

Faith Lutheran News

He is Risen

April, 2025 Page 1

Faith Lutheran Church

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Faith Lutheran Church, Murphys

Pastor Karen Johnson

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Office Phone number

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Office Hours:

Contact Pastor for an appointment

Tuesday and Wednesday

Church Council

President: Kathleen Walsh

Vice President: Wayne Earthman

Treasurer: Susi Lewis

Financial Secretary: Loretta

Soracco

Secretary: Carol Lagomarsino

Worship & Music: Kaarn Egge

Westerhoff

Property Chairperson:

KC Anderson

Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge

Westerhoff

Return to the Lord your God during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter:

Midweek Lenten Vespers and soup supper:

"Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism"

Wednesdays – April 2 and 9

4:00 pm worship; soup supper to follow at 4:50 pm

Holy Week Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13 during regular 11:00 AM Sunday worship. Enter the sanctuary with palms. Follow Jesus to the trial before Pilate and to the cross.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – at Faith, 4:00 PM. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples and giving the new commandment; service with Holy Communion.

Good Friday, April 18 – at Mountain Ranch LC, 5:00 PM. Tenebrae Service of Darkness, contemplating the crucifixion of our Lord in the Passion according to John.

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Sunday, April 20

Festival Worship at Faith, 11:00 AM. A traditional service with Holy Communion. Invite your family and friends to this joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection!

Also:

Sunrise Worship Service, 7:00 AM, at Mountain Ranch Park, with Mountain Ranch Lutheran Church and Pastor Karen Johnson; breakfast served afterwards.

Sunrise Worship Service, 7:00 AM, at Buena Vista Cemetery, with Open Door United Church of Christ and Pastor Bonnie Hollinger

Easter Lilies

You are invited to bring Easter lilies or flowers in memory or honor of loved ones. Sign up in the narthex or send an email to the church office by April 9. Please bring your flowers on Easter morning, April 20. You may also bring loose flowers for the cross. Thank you!

Pastor's Message

"Remember how he told you... that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." (Luke 24:6-7)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This month brings us to the most sacred time of the year – the final weeks of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. The events that we remember and celebrate – Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, his last supper with his disciples, his arrest, crucifixion, and death, and his resurrection – are central to our faith. Without the resurrection, Jesus would be just another martyr, someone to emulate and admire. But the Crucified One is also the Risen One, Lord and Savior worthy of our worship, the embodiment of God's extravagant love and mercy for all people.

We have many opportunities this month to grow deeper in this faith. During our midweek Lenten Vespers (Evening Prayer) services, we have been reflecting on "continuing in our covenant of baptism," with conversations around how we live out the call to community, worship, and witness. The last two midweek services will focus on service and justice. This year we are switching our Holy Week services with Mountain Ranch: we will hold a Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion here at Faith for the first time since I've been your pastor, and the traditional Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held at Mountain Ranch church. Then the joyous celebration of Easter morning and the empty tomb. It is a great time to invite neighbors and friends to "come and see" and experience the good news we share of God's immeasurable love for us in Jesus Christ.

Thank you to KC, Kaarn, and Rob for participating in the Peoples' Sermon workshops. Together we are learning how to make preaching a "ministry of the people." Inspired by this class, "sermon feedback" forms will be available for anyone who wants to fill one out, and our Bible study after Easter will discuss the lessons coming up for Sunday.

The Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly is coming in June (on-line), with an in-person regional gathering in May. I find these assemblies to be blessed times to connect with other Lutherans, to share experiences and ideas, to worship and pray with many voices, and to know that we are "Church Together." We can send two lay voting members from Faith; please consider if you might be able to serve in this way.

I am hearing a lot of distress from people about the dismantling of the government as we've known it, with concerns for all who are losing jobs, benefits, rights, and the social safety net. This is, perhaps, our "Babylonian exile," a time to deepen our trust in the God of resurrection and new life – to love and support one another, to open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors, and to "overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21) in whatever ways we can. We must talk about these things so that we might continue to "proclaim the good news of God in Christ in word and deed...serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and...strive for justice and peace in all the earth" (Affirmation of Baptism, *ELW* p. 236).

