

Faith Lutheran News

Happy Independence Day

July, 2024 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

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

Pastor's Message

"I love to tell the story... of Jesus and his love." (ELW #661)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What is your faith story? We each have stories from our faith journey – moments of grace and experiences of God's healing and redemptive work in our lives. At the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in June, the keynote speaker, Pastor Rebecca Anderson, talked about story-telling as a way of sharing the gospel. She used "story prompts" – strips of paper with a sentence to complete – to give us a taste of story-telling, and if you attended worship on the third or fourth Sunday of June here at Faith, you got to experience story prompts. If you missed them, here they are for your reflection:

- It wasn't what I had imagined when...
- I had to walk by faith when...
- One of the most frightening storms I have ever been in was when ...

I plan to use story prompts again later this summer, to get us thinking about and sharing our faith stories. Perhaps you have a "God story" you would be willing to share during worship; if so, please let me know!

I am excited to be studying Genesis in our Wednesday Bible study. We started out comparing the creation account in Genesis chapter 1 with the Babylonian creation account, *Enuma Elish*. What a difference between them! Our Bible has a better story to tell about God's gracious intentions in creation!

The world tells us many stories – that "might makes right" and violence solves problems; that we aren't good enough and need many various products to improve ourselves; that the "other side" is totally to blame; that "rugged individualism" is our best life and each person should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. But *we have a better story to tell* in Jesus Christ our Lord, the story of grace and forgiveness and community and flourishing for all people and the whole earth. The world needs our stories of God's love more than ever.



Martin Luther statue in Germany

If you are traveling this summer, I encourage you to visit a local worship service wherever you are. It is good to hear the gospel proclaimed in a different voice and a different setting, and helps us to grow in our connection as the body of Christ in the world. May you be blessed with rest, renewal, and growth in faith this summer... and maybe bring back a story to share.

In Christ and his love,

Pastor Karen

Council meeting – Tuesday, July 16, 3:00 PM, in the narthex.

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.” This new study of Genesis has just started. Join us as we rediscover the God revealed “in the beginning.”

Wednesdays at 3:00 PM; no class July 3 or July 24.

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.



July 4th BBQ with Murphys Senior Center

You are invited to a July 4th barbeque with Murphys Senior Center, with hot dogs, hamburgers, and salads; Thursday July 4, at noon, on the deck. Call 209-728-1672 by Monday, July 1, to RSVP.

ELCA “Generation-Zero Hunger”

The world produces more than enough food to feed every person, yet the number of people who are hungry has grown since 2019. More than 2 billion people around the world aren’t sure where their next meal will come from, and for more than 800 million people, that next meal won’t come at all. **Together, we can be the generation that ends hunger.** We are invited to join ELCA World Hunger and the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering and commit to being part of the generations taking action together to usher in a world without hunger, and futures filled with hope. **Right now, all gifts will be matched dollar for dollar, until \$250,000 is reached.** Donate at: www.elca.org/GenZeroHunger

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. Plan to join us for worship that day, and rejoice with Tony and his family!

Pastor Karen will be away June 28-July 5 and again July 25-30, on vacation. We will welcome back Pastor Bob Nicholus to preach and preside at our Sunday worship service on June 30, and Janet Skenfield will give the message on July 28. Thank you to everyone who is stepping up to leadership in this time.

July Birthdays

Vicky Burita	3 rd	Sylvia Martens	31 st
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Isaak Walsh	29 th		
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July Anniversary	Pastor Karen and David Johnson	17 th
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August Birthdays

Pastor Karen Johnson	27 th
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Synod Assembly

The Sierra Pacific Synod met in Assembly June 7-9 in Fresno to worship, learn, share meals, and make decisions together, under the theme “Claiming Our Hope.” Thank you to Kathleen Walsh and Rob Westerhoff for serving as voting members from Faith! Our Sierra Central Valley Conference will be well represented in the larger church, with Rev. Sylvia Mueller (Light of Christ, Turlock) and Sandra Vargas (Santa Maria Peregrina, Stockton) elected to Synod Council, and Jorge Carajal (Santa Maria Peregrina) elected as a voting member to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (although we wish that Rob had been elected!).

The keynote speaker, Rev. Rebecca Anderson, spoke on story-telling as gospel, saying: “True stories save lives.” Seven assembly attendees shared personal stories of claiming hope; most of them weren’t even pastors!



Sunday Date	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 22
Theme	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Read/Worship Assistant	Vivian H./Robert Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Janet Skenfield	Janet Skenfield
Altar Care	Kaarn Westerhoff	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino	Kathleen Walsh
Counters	Kathleen Walsh/Wayne Earthman	Carol Lagomarsino and Kaarn	KC Anderson and Kathleen Walsh	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff

Sunday Date	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Theme	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Read/Worship Assistant	Liz Gilbert/KC Anderson	Vivian Hansten/KC Anderson	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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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