

Faith Lutheran News

Pentecost Season

June and July, 2026 Page 1

Faith Lutheran Church

65 Mitchler
Murphys, CA 95247
(209) 728-2041
Faithlutheranchurch@att.net
www.flcmurphys.com

Facebook:

Faith Lutheran Church, Murphys

Pastor Karen Johnson

KarenWJohnson@sbcglobal.net

707-696-5947 cell

209-890-7682 home

Office Phone number

728-2041

Office Hours:

Contact Pastor for an appointment

Tuesday and Wednesday

Church Council

President: Kathleen Walsh

Treasurer: Susi Lewis

Financial Secretary:

Secretary: Carol Lagomarsino

Worship & Music: Kaarn Egge

Westerhoff

Property Chairperson:

KC Anderson

Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge

Pastor's Message

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field..." (Matthew 13:31)

Dear Siblings in Christ,

It's summertime! Things are slowing down here in the church, as people are away on vacation. But we know we will have visitors who are vacationing in the area or up at their cabins, so summer is an important time to *sow* hospitality – welcoming new guests and returning visitors with a friendly handshake and genuine interest, and offering a little food and fellowship after the service. The fellowship sign-up is in the narthex, if you are able to contribute in this way. Thank you for your part in our ministry of hospitality.

Summer means Time after Pentecost in the church year, the "long green season" also known as "ordinary time." It is the season for growing in "ordinary" discipleship in our lives, as we follow Jesus in his ministry in Galilee, witnessing his miracles, hearing his parables and other challenging teachings from the Gospel of Matthew, and growing in faith that is active in love. Perhaps it might be a good season to check out the Wednesday Bible study, if you haven't already, where we dive into the lectionary readings and ponder this "kingdom of heaven" that Jesus is bringing and how we might fulfill the commission to "go and make disciples" (Matt. 28:19).

We will install our council for the year on June 7 during worship. Thank you to our faithful council members, who attend to the business and ministry direction of our congregation – Kathleen Walsh, president; Carol Lagomarsino, secretary; Susi Lewis, treasurer, Kaarn Egge, worship and music; and KC Anderson, facilities. Also on June 7, we will welcome the community into our sanctuary for "Opera in Concert," featuring local singer Michelle LaJeunesse-Moughton and pianist Diane Day. We are delighted that they chose to give their concert at Faith.

The 250th birthday of the United States is coming up on July 4th. As we celebrate this milestone for our nation, we remember that our first citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20), and that we are commanded to love the Lord our God with all of our being and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-39). These are our primary laws, the Greatest Commandments – sowing the love and grace of God for the whole world, no exceptions.



Thank you to Rob for preaching on May 10, when I was away. I will be away again June 1-4, June 29-July 9, and August 3-7, for vacations and continuing education. Thank you for your support of these times of refreshment and renewal. June marks my tenth anniversary serving as your pastor – a decade of ministry! – and it my joy and privilege to continue to serve among you. May your summer be filled with peace, hope, renewal, refreshment, and growing in love and faith.

In Christ and his love,

Pastor Karen

Synod Assembly – “Hold fast to what is good”

Our Sierra Pacific Synod will gather in assembly on **Saturday June 13 by Zoom**. The theme this year comes from Romans 12:9 – “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good...” Thank you to Rob and Kaarn for serving as our lay voting members. They and Pastor Karen attended the in-person Regional Gathering in Reno in May, where the keynote presentation was about Palestine, especially Palestinian Lutherans in the West Bank, living under Israeli occupation, with stories of the injustices against and the steadfast non-violent resistance of the Palestinians.

More from our Synod’s weekly newsletter: “In January 2026, members of the Synod visited The Tent of Nations, a 100-acre Palestinian Lutheran family farm near Bethlehem owned by the Nassar family for more than 100 years. Although the family holds historic deed documents, the land was declared “state land” by Israeli authorities in 1991, leading to decades of legal battles to protect their farm.

“Surrounded by Israeli settlements and facing ongoing threats to their land and orchards, the family remains committed to nonviolent resistance, environmental stewardship, and education.

“We were deeply moved by their story of steadfastness (*sumud*) amid daily challenges under occupation. As a sign of solidarity, we planted 10 olive trees (\$500) and now hope to help Daoud Nassar and his family plant 200 more trees (\$50/tree). So far, the synod has pledged 68 trees! Your gift of any amount helps us reach our \$10,000 goal. Donate [HERE!](#)”

God’s Richest Blessings...

... for Chingiz Walsh and Rachael Johnson, as they are married on June 1st in Oregon City. Chingiz is the oldest son of Bill and Cholpon Walsh, and the grandson of Kathleen Walsh.

Summer Council meetings

Tuesday, June 16, 2:00 PM; and Tuesday, July 21, 2:00 PM.

Summer Bible Study

Our regular weekly Bible study meets on **Wednesdays at 3:00 PM**, looking at the lessons for the Sunday coming up – what do we notice, and what do we wonder about? Join anytime for this dive into the lectionary readings; no experience necessary! *Due to Pastor Karen’s vacations and continuing education, there will be no Bible study on June 3, July 1, July 8, and August 5.*

Breakfast Fellowship – Tuesdays 8 AM

You are invited to gather with Faith folks for breakfast each week at Grounds Restaurant in Murphys for sharing 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 June 7th and July 5th

Murphys Food Pantry – Fill the Red Barrel June 7 and July 5

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!

Food pantry ongoing needs:

Cereal, peanut butter, spaghetti noodles & sauce, tuna, chicken, soups, mac & cheese, noodles or rice mix, beans, corn, top ramen, granola bars, crackers.

What was in the Paten?

You missed a bit of mystery on Sunday, May 24. The congregation wondered why was Pastor throwing things out of the communion plate (the Paten)? She found a tiny spider in the plate. To the rescue Kyle Johnson, Carol Lagomarsino, and Mark Skenfield.



Don’t forget to get your tickets to the opera. It will happen on June 7th at our church at 3:30. I suggest you get to the church early that afternoon. **Professional**

opera singers Salvatore Atti and Michelle La Jeunesse-Moughton in your own backyard! Velvet voices, fiery duets, and the music that has stood the test of time. Translations will be provided! Diane Day accompanies at the piano for this afternoon of the most powerful singing that exists in the human voice. Very few seats remain!



Happy Birthday

June Birthdays

Henry Ferguson 24th

July Birthdays

Liz Armstrong 2nd

July Anniversary

Pastor Karen and David Johnson 17th



Salvatore Atti and Michelle La Jennesse-Moughton

Sunday Date	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Theme	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Reader/ Worship Assistant	Rob Westerhoff	Janet Skenfield	Liz Gilbert	KC Anderson
Altar Care	KC Anderson	Annette Stout	Carol Lagomarsino	Kathleen Walsh
Counters	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Carol Lagomarsino	Carol Lagomarsino and Kaarn Westerhoff

Thanks for serving

Sunday Date	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Theme	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Seventh Sunday in Pentecost	Eighth Sunday in Pentecost	Ninth Sunday in Pentecost
Reader/Worship Assistant	Janet Skenfield	Liz Gilbert	KC Anderson	Rob Westerhoff
Altar Care		Annett Stout	Rob Westerhoff	Kathy Walsh
Counters	Kaarn Westerhoff	Rob Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Carol Lagomarsino

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
65 Mitchler Murphys, California 95247
Phone: (209)-728-2041 Email: Faithlutheranchurc@att.net

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