

# Faith Lutheran News

Ponder the 40 days of Lent

March, 2025 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  
Worship & Music: Kaarn Egge Westerhoff  
Property Chairperson:  
KC Anderson  
Newsletter Editor: Kaarn Egge Westerhoff

## Ash Wednesday – March 5, noon worship

The season of Lent, our 40-day journey with Jesus to the cross, begins on Wednesday, March 5th, with Ash Wednesday worship service and imposition of ashes at 12:00 noon. If you can't make it to this service, there will be an Ash Wednesday service at Mountain Ranch Lutheran at 4:00 PM, or contact Pastor Karen to have ashes brought to you on Thursday or Friday, March 6 or 7.

## Pastor's Message

*"...you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

March is a month of transitions. We "spring forward" from standard time to daylight savings time. We move from winter into "official" springtime at the vernal equinox, as the daylight, at last, grows longer than nighttime.

This year, we also transition in liturgical seasons in March, moving from time after Epiphany into Lent, from the vision of Jesus shining in glory on the mountaintop in his Transfiguration, to the dust and ashes of our own mortality and need for repentance, beginning on Ash Wednesday. Lent is our journey with Jesus down the mountain, as he sets his face toward Jerusalem and the cross. In our baptism we have died with Christ, and we

rise each day to live in him, and during our midweek Lenten services we will reflect on "baptismal living." I hope you will join us for these times of word, song, prayer, and reflection, and fellowship in soup supper afterwards.

Murphys Irish Day is coming up, our biggest fundraiser of the year. It is always a joyful day of working together and greeting visitors coming to our community. This is an event where everyone can help, whether baking, sitting at a table of goodies, or directing traffic.

Our Sierra Central Valley Conference Assembly will be on March 8 on Zoom. As the Conference Dean, I will be leading this assembly, and I'm very excited about our speaker, Regina Banks from the California Lutheran Office of Public Policy. I will send the Zoom link to all of our members, and everyone is welcome to attend.

I am continuing with visits to everyone in the congregation, although I have slowed down the pace. I love hearing your joys, hopes, concerns, and 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.

In this season of dust, ashes, and wading in the waters of baptism, may we all grow in faith, hope, and love.

In Christ,

*Pastor Karen*

### Midweek Lenten Services and soup supper:

Wednesdays, 4:00 pm, beginning March 12

***Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism*** is the theme of our Lenten services. As baptized people, of God we are called to “live wet” in the covenant of our baptism. In these weekly services, we will reflect on living into the promises we make when affirming our baptism. Vespers service at 4:00 PM on March 12, 19, 26, April 2, & 9. Soup supper follows at about 4:45 pm. Please sign up in the narthex or let Kaarn know if you can provide soup or bread for one or more of the suppers.

### Conference Assembly – March 8

The Sierra Central Valley Conference 8 Assembly will be held on Saturday, March 8, on Zoom, 10:00-11:30 AM. Regina Banks of the California Lutheran Office of Public Policy will be the speaker. Pastor Karen is Dean of our Conference and will be chairing the meeting. All are welcome to attend! The Zoom link will be sent a few days before the assembly.

### Daylight Savings Time begins – Sunday March 9

Turn your clocks ***ahead*** one hour; lose the hour of sleep, gain an hour of evening light!



### Murphys Irish Day – Saturday, March 15

Faith Lutheran will host parking in our lot again this year. Please talk to KC Anderson if you are able to help. We will also have a bake sale on our porch. Please bring your baked goodies on Friday, 9am-noon, for packaging. We can use everyone’s help! There is a sign-up in the narthex for baked goods and how to help, or talk to Kathleen Walsh.

## Congregational Meeting Summary

Thank you to all who attended the congregational meeting on February 2. A budget of \$102,614 was passed, including hiring a bookkeeper and a yard maintenance worker. The projected deficit of \$15,799 will be covered, as needed, by taking principle from the funds from the sale of the parsonage. Mike Skenfield, Kathleen Walsh, and Susi Lewis were elected to serve on the nominating committee. Part 2 of the congregational meeting will be held in May. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving and serving!

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

## Bible Study

**Bible study** is on break during Lent. New study to come after Easter.

## Breakfast Fellowship – Tuesdays 8 AM

You are invited to gather with Faith folks for breakfast each week, for sharing food, fellowship, and faith. We meet at 8:00 am at Grounds on the even numbered days of the month and Murphys Hotel on the odd numbered days. Check with Rob or Pastor Karen if you are coming for the first time, because occasionally the schedule changes.

## Murphys Food Pantry Fill the Red Barrel March 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!

## Lutheran Advocacy

Thank you to all who are calling and/or writing to our political leaders and attending the local meetings of their staff to voice your thoughts about the impacts of government actions. Our Sierra Pacific Synod has added an advocacy tab on their website with links to inform and connect: [www.spselca.org](http://www.spselca.org) Our Lord Jesus calls us to see through God’s eyes, to notice who is suffering and marginalized, and to align our words and actions with God’s preferential love and compassion for the poor and oppressed.

## Looking Ahead:

- **Holy Week** begins with Palm Sunday on April 13; Maundy Thursday, April 17; Good Friday, April 18. More information to come on these special services.
- **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 Saturday May 31 in Fresno. Would you like to be a synod assembly voting member this year? If so, talk to Kathleen Walsh or Pastor Karen.



Potluck on February 23, with Steve Shetzline presenting about the Murphys Senior



Pictured top left: Mike and Janet Skenfield, Susie Lewis, Rob Westerhoff and Steve Shetzline.  
Pictured middle right: KC Anderson, Annette Stout, Liz Gilbert, across from Liz is Charlene Perry, Sherry Rogers, Lorretta Sorocco, and Bonnie Thomas.  
Pictured bottom left is Steve Shetzline.



## 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

March Birthdays			
KC Anderson	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike Skenfield	18 <sup>th</sup>
Eliot/Brody Burita	8 <sup>th</sup>	Bonnie Thomas	31 <sup>st</sup>

April Birthdays	
Rob Westerhoff	17 <sup>th</sup>



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

# Thanks for serving

Sunday Date	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Theme	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter
Reader/Worship Assistant	Rob Westerhoff	Janet Skenfield	Liz Gilbert/ KC Anderson	KC Anderson
Altar Care	KC Anderson	Annette Stout	Carol Lagomarsino	Kathleen Walsh
Counters	Rob and Kaarn Westerhoff	KC Anderson	Kathleen Walsh	Carol Lagomarsino

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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