

Faith Lutheran News

Pentecost Season

August, 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: Kaarn Egge
Westerhoff
Secretary: Carol Lagomarsino
Worship & Music: Kaarn Egge
Westerhoff
Property Chairperson:
KC Anderson
Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge
Westerhoff

Pastor's Message

"...so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." (Romans 12:5)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Sunday July 19, I announced to the congregation that I am in discernment as to when I will retire, probably within the next year, maybe a little longer. It used to be that a pastor would announce their leaving only about two months beforehand. Now, because of the changing landscape in the church, with fewer pastors and many church openings, and many congregations that can afford only a part-time pastor, it is considered "best practice" to have some lead time for discerning the congregation's future.

When you first called me in 2016, I thought I would be here between six to ten years; now I have just passed my tenth anniversary. I love serving as your pastor and am not eager to leave; however I can feel that my energy is lower than it was ten years ago. Also, Dave has been retired the whole time we've been here, and I'm looking forward to spending more time with him and seeing (bugging?) our sons more often.

Discernment is a process of intentional thinking, conversation, study, and prayer toward making a decision. I am in conversation with Dave, clergy colleagues, friends, my spiritual director, and our sons, and have already been in conversation with Faith's council, as well. The council has met with Mountain Ranch's council to talk about the future together, and Pastor Amy Kienzle, Assistant to the Bishop, met with all of us (by Zoom) to talk about the discernment process. The two councils are reading together *Fresh Expressions of the Rural Church*. We are revisiting our mission – what are our values, what are the needs in the community, and what are our strengths for serving those needs? What is God calling us to do in this time and place?

Now I invite **you** to be a part of the discernment conversation. What are your thoughts, fears, hopes, and ideas for our future here at Faith Lutheran Church? Where do you see yourself contributing to Faith's ministry? Talk to me or a council member. We will, no doubt, have some forums coming up when we can talk all together. Please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance – for all of us – in this time.

I was away on vacation and continuing education at the end of June and first of July. Thank you to Bill Walsh for preaching on July 5, and to Rob Westerhoff for leading the liturgy.

I will be away again August 3-7, for more continuing education. Thank you for your support of these times of refreshment and renewal. May **you** be blessed with refreshment and renewal in these latter days of summer.

In Christ and his love,

Pastor Karen



Council Installation

Pastor installed the council members: Kathleen Walsh as President, KC Anderson as Property and Maintenance, Susie Lewis as Treasurer, Carol Lagomarsino Secretary, Kaarn Egge as Worship and Music

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 continuing education, there will be no Bible study on 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.

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.

Murphys Food Pantry Fill the Red Barrel August 2

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!

Council Meeting Tuesday, August 18, 2:00 PM

Calaveras Mariposa Community Action Agency

CMCAA is looking for board members. “We are hoping to find someone that can give us four meetings a year to make the decisions for spending federal money to help low income with both housing and food assistance.” If interested, Pastor has information, or see the poster and QR code.

Rostered Ministers Gathering 2026 – by Pastor Karen

As a rostered minister in the ELCA, I am required to do 50 hours of continuing education each year. In early July, I attended the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering, a conference for pastors, deacons, bishops, SAMs, and those awaiting call, offering 20 hours of continuing education. The conference was held in Indianapolis as a time of worship, keynote speakers, workshops, discussions around tables, and conversations at meals together. The theme of the gathering was “Woven Together” – woven with God, woven for creation, and woven in community. I met many other pastors serving two congregations, and it was helpful to hear the different configurations of worship and ministry that others had worked out.

There was an artist-in-residence weaving at a loom, incorporating strands that people had brought. By the final worship service, she had produced a banner of many colors and textures – not perfectly neat and even and smooth, but textured and shaggy, with hanging threads – a perfect image of the imperfect people that we all are, woven together as the church. I took a just few pictures, some of the screens, so they’re not very clear. Thank you for this holy time away for learning and refreshment.



ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry on the “big screen”



ELCA Secretary Lucille “CeCee” on the “big screen”



Pr. Sara Wilson of PLTS and Pr. Karen
at the Rostered Ministers Gathering
Interactive Center



The banner "Woven Together" of
imperfect strands



Happy Birthday

August Birthdays

Pastor Karen

27th

Thanks for serving

Sunday Date	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Reader/ Worship Assistant	Janet Skenfield	Robert Westerhoff	Liz Gilbert	KC Anderson	Kathleen Walsh
Altar Care	KC Anderson	Kaarn Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino	Kathleen Walsh	Annette Stout
Counters	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino	KC Anderson

Sunday Date	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Theme	Third Sunday in Easter	Fourth Sunday in Easter	Fifth Sunday in Easter	Sixth Sunday in Easter
Reader/Worship Assistant	Janet Skenfield	KC Anderson	Liz Gilbert	Robert Westerhoff
Altar Care	Kathy Walsh	Annette Stout	Carol Lagomarsino	KC Anderson
Counters	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino	KC Anderson / Kathleen Walsh	Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff

Happy Summer Vacation

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*