation Bible School July 25-29, 9-noon. More information to come.

The Food Pantry

Pasta/noodles, Spaghetti sauce, rice, canned vegetables/fruit, peanut butter, cereal, canned tuna/meats

- Dog and cat food
- Monetary gifts. Make your check to Faith Lutheran Church with a note: For Murphys Pantry.

Thank you for all your support for the Murphys Food Pantry.

Naomi entreating Ruth and Orpah to return to the land of Moab by [William Blake](#), 1795

June Birthdays		June Anniversaries	
JoAnne Sandlin	2nd	Anne & KC Anderson	19th
Byron Martin	10th	Roy & Loretta Soracco	20th
Kassie Walker	10th		
Henry Ferguson	24th	Susan & Sam Wenger	29th

July Birthdays

Vicky Bureta	3rd	Sylvia Martens	31st
Pat Maki	8th	Isaak Walsh,	31
James Webster	19th		

July Anniversaries

Pastor Karen & Dave Johnson	July 17, 1982
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Up Coming Holidays

Flag Day—June 14th	Juneteenth—June 19th	Independence Day—July 4th
Father's Day—June 19th	Summer Soltice—June 21st	

Sunday Date	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
Theme	Day of Pentecost	The Holy Trinity	Second Sunday of Pentecost	Third Sunday of Pentecost
Reader	Judy Earthman	Rob Westerhoff	Vivian Hansten	Paul Westermann
Altar Care	Rob Westerhoff	Kathleen Walsh	Rob Westerhoff	Anne Anderson
Greeter/Ushers	Loretta Soracco, Judy & Wayne Earthman	KC Anderson & Rob Westerhoff	Janet & Mike Skenfield	Kathleen Walsh & Vivian Hansten
Acolyte	Wayne Earthman	Kimberly McCarthy	Rob Westerhoff	Wayne Earthman
Worship Assistant	Kimberly McCarthy	Janet Skenfield	Kathy Walsh	KC Anderson
Counters	Judy Eartman & Vivian Hansten	Anne & KC Anderson	Kaarn & Rob-Westerhoff	Kathleen Walsh & Vivian Hansten

If you are unable to perform your service, **please switch with someone and then report the change to the church office prior to Tuesday of that week** (209) 728-2041. We do not have a church secretary at this time.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Do justice, love kindness, and
walk humbly with the Lord.
Micah 6:8*