

Faith Lutheran News

Give Praise to Our God

May, 2026 Page 1

Faith Lutheran Church

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Faith Lutheran Church, Murphys

Pastor Karen Johnson

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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

Worship & Music: Kaarn Egge
Westerhoff

Property Chairperson:

KC Anderson

Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge
Westerhoff

Congregational Meeting Notice - Sunday May 3

Last minute reminder: Faith Lutheran Church will hold its semi-annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 3, immediately following worship, to elect council members and receive the 2026 Annual Report. Please plan to join us for this important time of looking forward in ministry. The worship Zoom will continue for the meeting, for those who need that option.

Pastor's Message

"They spent much time together... with glad and generous hearts..." (Acts 2:46)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Dear Siblings in Christ,

April was overflowing with worshipful and joyful time *together*. We began the month with Holy Week worship and a Good Friday service including Open Door UCC of Murphys. It is always meaningful to come together and hear different voices in our worship. Easter was a gorgeous day, and we had many visitors joining us to celebrate the Resurrection of

our Lord. Thank you to everyone for making our worship beautiful, and for the joyful fellowship each Sunday.

We welcomed Bishop Jeff Johnson of our Sierra Pacific Synod on April 19. It was another fabulous day, outside in our beautiful foothills and inside the church, with Mountain Ranch joining us in worship, Bishop Jeff preaching, and a delicious luncheon together afterwards. Thank you to Janet and Kaarn and all who brought this joyful day together.

The mood was tearful, yet grateful and hopeful, at the service of Mission Completion and Holy Closure for Mountain Lutheran Church in Groveland on April 26. Kathleen and I attended this worship service of memories and celebration of 35 years of ministry. We give thanks for God's gracious work through Mountain Lutheran over these years.

We wonder about our own future here at Faith, in these times of declining church attendance. Recently I invited our council to a retreat in Forest Meadows for a day, together with Mountain Ranch Lutheran's council, to look to the future and consider **if** and **how** our congregations might work more cooperatively in ministry as the Lutheran body of Christ in our area. The councils decided to gather regularly to continue these conversations. Please plan to join us for our congregational meeting on

May 3, as we look forward in ministry.

I will be on vacation May 6-14, and May 10 will be a lay-led Service of the Word. Thank you to Rob for preaching that day. Immediately upon returning, I will turn around and head to Reno for a day to attend the Synod Regional Gathering. Then I have a series of vacations and continuing education events coming up in June, July, and August, when I will be away. Thank you for your support of these times of refreshment.

The month of May brings to completion the Easter season, with Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sundays. Be sure to wear **red** on May 24, and be ready to welcome the fire of the Holy Spirit! May we be *inspired by* – filled with the breath of – God’s gracious Spirit of peace, healing, hope, and love.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor Karen

Synod Assembly – “**Hold Fast to What is Good**”

Our Sierra Pacific Synod will gather in assembly on **Saturday June 13 by Zoom**. Before that, **three in-person Regional Gatherings** are scheduled: May 9 in Redding, May 16 in Reno, and May 31 in San Jose – all Saturdays. Pastor Karen is going to the gathering in Reno. Thank you to Kaarn and Rob for stepping up to serve as our lay voting members this year.

Council meeting – Tuesday, May 19 2:00 PM, in the narthex.

Murphys Food Pantry Fill the Red Barrel May 3

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.

Bible Study

Bible study will be on break May 6 and 13. Returns Wednesday, May 20, at 3:00 PM, looking at the lessons for the Sunday coming up, beginning with Pentecost Sunday.

Breakfast Fellowship – Tuesdays 8 AM

You are invited to gather with Faith folks for breakfast each week at Grounds for sharing food, fellowship, and faith. Check with Rob if you are coming for the first time, because occasionally the schedule changes.

Garage Sale in our Parking Lot

If you’d like to participate in a Garage Sale scheduled for May 24th, please talk to Mike Skensfield.

An Afternoon of Opera

On Sunday, June 7, at 3:30 pm our church will again host Michelle La Jeunesse-Moughton and a special quest from the San Francisco Opera, Salvatore Atti. Get your tickets on Eventbrite.com

Bishop Jeff Johnson's visit April 19
Mountain Ranch Lutheran joined us in worship that day.
Janet Skenfield organized the catered luncheon afterwards.



Happy Birthday

May Birthdays

Kaarn Westerhoff

9th

June Birthdays

Henry Ferguson

24th



Sunday Date	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Theme	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Pentecost Sunday	Holy Trinity Sunday
Reader/Worship Assistant	Janet Skenfield	Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Liz Gilbert	Rob Westerhoff
Altar Care	Annett Stout	None	Rob Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino	Kathleen Walsh
Counters	Kathleen Walsh	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson/ Kathleen Walsh	Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino and Kaarn Westerhoff

Thanks for serving

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	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino and Kaarn Westerhoff

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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