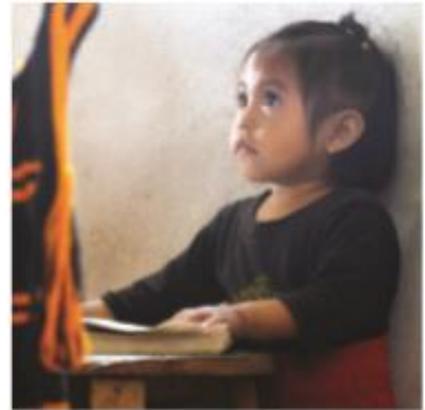
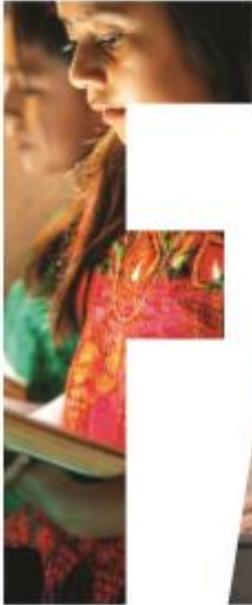




**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



# ANNUAL REPORT

2019





## A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear friends in Christ,

Stepping out in faith can be difficult. Martin Luther did it in 1517. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America did it at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This church can be bold and daring because of our scriptural and Lutheran confessional understandings. Is it easy?

No. Do we always get it right? Probably not. Where we are in error, may God correct us.

The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. We are church. We are compelled by the gospel and our understanding that in Christ we have been set free to love and serve the neighbor. This loving and serving of our neighbor alongside courageous and faithful leaders is what offers hope to congregations.

Over the past 18 months we have made significant strides in our work on congregational vitality. This church has multiplied its efforts and leveraged its resources to enhance vitality in congregations. Our vision continues to evolve around strengthening our relationships with God, each other and the neighbors we serve. In this way we are addressing both local and global issues by being present in our own community and proactive with issues in the broader church.

This presence is made possible in significant ways through your giving of time, talents and financial resources to our work together. The success of our recent campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, reflects the increasing

support for existing and new ministries that serve our communities here at home and others around the globe. Through regular, special and legacy gifts, \$250 million was given to support God's work. Through the spiritual practice of giving, we both acknowledge receiving God's gifts and share in God's generosity by passing on a portion to others. Together we are doing God's work in ways that we could not do otherwise.

As your congregation plans work for the coming year, I hope you will be both bold and daring, remembering God provides and desires abundant life for all. May you continue supporting God's work together with a spirit of solidarity, collaboration and generosity. We are all partners in the gospel, believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

Stepping out in faith together,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" —2 Corinthians 5:17*

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### Faith Lutheran Church

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## PASTORAL REPORT

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This year, we learned to be church all over again. When the Coronavirus hit, so many of the ways in which we had been church together halted. No longer could we gather for worship, share a meal, or visit each other's homes.

And yet, just as Covid tried to bring death to our congregation, the Holy Spirit brought forth resurrection. Overnight, we learned how to worship together online. Through fits and starts and many technical difficulties we learned to share the peace and lift up prayers by typing comments into Facebook. We learned to have coffee-hour over Zoom, and how to turn a table in every home into an altar. And wanting no one to be left out, we learned to deliver CDs of worship to people without the internet.

Throughout the week we held each other close through Zoom and the telephone. A team of phone ministers assembled to call at least once a week those who are most at risk. Bible study, Centering Prayer, Confirmation, Youth Group, College Ministry, and even Sunday School have been meeting weekly on Zoom. Every day, people call into the same line at the same time and share their prayer concerns with each other.

We did all this so that our congregation in Butte County could be connected to each other. But what we discovered is that when we made sure everyone locally had a place at our digital table, old friends came and joined us from around the world. Members who had moved away, familiar faces now living abroad, family on the other side of the country now joined us in celebration of the God who makes us one in Christ.

And united as God people's, God's love radiated from our hearts into the community. Our food delivery team got groceries to anyone who couldn't safely go shopping themselves. Your generosity meant that we were able to cover food and rent costs for anyone hit economically by the pandemic. Our quilters transformed themselves into a mask making machine, creating hundreds of face masks for the wider community. Our kitchen became a staging ground for Project RoomKey, a statewide program to keep the most vulnerable population in our community off the street and in rooms during the pandemic. You continued to find ways to feed the hungry at the Torres Shelter, and you celebrated our graduates with an exuberant car parade.

