

Faith Lutheran News

Journeying 40 days with Jesus

March, 2026 Page 1

Faith Lutheran Church

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Pastor Karen Johnson

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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

Pastor's Message

"I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25)

Dear Family in Christ,

In late January, I received a phone call that one never wants to receive. A pastor in our conference, my colleague and friend, had just died. Her unexpected death has been a somber reminder of what we observed on Ash Wednesday – the fragility of life, that we are mortal, and we all return to dust.

We are in the season of Lent for all of March. In some ways Lent is a resolute journey; we know what is coming – the betrayal, arrest, abandonment, and death of Jesus on the cross. But each Sunday in Lent is celebration of resurrection; that's why they are Sundays in Lent, set apart from the forty days of Lent. Christ is the resurrection and the life, the Son of the God "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist" (Romans 4:17). So Lent is also a journey of hope – for the resurrection of all our beloved and for the restoration of all things – a journey made in the faith that death does not have the last word.

I hope you will join us for our midweek Lenten services, as we engage in "conversations with Jesus." We are reflecting together on questions of faith and how Jesus might respond, along with scripture, song and prayers. Soup supper fellowship follows each service.

We had quite a storm in February, with some among us stranded by deep snow without power for days. Perhaps we should strengthen our plans and networks for checking on each other in these events.

Much is coming up in the next month. The Sierra Central Valley Conference 8 Assembly will be on March 14 in Modesto, a time to connect with the other congregations in our conference. Let me know if you would like to attend. Murphys Irish Day is March 21, with our parking and bake sale. Holy Week is the first week of April; we plan to return our former pattern of holding Maundy Thursday service, the remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper, at Mountain Ranch, and Good Friday Tenebrae service at Faith. We are also preparing to welcome our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Jeff Johnson on April 19, with a luncheon after worship.



Pastor Karen with Rev. Nelson Rabell-González and Bishop Jeff Johnson, at the celebration of life for Rev. Sylvia Mueller, February 21.

You will want to be here for that joyful day!

Lent means “spring” – the lengthening of days and growing. May we all grow in faith, hope, and love in this season.

In Christ,

Pastor Karen

**Midweek Lenten Services and soup supper:
Conversations with Jesus**

Wednesdays, 4:30 pm, March 4, 11, and 18

In the Sunday gospel readings this Lenten season, Jesus is in conversation with both friends and adversaries. For our midweek services, we are joining the conversation between Jesus and his partners. How does each character inform a contemporary life of discipleship? How might Jesus respond now to our own questions, confusion, and need for healing? Service with word, song, prayer, and reflection at 4:30 pm on March 4, 11, and 18 (no service on March 25); soup supper follows at about 5:15 pm. Please sign up in the narthex if you are able to provide soup or bread for one or more of the suppers.

Looking Ahead in Worship:

Palm / Passion Sunday, March 29

Maundy Thursday, April 2; service at Mountain Ranch.

Good Friday, April 3; service at Faith

Easter Day is Sunday April 5

Bishop Jeff Johnson visiting, April 19

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 March 24. Please bring your flowers on Easter morning, April 5. You may also bring loose flowers for the cross. Thank you!



**Daylight Savings Time begins –
Sunday March 8**

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

Murphys Irish Day – Saturday, March 21

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. Please bring your baked goodies on Friday the 20th, 9am-noon, for packaging. We can use everyone’s help! There is a sign-up in the narthex for baked goods and how to help, or talk to Kathleen Walsh.

Conference Assembly – March 14

The Sierra Central Valley Conference 8 will meet in assembly on Saturday, March 14, at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Modesto; doors open 9:30 AM, meeting 10:00-noon, with lunch to follow. This is a time to gather with folks from the other eleven congregations in our conference, to worship together, conduct some business of nominations, and share with each other about our ministries. Pastor Karen is Dean of our Conference and will be chairing the meeting. All are welcome to attend! If you are planning to attend, please let Pastor Karen know by Monday March 2.

Congregational Meeting Summary

Thank you to all who attended the congregational meeting on February 1. A budget of \$116,522 was passed. The projected deficit of \$23,989 will be covered, as needed, by taking principle from the funds from the sale of the parsonage. Carol Lagomarsino, Rob Westerhoff, and Mike Skenfield were elected to serve on the nominating committee. Part 2 of the congregational meeting will be held in May. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving and serving!

Murphys Food Pantry – Fill the Red Barrel—March 1

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.

“Meal-in-a-Bag” Program for Senior Center

We are invited to fill a bag with items for a sustainable “shelf food” meal. Please check the weekly announcements for the meal ingredients this month.

Save the Date

Bishop Jeff Johnson Coming to Faith April 19!

Mountain Ranch Lutheran will join us in worship that day, with Bishop Jeff preaching. Janet Skenfield is organizing the luncheon afterwards, please contact her to help set up and clean up afterward.

Bible Study is on break until after Easter.

Council meeting – Tuesday, March 17, 2:00 PM

Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly is Saturday June 13 by Zoom. The **in-person Regional Gatherings** are on three Saturdays: May 9 in Redding, May 16 in Reno, and May 31 in San Jose. Pastor Karen is probably going to the gathering in Reno. Would you like to be a synod assembly voting member this year? If so, talk to Kathleen Walsh or Pastor Karen.

March Birthdays			
KC Anderson	1 st	Mike Skenfield	18 th
Bonnie Thomas	31 st		
April Birthdays			
Rob Westerhoff			17 th

Happy Birthday

Sunday Date	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Theme	Second Sunday in Lent	Third Sunday in Lent	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Palm Sunday
Reader/Worship Assistant	Rob Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Rob Westerhoff	Liz Gilbert	Janet Skenfield
Altar Care	Annett Stout	Rob Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino	Annette Stout	KC Anderson
Counters	Kathleen Walsh	KC Anderson/ Kathleen Walsh	Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino/ Kaarn Westerhoff	Kathleen Walsh

Sunday Date	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Theme	Easter	First Sunday in Easter	Second Sunday in Easter	Third Sunday in Easter
Worship Assistant	Rob Westerhoff	Janet Skenfield	Liz Gilbert	KC Anderson
Altar Care	KC Anderson	Annette Stout	Carol Lagomarsino	Rob Westerhoff
Counters	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson/ Kathleen Walsh	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino/ Kaarn Westerhoff

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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