

Faith Lutheran News

Jesus is the Bread of Life

August, 2024 Page 1

Faith Lutheran Church

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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
Director of Worship & Music:
Kaarn Egge Westerhoff
Property Chairperson:
KC Anderson
Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge Westerhoff



Martin Luther statue in Germany

Pastor's Message

*Let us sing together, let us sing together, one and all a joyous song!
Let us sing... together... one and all a joyous song!
Let us sing again and again, let us sing again and again,
let us sing again and again, one and all a joyous song!*¹

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Last month, Dave and I had the joy of attending *West Denmark Family Camp*, an annual three-day gathering at West Denmark Lutheran Church in Luck, Wisconsin. One of the things I love best about camp is the singing. There is singing for 45 minutes first thing in the morning, and singing again in the evening after supper, before the evening entertainment. We use a songbook called “Favorites from A World of Song,” with all kinds of Scandinavian and northern European folk songs, religious songs, silly songs, etc., plus a few good old American songs. You’ve never heard *so many* tra-la-la-las!

This year, the morning song leader focused on rounds. He had a sheet of three rounds, all in the same key, with three parts each. Our challenge was to sing our part, starting in at the right time, and then going all the way through all of the rounds. You really had to focus and listen to one another in your group, and it was a thrill on the last day when we were successful!

Studies have shown that singing together is a powerful social glue for building a sense of connection and group identity.² I certainly felt a sense of connection in singing all those fun and beautiful songs together. One of the gifts of our Lutheran worship is that we are known as a “singing church.” Lately, though, we have whittled away some of the liturgical singing in our worship at Faith. Most of these changes came during COVID, when we were recording worship services for watching on-line. I’m wondering if maybe we should consider adding some singing back into our worship (it’s a lot of work for the pianist, for sure!). I would appreciate hearing what you think.

I invite you to check out our summer Bible study on Genesis. We are just getting to Noah and the Flood, so you haven’t missed much! This study will likely continue through the fall.

We are in the season of heat and fires, with the Maria Fire burning in our county as I write this. We pray for safety and protection for all, as we watch out for one another. Lord, have mercy!

In Christ and his love,

Pastor Karen

¹ 4-part round, adapted from a Czech folk tune; © 1958 American Evangelical Lutheran Youth Fellowship

² https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_music_bonds_us_together

Baptism for Tony Reid August 4

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Tony Reid will be celebrated at our regular Sunday worship on August 4. Tony is Teresa Johnson's brother. Please plan to join us for worship on this special day, and rejoice with Tony and his family!



Worship in August

We are in Year C of the three-year lectionary, reading from the Gospel of Mark. Mark is the shortest gospel, and so in the late summer the lectionary assigns chapter 6 of the Gospel of John, the feeding of the 5000 followed by the "bread of life" discourse, over five weeks. This can feel repetitive – especially for preachers! – and so this year the focus will be on discipleship, taking cues from the second readings in Ephesians. Paul is instructing the Gentile Christians on their new life in Christ – what difference does faith in Jesus and his resurrection make in how we live? We will reflect on baptism and spiritual gifts, forgiveness and kindness, praise and gratitude, and prayer and our strength together. See you in worship!

Bible study – “Genesis”

The stories in Genesis are foundational to the whole of scripture, setting out who God is – the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – and what God has always intended for humans and the world – “be fruitful and multiply” and “in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Our study of Genesis is just getting going, and we are only on Chapter 4. Join us as we rediscover the God revealed “in the beginning.” We will meet **Wednesdays at 3:00 PM**, July 31 through August 28; then we’ll have a break September 4 and 11.

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.



Council meeting – Tuesday, August 20, 3:00 PM, in the narthex. The Council will be having a retreat on Friday August 23, at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Please hold our congregation and our leaders in your prayers – Thank you!

August Birthdays

Pastor Karen Johnson

27th

September Birthdays

Liz Gilbert

7th

Kyle Johnson

12th

Judy Earthman

25th

Edie Diegoli

30th

Murphys Food Pantry Needs Help!

With the high price of groceries and COVID assistance expiring, the number of people coming in for food at the Murphys Food Pantry has nearly doubled this year, but donations and funding for the pantry have not increased to keep pace. Therefore the Faith Council has suggested that we designate the first Sunday of each month as “Fill the Red Barrel” Sunday, inviting 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!



Sunday Date	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Theme	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	Twelve Sunday after Pentecost	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Reader/Worship Assistant	KC Anderson	Vivian Hansten/ Kathleen Walsh	Rob Westerhoff	Janet Skenfield
Altar Care	Kathleen Walsh	Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Carol Lagomarsino
Counters	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino Kaarn Westerhoff	Kathleen Walsh/Wayne Earthman	KC Anderson and Kathleen Walsh

Sunday Date	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Theme	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Reader/Worship Assistant	Janet Skenfield	Vivian H./KC Anderson	Kathleen Walsh	Janet Skenfield	Robert Westerhoff
Altar Care	KC Anderson	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino	Rob Westerhoff	Kaarn Westerhoff
Counters	Kathleen Walsh	Kathleen Walsh/Wayne Earthman	KC Anderson and Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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