

Faith Lutheran News

Happy Easter

March, 2024 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
Vice President: Wayne Earthman
Treasurer: Susi Lewis
Financial Secretary: Loretta Soracco
Secretary: Carol Lagomarsino
Director of 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 Services ~ Holy Lament
with scripture, reflection, prayer, and song*

**Wednesdays – March 6, 13, and 20
4:00 pm worship; soup supper to follow at 4:45 pm**

Holy Week Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24 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, March 28 – “Supper in the Upper Room,” at Mountain Ranch LC, 5:00 PM, with Holy Communion. Please sign up if planning to attend.

Good Friday, March 29 – Tenebrae Service of Darkness, at Faith, 7:00 PM; contemplating the crucifixion of our Lord in the Passion according to John.



The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Worship Service, 7:00 AM, at Mountain Ranch Park, with Mountain Ranch Lutheran Church and Pastor Karen Johnson

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!



Pastor's Message

*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Severe Weather! Blizzard Warning!" my phone keeps telling me. It's said that the month of March comes "in like a lion," and as I write this, we are awaiting a weekend storm that promises to be a lion. We might end up canceling worship for the first Sunday of March... as we did last year!

This month also brings us to the most sacred time of the year – the final weeks of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. The journey through Lent can feel a little like waiting for a storm; we know it will hit us in Holy Week, with Jesus' last supper, his arrest, trial before Pilate, and crucifixion. The thing about a storm is you have to go through it, so it's best to prepare.

Our Lenten disciplines are meant to help us prepare – to turn us to God and renew our trust in God's power for life. Did you take up a Lenten practice this year? If so, how is it going? The disciplines of deep prayer, fasting from self-indulgence, and intentional works of generosity and service are intended to open us to experiencing God's presence and form us into disciples of Jesus who love as we have been loved.

In the latest issue of *The Christian Century*, pastor and seminary professor Yolanda Pierce writes that God shows up especially when we gather – not always in the scripture or the sermon or the music, but almost always in the people there, in the greetings, hugs and handshakes, the concerned "how are you doing?" or "I missed you last week," and in the prayers spoken for one another. We have many opportunities to gather this month and to experience God showing up: midweek services on Wednesdays, as we reflect on our laments to God and share fellowship in soup suppers afterward; Holy Week services, including a Maundy Thursday supper with Holy Communion at Mountain Ranch Lutheran, and the traditional Good Friday Tenebrae Service here at Faith; and then the 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.

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

Council meeting – Tuesday, March 19, 3:00 PM, in the narthex

Daylight Savings Time begins – Sunday March 10

Turn your clocks *ahead* one hour; lose the hour of sleep, gain an hour of evening light!

Murphys Irish Day – Saturday, March 16

Faith Lutheran will host parking in our lot again this year. Please talk to KC Anderson if you are able to help. We will also have a bake sale on our porch. There is a sign-up in the narthex for baked goods and how to help, or talk to Kathleen Walsh.

Easter Lilies – Saturday, March 16

Please sign up to provide Easter Lilies to put on the alter area on Easter morning. Sign up in the narthex by March 20th. You may list names as an honorary or memory of a loved one.

Conference Assembly March 9

The Sierra Central Valley Conference will hold a conference assembly on Saturday, March 9, at Saron Lutheran Church in Escalon. This is a time of gathering with other churches in our seven-county conference (from San Joaquin and Amador in the north to Merced and Mariposa in the south) to share reports of ministries and conduct conference business. The main business will be electing a Dean (Pastor Karen is the interim dean), electing a representative to Synod Council, and nominating candidates to represent the Sierra Pacific Synod at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2025 in Phoenix, AZ. Anyone may attend. Please talk to Kathleen if interested.

Synod Assembly coming in June

The Sierra Pacific Synod will meet in Assembly Friday-Sunday, June 7-9, at the Convention Center in Fresno. Faith can send two lay voting members. Talk to Kathleen Walsh if interested in attending.

Bible study – to resume after Easter

Bible study will be moving to a new time and/or day. The next study will be “Holy Places” from *Gather* magazine, reflecting on “the places where God’s story and our story connect.” Watch the Sunday announcements for details to come.

Breakfast Fellowship

You are invited to gather with Faith folks for breakfast each week, **Tuesdays at 8 AM at Grounds** in Murphys. 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.

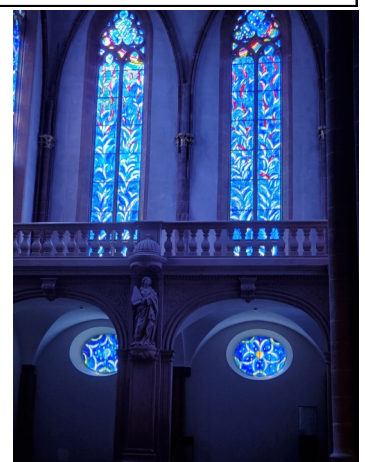


New Floor and Light Posts!

The old floor in the kitchen was disintegrating, so the council authorized the purchase and installation of new vinyl flooring, for both safety and sanitation concerns. The floor was installed Feb. 26-28 – check it out!

The leaning light post in the parking lot was replaced recently, along with its companion. Sierra HOPE is helping to pay for them.

Thank you to KC Anderson, who got the bids and coordinated the both projects. Please tell him how much you appreciate his work..

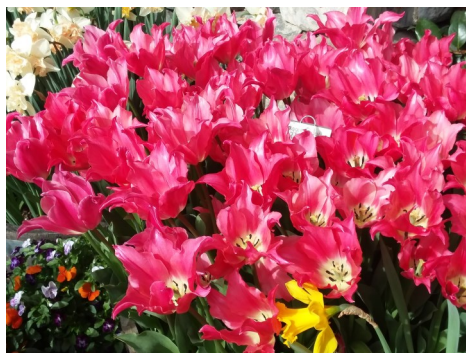


March Birthdays

KC Anderson	1 st	Tom McCarthy	24 th
Eliot/Brody Burita	8 th	Bonnie Thomas	31 st
Mike Skenfield	18 th		

April Birthdays

Karin Wood	1 st	Robert Westerhoff	17 th
Robert Wood	14 th		



Sunday Date	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Theme	Third Sunday in Lent	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Palm Sunday	Easter Sunday
Read/Worship Assistant	Robert Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Kathleen Walsh	Robert Westerhoff	Janet Skenfield
Altar Care	Kaarn Westerhoff	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino	Kaarn Westerhoff	Kathleen Walsh
Counters	Kathleen Walsh/Wayne Earthman	Carol Lagomarsino and Kaarn	KC Anderson and Kathleen Walsh	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff

Sunday Date	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Theme	First Sunday in Easter	Second Sunday in Easter	Third Sunday in Easter	Fourth Sunday in Easter
Read/Worship Assistant	KC Anderson	Vivian Hansten	Janet Skenfield	Robert Westerhoff
Altar Care	Kaarn Westerhoff	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino	Kaarn Westerhoff
Counters	Kathleen Walsh/Wayne Earthman	Carol Lagomarsino Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson and Kathleen Walsh	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff

If you are unable to perform your service, **please switch with someone and then report**

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*