These new ways of being the church required creativity, but not a shift in our identity. Though the ways we have been church these past few months are new, the values they embody are who we have always been.

We have always strived to be a congregation where everyone has a place at the table. We have sought to live out that welcome in various ways. One of those ways is by addressing head on the truth that some communities have not always felt welcome at the church. And so this last year we were again present at Chico's Pride Festival extending welcome to the LGBTQ community as God's children. We are studying together how systematic racism is present in our own denomination and what we can do to dismantle it. And because God declared everything God made is good, we even have a day specifically to welcome pets into our life together.

Welcome goes further than words. Our physical space speaks to the way in which we welcome people. And so this year we have updated signage and made name tags, so visitors know how to get around and we can speak each other's names. We have renovated the offices so that our staff can literally gather around tables more easily.

We strive to ensure everyone has a place at our table by acknowledging relationships, both when that means saying goodbye to dear friends, as we did this year to our Director of Worship and Music Kevin Anderson and saying hello to new ones, as we did for our new Director of Worship and Music Luke Nicolay. Making sure everyone has a place at the table means that we acknowledge when we disagree with each other. Rather than pushing each other away in our differences, we invite the voices with whom we disagree to speak at the table so that we might listen for deeper understanding. And so this past year we have tackled challenging conversations around immigration, preparing for death, and what it means to be a man in the modern world. We have sat around a common conference table to discover where the Spirit might call us together.

But most of all, the table around which we gather is the communion table. We have long welcomed everyone to have a seat at this table because it is our greatest joy to share Jesus with all who hunger for him. We have always known that when each person has a place at a table, we are best able to reflect the love we receive from God out into the world. This past year, our youngest and oldest members came together and reflected God's love through Camp Noah, a summer camp for Children affected by the Camp Fire. Housed and unhoused came together and reflected God's love through Safe Space Winter shelter, ensuring that for a week 60 people would have a place to sleep in God's home rather than on the streets. A spectrum of viewpoints came together on immigration policy and came to the common agreement that as a congregation we could reflect God's love by being part of sponsoring an immigrant family going through our government's asylum-seeking process.

And sometimes we remember that the table we gather around is much larger than we can imagine. We gathered around the communion table of Paradise Lutheran, and God's love reflected out from us as we helped our neighbors up the hill rise from the ashes. We sent our Director of Youth and Service, Colter Murphy to sit at the communion table we share with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda as they celebrated 25 years of ministry. Because the truth is, the body of Christ is not only the bread that we share at the communion table, it is also the people around that table. When we are united at the table as the Body of Christ, God's love reflects in every aspect of our lives together.

And so, after a year of prayerful study and conversation, our church council has proposed a new mission statement for Faith Lutheran, one that sums up who we have always been, and who we still strive to fully be: A community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone. May we be this church, together. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Ben Colahan

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## PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT

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*A community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone*

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## PASTORAL ACTS

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**Baptisms – 5**

**Confirmations – 0**

**Burials – 4**

**Marriages – 1**

**Members Received**

By Affirmation – 7

By Transfer – 22

**Members Removed**

Because of Death – 6

Because of Transfer – 3

Other – 0



### TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

Baptized – 452

Confirmed – 386

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## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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Eucharistic Ministers take communion from Sunday morning worship to people who are home-bound due to health concerns. This past year, we stated to train three new Eucharistic Ministers, but unfortunately, due to the pandemic we have had to cancel all communion visitation. We are grateful for the many phone ministers who are reaching out to the people who are now sheltering-in-place. We look forward to being able to resume this ministry once the pandemic has passed.

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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Working with Michael Nicholson and Joel Zimbelman, Laura Moravec took over Facilities Management in the fall. Faith Lutheran Church has a beautiful, iconic campus and is located in a very high profile and desirable area of Chico, but we face some challenges.

First, the facility is nearing 40 years old, and like many 40-year-olds, it is beginning to show some wear and tear. Second, our high profile location, coupled with the configuration of our buildings makes us susceptible to break-ins and vagrancy. Most of this year's work addressed one or both of these issues.

