

Faith Lutheran News

Reformation Season

October, 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

Treasurer: Susi Lewis

Financial Secretary: Kaarn Egge

Westerhoff

Secretary: Carol Lagomarsino

Worship & Music: Kaarn Egge

Westerhoff

Property Chairperson:

KC Anderson

Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge

Westerhoff

Pastor's Message

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What is the purpose of the church? Perhaps it is something like this:

The church office received a phone call asking about possibly doing a memorial service for a local woman who had died and who had been baptized Lutheran. I was going to be out of town on the date they wanted, and at first thought we couldn't help. But then we decided to ask Pastor Bob Nicholas, who was filling in for me that weekend, if he might also preside at the memorial service. Pr. Bob said yes, and Kathleen and Mike W were willing to open the church and take care of lights, microphones, air conditioning, etc. So the service was held, with 50+ people attending. The family was *so grateful* to be able to celebrate their sister's / daughter's / mother's life with a Lutheran service in our beautiful sanctuary! And now all those people *know* that the church goes out of its way to love and care for those who are grieving.

The church is the body of Christ, and we are called to embody the compassion of Jesus our Lord. Being the church means serving the wider community with love and care – and what a blessing it is to serve in this way! Thank you for *your* faithfulness as the church, and for all your

compassion and care for your neighbors in your everyday lives.

The Faith council met recently with Mountain Ranch's council to continue in mutual conversation and discernment looking to the future. One decision that came out of this meeting was a commitment to strengthen our outreach as we head into this season of special services – Reformation, All Saints, Advent, and Christmas (see the "Worship Notes for Autumn" elsewhere in this newsletter for more information). We seek everyone's commitment and input to this endeavor. How might we reach out in new ways to invite people? What would make these services more meaningful, so that those worshipping may experience the joy and awe of God's love? Whom might *you* invite to worship with us?

October 31 is Reformation Day (observed October 25), celebrating Martin Luther's reforming insight of salvation by grace through faith. This is truly good news that sets us free for loving our neighbor. May you know peace with God and a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

In Christ and his love,

Pastor Karen

Save the Date – November 8, Potluck after worship

HarvestFest Worship at Ironstone – Sunday October 4, 10:00 AM

Join us for this joyful day of multi-congregational worship and a fabulous luncheon at Ironstone Vineyards. *Late-breaking development:* Pastor Karen will be presiding and preaching, as the pastor at Emanuel had an urgent matter come up that will keep him away. ***No worship service at Faith on October 4, and no Zoom that day.***

Worship notes for Autumn

Luke, Evangelist – October 18. On this feast of the gospel-writer and “beloved physician,” we will offer a service with healing prayer. You are invited to bring your prayer requests for healing and wellness in body, mind, or spirit, for yourself or others, and we will offer a time of prayer at the altar rail, as we commit our yearnings for healing into God’s hands. Our Sierra Pacific Synod is encouraging a “Day of the Lay Preacher” that day, and Rob will be the **preacher**. Thank you, Rob!

Reformation Sunday – October 25. Wear **red** on this festive day to celebrate the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in **1517** and the work of the Holy Spirit continuing to reform us today.

All Saints Day – November 1. We will light candles in **remembrance** of loved ones who have gone before us in faith. **Please submit by October 27** the name and date of death (if known) of family / close friends / neighbors who have died in the past year, since about mid-October 2025.

Daylight Savings Time ends – November 1. Turn your clocks **back** one hour and enjoy an extra hour of sleep!

Christ the King – November 22. Last Sunday of the church year. Time after Pentecost ends with proclaiming Christ as King of creation and of all the nations.

Advent begins – November 29. The beginning of the new church year, Year B in the Revised Common Lectionary. We will begin the season with a service of Lessons and Carols for Advent.

Congratulations and Blessings...

...to Jack Gilbert and Ella Jenkin, who will be married on October 17. Jack is the son of Liz and Doug Gilbert, and the grandson of Charlene Peery. Pastor Karen will preside at the wedding in Calaveras Big Trees Park.

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday October 11

We will meet briefly after worship to vote on minor revisions to our Congregation Constitution and Bylaws.

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!

Murphys Food Pantry Fill the Red Barrel October 11

The first Sunday of each month is designated as “Fill the Red Barrel” day (moved this month because of HarvestFest on Oct. 4). 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 Needs:** Cereal, peanut butter, spaghetti noodles & sauce, tuna, chicken, soups, mac & cheese, noodles or rice mix, beans, corn, top ramen, granola bars, crackers.

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.

October Birthdays			
Teresa Johnson	1 st	Susi Lewis	21 st
Dave Johnson	3 rd	Song Croyle	21 st
Andrea Schoen	5 th	Sherry Rogers	23 rd
Kathy Walsh	12 th	Janet Skenfield	23 rd
Allison Pry	18 th	Gary Thomas	25 th
		Charlene Peery	31 st

October Anniversaries			
Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff	6 th	Ruth and Henry Ferguson	31 st

November Birthdays			
Wayne Earthman	12 th	Kristine Stretars	23 rd
Dan Lagomarsino	23 rd		

Council Meeting Tuesday, October 27, 2:00 PM



Sunday Date	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Reader/Worship Assistant	Harvest Fest	Liz Gilbert	Janet Skenfield	Robert Westerhoff
Altar Care		Annette Stout	Carol Lagomarsino	Kathleen Walsh
Counters		KC Anderson	Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff	Kaarn and Carol Lagomarsino

Sunday Date	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Reader/Worship Assistant	Janet Skenfield	KC Anderson	Liz Gilbert	Janet Skenfield	Robert Westerhoff
Altar Care	Kathy Walsh	Annette Stout	Carol Lagomarsino	KC Anderson	
Counters	Kathleen Walsh / KC Anderson	Kaarn and Carol Lagomarsino	KC Anderson / Kathleen Walsh	Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff	Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff

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