

# Faith Lutheran News

Happy New Year

January, 2020, Page 1

## Faith Lutheran Church

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Faith Lutheran Church, Murphys

### Pastor Karen Johnson

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707-696-5947 cell  
209-890-7682 home  
Office Phone number  
728-2041

Office Hours:  
9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
Tuesday and Wednesday  
**Church Council**

President: Rob Westerhoff  
Vice President: Kassie Walker  
Treasurer/Parish Nurse:  
Kathy Walsh  
Financial Secretary:  
Anne Anderson  
Secretary: Vivian Hansten  
Director of Worship & Music:  
Edie Diegoli  
Property Chairperson:  
KC Anderson  
Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge  
Westerhoff

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## Pastor Karen's Message

*You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14, 16)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year, and happy new decade!

This new year "2020" sounds like a measurement of vision - 20/20 is "perfect" vision, seeing clearly what is ahead. (I appreciate 20/20 vision each morning when I put in my contacts and my vision is transformed from a blurry 20/400!) We have challenges and opportunities ahead this year that will call for clear vision of where God is leading us and how we are to steward all that God has entrusted to our care.

In particular, renovating the Mitchler house will be a big undertaking. The goal is a residence for permanent supportive housing for two seniors or one family struggling to find a place to live, and a partnership with Sierra HOPE, who will be a reliable tenant that is committed for the long-term. Thank you to Rob Westerhoff for already donating his time to develop the needed plans, and to Judy Earthman for already seeking out grants to help cover the construction costs.

There will be important ways that *you* can help - giving time and energy in certain parts of the construction; helping with oversight of the project; and financial donations to cover some of the costs. We will be inviting your contributions, as you are able. Most importantly, please pray for this new ministry direction, that we may be guided by God's vision for us in sharing the love of Christ in the new decade.

On January 12, we begin Time after Epiphany, with readings that call us to deeper discipleship as light for the world, reflecting the light of Christ.



He is our vision, God's radiance illuminating our life and our ministries.

As 2019 comes to a close, my heart is filled with joy and gratitude for the grace of God that has called me to serve among you as your pastor. I give thanks for each of you, and for your faithfulness in worship, your generosity in time, energy, and finances, and all the ways that you serve. I give thanks for:

All who help with worship services in a multitude of ways, making our worship truly "the work of the people;"

All who do so much to keep the building and grounds in good shape;

Our hard-working council members, who diligently steward the business of our ministries;

All who have taken on the office tasks;

All who plan and provide for fellowship and special events;

All your care and prayers for one another and for me.

Thank you also for your generous Christmas gift to me. You are truly people of love and grace. May the presence, peace, and hope of Christ shine brightly in your life this year!

Pastor Karen



You are invited to a  
**New Year's Open House**  
 Friday, January 3, 2020, 3-7 pm  
 at Pastor Karen and Dave's home  
 707 Forest Meadows Drive  
 209-890-7682      Featuring æbleskiver, a Danish delight!

### A Prayer for the New Year:

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*(ELW, p. 63)*



## ***Our sympathies go out to...***

Kassie Walker and family at the death of her sister, Kilty Peters, on December 19, 2019. Kilty worshiped with us frequently for the past several years and was very much a part of our congregation. Services are pending.

*Almighty God, receive our sister Kilty into the arms of your mercy, that she may rest in peace and rise in the glory of your eternal home.*

## ***We celebrate with joy...***

The baptism of Nell S. Vaidyanathan, on December 19, 2019. Nell is the granddaughter of Judy Earthman, and lives in Chicago, IL, with her parents Caitlin and Mahesh Vaidyanathan and big brother Jude. Thank you to everyone who came to support the family at the special midweek baptism.

*Holy God, nurture and sustain Nell as she grows in the Christian faith and life, and strengthen her parents in their faith, that they all may know your love and grace.*



### **Congregational meeting – tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 26, after worship.**

Please plan to attend this important semi-annual meeting to adopt the budget for 2020 and elect a nominating committee.

### **Bible Study with Pastor Karen – Wednesdays at 1:00 pm.**

All are welcome. Bring your Bible and your questions, and join us for some lively discussion. We will begin a new study January 15. (No Bible study Jan. 1 or 8.)

## The Food Pantry is always in need of staples

Pasta / noodles

Rice

Peanut butter

Canned tuna / meats

Spaghetti sauce

Canned vegetables/fruit

Cereal

Dog and cat food are also requested. Monetary gifts are welcome. Make your check to Faith Lutheran Church with a note: For Murphys Pantry. Thank you for all your support for the Murphys Food Pantry.