Projects undertaken this year include:

**Decluttering:** Several tons of acquired treasures were sorted through, organized, sold, donated or given away. Classrooms are more spacious, closets are more organized, and a general sense of tidiness is settling in. Watch for this trend to continue through the coming year.

**Kitchen Cleaning & Organization:** We completed several significant projects in the kitchen, including painting of walls, cleaning and labeling of all cupboards, stripping and waxing of floors, and refurbishment of our stove.

**Janitorial Upgrade:** While our current janitor does an excellent job, his scope of work has not been reevaluated in some time. We are working with him to increase his attention in high use areas and cut back work in seldom-used spaces. The most significant change is that he is now regularly cleaning the sanctuary, which had been off-limits to him.

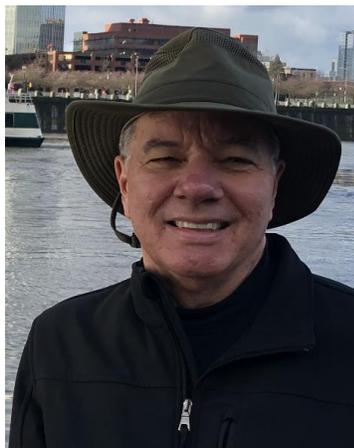
**New Office and Conference Room:** The former library has been converted to a bright, inviting office space for Colter and Luke. We also created a new conference room designed to accommodate 12-16 people comfortably. Upgrades included the removal of all old furniture and carpet and the addition of new paint, electrical, and carpet. Watch for an open house to check out the brand new changes.

**Security:** We continue to experience vandalism around the campus. Regularly this past year, we found trash strewn about, lights and cameras vandalized, human waste, and two break-ins, but we have hired security to patrol the campus twice nightly to disrupt these behaviors. Most of these issues have been resolved over the past two months.

Facilities management is a sizeable undertaking at Faith Lutheran Church, and it would not be possible without the help of a small but mighty group of parishioners who give of their time generously. Thanks to all of you, past and present, who help to make our church a beautiful, welcoming, and comfortable space.

## REPORT from the COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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The Church Council is elected by the voting members of the congregation to provide support to our staff and to manage church finances, policies, and the oversight of our buildings. We also provide strategic vision for the congregation. We address the mundane (when to change washers on faucets; how to manage building security) and the more visible and important aspects of our life together (authorizing calls for staff; selecting new sound or solar systems; developing our mission statement). We meet at least once a month as a group of ten (this includes Pastor Ben). Our Executive Committee (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Pastor, and a regular council member) meets twice a month to deal with narrow business issues.

We had a retreat this past summer to begin the eight-month process of developing a new mission statement for Faith. The results are being shared this month with the congregation. In addition, we approved a new search for a Music Director to replace Kevin; worked on new signage for the campus and (with the help of the Equipping Ministry) new name tags for our members; rewrote and got Synod approval for our new Constitution (which will be ratified by the Congregation); researched a new sound and A/V system for our sanctuary and new audio-visual equipment for our Parish Hall and Room 6; renovated two large spaces in the business building for new office and conference uses; developed a new budget; approved significant work on our organ and piano; refreshed columbarium furnishings; and moved forward to secure our property and deal with the challenges we have to keep it clean and safe.

We have lots of additional plans for the coming year, and look forward to working with the congregation to improve the integrity, welcome, and imaginative uses of our facility for the greater work of Christ's church. The installation of a new sound and audio/visual system; the painting of various interior spaces; and some exterior building and grounds work will keep us quite busy. We are excited about the many committees and groups that have blossomed at Faith over the past several years, and will work closely with as many of these wonderful co-ministers as possible to enrich this great community.

Church Council meetings (Tuesday evenings) are open to members of the Church if they wish to attend or to make requests or presentations. Our minutes are published monthly, as is our financial report. We aim at transparency and consensus decision-making, and seek to be good stewards of the funds that our congregation entrusts to us.

Joel Zimbelman  
President of the Congregation

## FIRST THIRD of LIFE REPORT

As I look back on all that Faith Lutheran has done in the First Third of Life Ministry during the last year, I am filled with pride and joy at what we are capable of as a community. I am excited to present the following to the church council and the congregation as a record of all that this ministry has done during the 2019-2020 church year.