On Ash Wednesday, I invited us to trace the cross on our forehead each day in Lent. This cross calls us to be attentive to the hard truths in and around us, attentive to all that needs Jesus' healing and compassion, attentive to the evil that needs rebuking and the oppression that needs resisting... and attentive to Jesus with us in the struggle. Jesus says, "I am with you," and we take his promise out to the world, to others who need to hear: "I am with you." May you grow deeply in faith, discipleship, and love for one another as we continue our journey together through Lent into Easter joy.

In Christ,

Pastor Karen

Synod Assembly – “Do Not Lose Heart”

This year’s Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly will be on Saturday **June 14 on Zoom**, 9 AM-12 noon. There will also be three regional on-site gatherings for worship, fellowship, and conversation together, on May 10 in Chico, May 17 in Walnut Creek, and on **May 31 in Fresno** especially for our conference 8 (Pastor Karen will be helping to lead this one). Faith is allotted two lay voting members – are you interested? Please talk to Kathleen or Pastor Karen. Registration deadline is April 26, and the council has budgeted funds to pay for the registration.

Council meeting – Tuesday, April 22 3:00 PM, in the narthex.

Bible Study

Bible study – to resume after Easter

Following the suggestion of the Peoples’ Sermon class, the next Bible study will be a “pericope” study, looking at the lessons for the Sunday coming up. What do we notice in our readings? What do we wonder about? How might this good news be proclaimed in our worship and in our lives? We anticipate beginning Wednesday April 30, 3:00 PM.

Breakfast Fellowship – Tuesdays 8 AM

You are invited to gather with Faith folks for breakfast each week, **Tuesdays at 8 AM**, even-numbered days at **Grounds** and odd-numbered days at the **Murphys Hotel**. Hope to see you there for this time of food, fellowship, and faith. Check with Rob if you are coming for the first time, because occasionally the schedule changes.

Murphys Food Pantry Fill the Red Barrel April 6

The first Sunday of each month is designated as “Fill the Red Barrel” day. You are invited us to bring in food for the Pantry’s red barrel in the narthex or make an extra monetary donation to the Pantry (make checks to “Faith Lutheran Church” with “Murphys Food Pantry” in the memo). Thank you for your generosity toward this ministry of caring for our community. Together we are making a difference!

Interested in The Helping in Worship?

Our worship services have many opportunities for leadership and assistance; perhaps you would like to help. Especially needed are helpers for altar care (setting up communion), counting offerings, and providing fellowship. Training is available. If you are interested, please talk to Kaarn or Pastor. Thank you to those helping already, and to Kaarn Westerhoff for coordinating our worship helpers.

Murphys Irish Day

A HUGE THANK YOU to KC, Kathleen, and all the crew for the Irish Day parking lot and bake sale fundraiser! It was a sunny day, with many helpers, many return customers, lots of joy and fun, and we netted over \$2300.. See the pictures on the next page.



Annette Stout and
Carol Lagomarsino



Mike
Skenfield



KC Anderson, Dan L.
Annette, Carol



Rob Westerhoff



Bonnie Thomas and Mike

Pictures provided by Kathleen Walsh.

Happy Birthday

April Birthdays

Rob Westerhoff 17th

May Birthdays

Kaarn Westerhoff 9th

June Birthdays

Henry Ferguson 24th



Sunday Date	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Theme	5 th Sunday in Lent	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	2 nd Sunday in Easter
Reader/ Worship Assistant	Rob Westerhoff	Janet Skenfield	Liz Gilbert/ KC Anderson	KC Anderson
Altar Care	KC Anderson	Annette Stout	Carol Lagomarsino	Kathleen Walsh
Counters	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino

Thanks for serving

Sunday Date	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Theme	Third Sunday in Easter	Fourth Sunday in Easter	Fifth Sunday in Easter	Sixth Sunday in Easter
Reader/Worship Assistant	Janet Skenfield	Kathleen Walsh	KC Anderson	Janet Skenfield
Altar Care	Annett Stout	None	Rob Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino
Counters	Kathleen Walsh	Rob Westerhoff	KC Anderson/ Kathleen Walsh	Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff

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