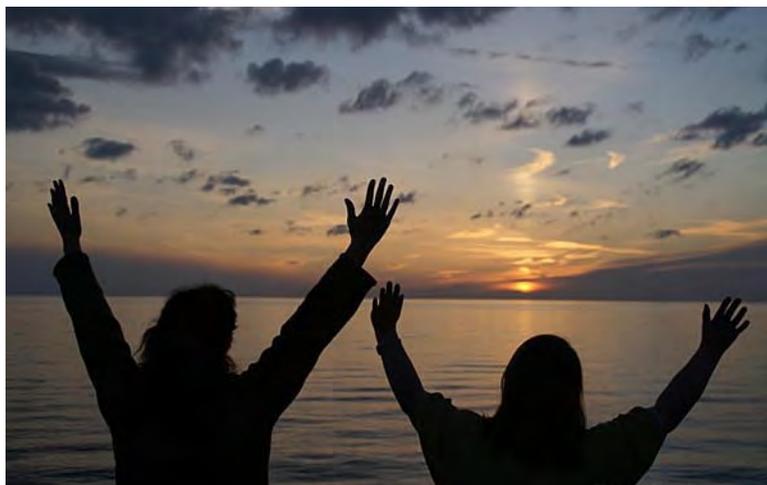
## Murphys Senior Center

MSC offers lunch every Tuesday at noon. Call on Monday to reserve a seat: 728-1672. Cost is \$4 donation. Blood pressure checks every second Tuesday. Check the calendar on the office window for menus and the date and topic of the monthly presentation of interest to seniors.

## Farewell and Welcome to our Accompanists

On December 29, we said **farewell to Pat Bradley**. Pat has been our accompanist for almost 2½ years, sharing her wonderful musical gifts on the piano and on the organ at Christmas and Easter. Pat has been an absolute delight to work with and a gracious presence among us, and we give thanks to God for the blessing that she has been to us.

On January 5, we will **welcome Song Croyle** as our new accompanist. We pray that she will be blessed in her serving as we will be blessed by her music.





## President's Message



Happy New Year! This years hold a lot promise for Faith Lutheran. We are changing tenants in the Mitchler House from the MSC thrift store to The Village, play space and hopefully to a transitional housing facility for Sierra Hope. I think this is very exciting news.

Another exciting time will be passing our 2020 budget, the Council will be meeting soon to finalize the budget for congregational approval. This budget is especially tight due to the loss of a few members and ever increasing hard costs, like wages and salaries, utilities, maintenance. One thing I'm very encouraged by is the way our members step up and fill the gaps. Last year was the first year in my time at Faith that we passed a deficit budget and we survived so I think we can do it again. Probably the most important thing we can do is spread the word of God and encourage people to attend worship.

At the end of January we will have part one of the congregational meeting and will discuss and pass the budget. We will also elect a nominating committee to recruit member for outgoing Council members. Given the small congregation all of us need to step up support the congregation in this very important service. Pray about it and listen for the Holy

Spirit to guide you toward service.  
Keep up the good works in the

Lords name!  
Rob Westerhoff



### Faith + Fellowship Breakfast

Wednesdays at 8:00 am.

Join us every Wednesday for breakfast at the Murphys Hotel. We begin with a prayer, and the rest of the time is for visiting and discussing whatever comes up.

**Council Meeting – Sunday,**  
January 12, after worship.



## January Celebrations



### Birthdays

Vivian Hansten	3rd	Eddie/Emma Diegoli	18th
Loretta Soracco	16th		

# January Assignments

	1	8	15	22
<b>AM</b>	KC Anderson	Anne Anderson	Edie Diegoli	Kaarn Egge
<b>Lector</b>	Janet Skenfield	Judy Earthman	Kaarn Egge	Kristie Stretars
<b>Altar Care</b>	Carol Lagomarsino	Edie Diegoli	Rob Westerhoff	Anne Anderson
<b>Greeter</b>	Mike Skenfield	KC Anderson	Kathy Walsh	Janet Skenfield
<b>Ushers</b>	Vivian Hansen and Kim McCarthy	Mike Skenfield and Carol Lagomarsino	Wayne and Judy Earthman	KC and Anne Anderson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kathy Walsh	KC Anderson	Wayne Earthman	Edie Diegoli
<b>Counters</b>	Anne and KC Anderson	Kim McCarthy and Andrea Schoen	Carol Lagomarsino and Vivian Hansten	Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Murphys, California 95247

Phone: (209)-728-2041  
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**Faith Lutheran Calendar**

**Sunday**

11:00 A.M. Worship Service

12:00 Noon Church Council (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)

**Wednesday**

8:00 A.M. Breakfast at Murphys Hotel

1:00 P.M. Bible Study

Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30-4:30

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