With our youngest age group, ages 0-6, we have had another wonderful year. This year I successfully implemented regular Sunday School, during which we sing, pray, do art projects, and learn about God together. Learning how to interact with this age group and getting to know all of the children better has been one of my greatest joys in ministry this year. Our Children's Worship Area is a natural extension of the learning that happens during Sunday School, and I am working on teaching the children the different parts of our liturgy, starting with the Lord's Prayer. Our weekly parent meetings at the church on Wednesdays provided support for the parents of young children. Special events for young children this year included the Easter egg hunt, disc golf event, our Christmas Eve family service, the Advent Workshop, and the Ash Wednesday Carnival.

Our next age group, ages 6-12, is rather sparse in terms of regular attendance. However, it's worth noting that James, age 9, has been attending our Sunday School classes. He enjoys the topics we learn about and is able to engage with us, despite the age difference between him and the other children. Our church also did a large outreach to children ages 6-12 when we hosted and organized Camp Noah, a national program built for children who experience trauma following a natural disaster. Opening our church doors and our hearts to those kids was a truly transformational experience for everyone involved.

Our confirmation class has had a busy year! The students and their trekkers have journeyed through the New Testament together, and prior to Lent learned about Lutheran theology and sacraments. Additionally, they have been our most engaged group of youth, and have served the broader community in our area in a number of ways. Mason Massa, Doug DeSoto and myself attended Lutheran



Advocacy Day at the state capitol to lobby for safe access to water and an end to childhood hunger. The confirmation students and their trekkers prepared a thanksgiving meal for the residents of Chico Housing Action Team (an intergenerational service project). The students also helped with our final mattress distribution events for Camp Fire survivors, and were a robust, hard-working presence at God's Work Our Hands Sunday at Paradise Lutheran. I also helped lead another great trip to Rancho Santa Marta, giving the youth an opportunity to be in a new community doing service for their neighbors. Three middle school students attended the SPS middle school retreat at Mt. Cross, the first overnight trip I have organized with this group of youth.



But it hasn't all been hard work, we've had plenty of fun too! This year the youth (middle and high school) attended a number of diverse events, including: a hiking trip to Bald Rock, a swim/hike up Grizzly Creek led by Pastor Ben, an indoor rock climbing night, a night at the haunted corn maze in Orland, the Advent Workshop, a viewing of the new Star Wars movie complete with theological discussion over pizza, snowshoeing near Lassen, and a scavenger hunt at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge.



Faith Lutheran has a significant number of college students who regularly attend worship. In the last year, I have organized a regularly weekly dinner meeting with all of them. We eat dinner at a congregants house, spend time in the community together, and engage in conversations about our journey of faith together. The group held its first retreat in Dunsmuir, focusing on centering, relaxation, and prayer over the course of the weekend. I am very pleased with our college programming and know that all of the students appreciate the time together very much.

I have sought opportunities for professional development in the last year, both informal and formal. The Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Leaders group has been a tremendous support to me, and I've travelled to attend several lunches with those folks. I was also able to connect with a wider network of folks doing youth and family ministry in the ELCA at the Extravaganza, the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's annual conference. I participated in the 2019 Discipling Cohort Initiative, organized by the Network to promote wellbeing, spiritual growth, and development of

professional youth leaders in the ELCA. My participation in this initiative lasted close to a year, with one or two video conference calls per month with my group. I have also been meeting regularly with a local business coach, who has helped me tremendously in the areas of communication, time management, and organization.

The First Third of Life Ministry continues, even during this COVID-19 pandemic. Our youngest age group, 0-7 years old, is meeting weekly for a group video call. During this time they do many of the same things they were used to during regular Sunday School time. Our middle and high school students are meeting weekly for virtual youth group, and our confirmation class is meeting virtually as well. Additionally, our college group is meeting for weekly video chats, during which they lead each other in devotions and the group can share in fellowship, joy, and lament with one another.

I give thanks for all who are involved in First Third of Life Ministry at Faith Lutheran, especially our youth team, confirmation trekkers, steadfast parents, and childcare ministers. Your ministry to our young folks is inspiring. As uncertain as the times ahead may be, I look forward with eagerness to the future of this beautiful and vital outreach.

Colter Murphy  
Director of Youth and Service



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC REPORT

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What a year this one has been! I got to Chico on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and have loved every minute. I've been able to connect with members of the choir, praise team, and the congregation.

