

Faith Lutheran News

Reflect upon Jesus our Savior

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Faith Lutheran Church

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 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

*“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies...
 Do to others as you would have them do to you...
 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:27, 31, 36)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We continue in the season of Time after Epiphany throughout all of February, ending with Transfiguration Sunday on March 2. *Epiphany* means “showing forth,” the revealing of who Christ is for the whole world. The words of Jesus from his “Sermon on the Plain” for the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany call us to be “Epiphany people,” showing forth Christ both in our daily lives and in our work together as a community of faith through acts of love and mercy.

Please join us for a special treat on Sunday February 23. We will have a potluck lunch after worship, which is always delightful, **and** Steve Shetzline will share with us his presentation about the work of the Murphys Senior Center. He is excited to be our guest, and the presentation is excellent (I saw it in December); you won't want to miss it!

I am continuing with visits to everyone in the congregation. I love hearing your joys, your hopes, your concerns, and your suggestions for our life together as Faith Lutheran Church. If I have not yet visited you, please feel free to reach out to me to set up a time that is good for you. I plan to give a short report at our potluck.

A new administration has taken office, and many executive orders have come forth. Some of these orders are adversely affecting our siblings in Christ and our ELCA partner agencies. Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, www.globalrefuge.org), together with all other refugee resettlement agencies in our country, has had



their federal funding halted. And in our synod's Spanish-speaking ministries, including the congregation where I installed their new pastor last April, members are staying away from worship for fear of ICE raiding their services, since worship services are no longer protected spaces. Our Synod Bishop Jeff Johnson is encouraging us to know the constitutional rights and protections for all people in the United States, regardless of immigration status, that we may "welcome the stranger," as Christ commands us.

With Valentine's Day, February is the month of **LOVE**. In the midst of unsettling and uncertain times, the love of God in Christ is the greatest power. To know that we are God's beloved children gives us strength to endure in faith, courage to act in love, and hope in God's sure and certain working for good. May we shine with the light of Christ and his reconciling love in this season.

In Christ,

Pastor Karen

Preaching Cohort

This month, three members of Faith, Rob, KC, and Kaarn, plus two others from Mountain Ranch Lutheran and Pastor Karen, will begin a 12-hour course called "The Peoples' Sermon Preaching Workshop." This course on Zoom is intended to equip lay preachers with tools and skills for sermon preparation and to strengthen the whole ministry of preaching through collaborative effort. We look forward to the fruits of their studies!

Murphys Food Pantry Needs Help!

The first Sunday of each month is designated as "**Fill the Red Barrel**" Sunday. 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). **February 2** will be Red Barrel Sunday this month (but you really can bring food anytime!). Thank you for your generosity toward this ministry of caring for our community. Together we are making a difference!



Potluck Fellowship Murphys Senior Center Presentation February 23

Join us as we gather in the fellowship hall after worship to share food and unhurried conversation. Steve Shetzline will join us and will show his presentation about the Murphys Senior Center – you'll want to see this!

Sign up in the narthex.

Bible Study – “Genesis”

Our study of Genesis will finish up in this month, **Wednesdays at 3:00 PM**, February 5 and 12. Then we will have a two week break until Ash Wednesday, after which midweek Lenten services will begin.

Breakfast Fellowship – Tuesdays

You are invited to gather with Faith folks for breakfast each week, **Tuesdays at 8 AM**, even-numbered days at Grounds and odd-numbered days at the Murphys Hotel. Hope to see you there for this time of food, fellowship, and faith. Check with Rob or Pastor Karen if you are coming for the first time, because occasionally the schedule changes.

Council meeting – Tuesday, February 18 3:00 PM, in the narthex.

Looking Ahead:

- ♦ **Ash Wednesday is March 5.** Worship service at noon with imposition of ashes. Open Door UCC of Murphys will be joining us.
- ♦ **Sierra Central Valley Conference 8 Assembly** – Saturday, March 8, on Zoom at 10 AM. All are welcome to attend!
- ♦ **Murphys Irish Day is Saturday March 15.** We will need everyone’s help with the parking lot and bake sale!
- ♦ **Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13; Maundy Thursday, April 17; Good Friday, April 18.**
- ♦ **Easter Day is Sunday April 20.**
- ♦ **Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly is Saturday June 14 by Zoom.** The regional in-person pre-gathering for our conference is May 31 in Fresno. Maybe you would like to be a synod assembly voting member this year! If so, talk to Kathleen Walsh or Pastor Karen.

Church Fellowship

Please consider helping out by just making coffee and putting out the fellowship tray on the cart for fellowship after church. You don't have to provide food.

Part of our call as Christians is to be part of our church fellowship, that includes talking with our members and helping with providing nourishment, not just for our souls but also for our tummies. Just coffee is enough (coffee can be found in the cupboard by the coffee pot and there is coffee in the refrigerator).



You may sign up in the narthex. Your help and conversation is appreciated.

Happy Birthday

February Birthdays			
Ruth Ferguson	10 th	Ian Burita	21 st
Leland Johnson	18 th	Mike White	28 th
February Anniversary			
Dan and Carol Lagomarsino 17 th			
March Birthdays			
KC Anderson	1 st	Mike Skenfield	18 th
Eliot/Brody Burita	8 th	Bonnie Thomas	31 st

Sunday Date	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Theme	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Reader/Worship Assistant	Rob Westerhoff	Janet Skenfield	Liz Gilbert/ KC Anderson	KC Anderson
Altar Care	KC Anderson	Annette Stout	Carol Lagomarsino	Rob Westerhoff
Counters	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino/ Kaarn Westerhoff

Thanks for serving

Sunday Date	March 2	March 5	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Theme	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Ash Wednesday	1 st Sunday in Lent	2 nd Sunday in Lent	3 rd Sunday in Lent	4 th Sunday in Lent
Reader/Worship Assistant	Rob Westerhoff	Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson/ Vivian Hansten	Janet Skenfield	Kathleen Walsh	Kathleen Walsh
Altar Care	Annett Stout	None	Rob Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino	Annette Stout	KC Anderson
Counters	Kathleen Walsh	Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson/ Kathleen Walsh	Kaarn and Rob Westerhoff	Carol Lagomarsino/ Kaarn Westerhoff	Kaarn Westerhoff

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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