My first week here at Faith happened to be the week of Ash Wednesday; not only did I jump feet first into the duties of my job, but I also came in right at one of the busiest times of the church year! The first couple of weeks I spent much of my time with the staff learning the layout of the services, ways that I could be creative, office information and many

other tasks. This was fun, but then the COVID-19 hit and affected us all in both our personal and work lives. This meant that worship had to change and essentially most parts of the service had to change as well. I'm so thankful for the help of the staff, congregants, colleagues from home, and friends who recommended a vast number of resources to help me transition the service so that everything would go smoothly. From the Holden Evening Prayer to Taizé to Contemporary worship, I was able to bridge several different genres of music for this Holy season - both on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Despite Easter week being very different this year, it was quite touching. While we couldn't all be together for the services the love I felt surrounding me throughout the week was enrapturing. The videos from new members, music from numerous vocalists and instrumentalists, sermons, and collaboration between multiple parties was so effective and meaningful.

### **Areas of focus for this upcoming year include:**

1. Networking and connecting with the arts community to enhance and enrich our lives both in and out of the church
  - a. This includes at the University and at other public events
2. Network with members of the community churches and get involved with their programs to build lasting relationships
3. Recruiting new members to join the numerous ensembles at the church
4. Recruiting, training, and scheduling worship volunteers
5. Creating an arts focus group to brainstorm and plan arts events

### **Personal areas of focus for the upcoming year include:**

1. Learning and acclimating to the vast resources for the arts that are available
2. Meeting and getting to know the individuals and families in the congregation
3. Setting aside dedicated time to learn new repertoire for organ and piano

I want to thank all of you from the depths of my heart for welcoming me so warmly into this community and for making me feel at home immediately. Due to the virus and moving across the country, it's been a rather odd transition but I'm so pleased to say that I've been well-taken care of by each of you. I look forward to what the future brings and to growing, learning and loving alongside each of you.

Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship and Music

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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For those of you who don't know me, my name is Michael, office manager, coordinator of the Pride Ministry, and church lunatic. My role here is to ensure that our facility and its congregants are having their needs met. I oversee our communications, website, calendar, *Faith Talks*, bulletin, email newsletters, audio sermons, and still have not killed the office plant. Aside from day to day tasks, I work on several projects throughout the year. Here are some updates from last year's projects:

- I have created a **Comprehensive Office Manual** of operations which explains how to use the phone, open/close the office, use the printer, make our newsletters, contact vendors, order supplies, etc. This is consistently updated so the council, staff, bookkeepers and office volunteers know how our facility runs and who to call if they need help.
- Many folks expressed concern over our old key check-out system (or lack thereof.) A **Facilities Key Checkout System** was implemented so that our office possesses a list of key-holders, how to get a hold of them, and the date each key was checked out/returned.
- We have purchased two **Printers/Copiers** outright from a local business called Advanced Document Concepts, for the main office and the financial office respectively. These units are responsible for printing all FLC booklets and handouts.
- I'm proud to say that through much, *much* effort and the immense help of photographer Angel Pabalan, my go-to gal Molly Barnum, and proofreaders Judy Struck and Margaret McMillan, the **Faith Lutheran Church 2020 Directory** is complete!
- I have spent the last year and a half organizing (and keeping organized) a **Comprehensive Photos and Documents Database**. That means if you need photos from May 2019, a copy of *Faith Talks* from last October, or just want to look at old, sentimental documents, we can find them for you. Anything pre-2018 may be more difficult to find as our congregation takes more photos now than it has in the past.
- Something called **The Annual Report** I found lying in a drawer somewhere.

Because of the turbulence of 2020, recent projects have mostly revolved around adapting to online worship and learning new software. Faith was using completely different programs for our email newsletter, giving, website, calendar/events, and worship scheduling. But no more shall we suffer the wrath of a thousand softwares! We successfully switched to **Tithely**, which provides all of the aforementioned services.

- I designed the website and have added more information about ministries, church history, council/staff information, and news & events which are updated weekly
- The new email newsletter (E-blast) format is actually a feature of our website, so the colors and theme we use for our site are automatically applied to our newsletter, plus it automatically spaces and sizes content which is why it looks much cleaner
- The entire staff (and all of you!) are working hard to learn our worship scheduling software, Elvanto (owned by Tithely). This program also handles our giving. As we re-enter live worship, explore Elvanto and your profiles. Upload photos, enter your birthdays, and register for minister roles during worship!

You are awesome! Every last one of you!  
Michael

## MINISTRY REPORTS

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### Columbarium

Hello Friends of Faith,

The Columbarium Garden continues to evolve over the years and is being used by the Faith Family as a place of contemplation, worship and remembrance. For those of you who are new to Faith,



the Columbarium is a very special and unique feature of our church. It is a memorial garden where congregation members and their family may inurn the ash remains of loved ones in a beautiful and holy setting. Thanks to many church members the garden continues to grow and improve with the additions of new benches and sitting areas for all to enjoy. We will need to consider making plans for the upcoming expansion of the Columbarium Garden, as we currently are very near capacity. There is space at the table of the Columbarium Committee and a need for a few new members. Our longtime Treasurer Nanette Sorensen has moved from the area and we need to replace her position. I would like to encourage anyone who may be interested to please contact me. Innovative ideas for our expansion are always welcome and we would love to hear from builders and folks with talents in design, building and landscape, as this will be an important project for the church and the ongoing service the Columbarium provides to the congregation. Lastly, I want to thank all of you for being one another's port in the storm during this pandemic. A supportive community is an incredible force and sustains us all.

God's Love and Light,  
Susan Reed, Columbarium chair

### Endowment Fund

The church council approved Faith Lutheran's Endowment Continuing Resolution in 2012 which is now part of the Faith Lutheran Constitution. The purpose of the endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.

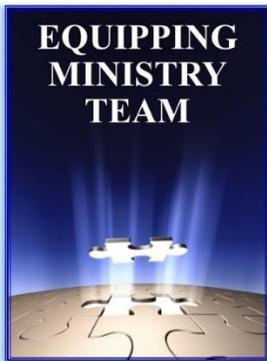
The Endowment Fund will provide support for mission work at home and around the world and to strengthen and extend God's mission through Faith Lutheran Church, reaching out in response to human need, by making grants to promote and support education for Christian life and service. It will provide ways for members who have the desire to benefit Faith Lutheran Church through charitable giving that is consistent with its mission of witnessing to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ on both a local and global level.

Presently, the endowment fund value is \$72438.

The Endowment Committee appointed by the Council are Bill Youngstrom (chair), Leanne Chrisman, Joan Palmer and Bill Kees (recorder).

## Equipping Ministry

As of this writing, we are all under some sort of quarantine due to the coronavirus crises but hope to explain what we have done and what we hope to accomplish as a team in the future. Faith's **Equipping Team**, its present form, has been meeting and growing only since May of 2019. It is still an infant! By now, all have at least heard of the Equipping Ministry Team and most have seen some of the team efforts in action perhaps without even realizing it. You may ask "What is the **Equipping Team**?"



I have been asked several times about why we use pictures of a puzzle when discussing the team. The **Equipping Team** has been using the metaphor of a jigsaw puzzle as it applies to the church. No piece is identical, and the borders are generally easier to define. However, two elements of the puzzle are critical in this metaphor... no two pieces are identical, and the puzzle is never complete until all the unique pieces are in their proper place. This is also true of the church.

Each of us is unique in our own way. Some of us are more defined than others, but the church simply works at its optimum when each of us are using our unique giftedness and doing the activities that bring us the most joy. Finding that "joy factor" in as many individuals as possible allows the church to work as a complete picture and at optimum ministry levels. At present, the team reports to Pastor Ben and Colter, both of whom are vital parts of the team.

The **Equipping Team** at present is made up of about 15 incredibly awesome, talented, energetic, fun and indeed very gifted individuals who have committed to meet monthly to wrestle with different ideas to engage those within our Faith community for the purpose of doing ministry together. 15 may sound like a big number, but the members have each expressed an interest to become more involved in one or more of 6 areas of ministry (*Assimilation/Orientation, context, discovery, matching/placement, coaching and recognition*) and work to use their gifts to develop their ministry interest(s). Out of this has become what we are so far referring to as sub-teams, each of which are growing with their own set of team members. It is through education and team building that we anticipate growing this ministry.

In May of 2019, we held our first organizational meeting and in addition to building our foundation on 1 Peter "The Priesthood of all believers" and Ephesians 4 (*different gifts that make up one body*), we began using "The Equipping Church" by Sue Mallory as our model book. We define ourselves as a "systems team," a team whose job is not to go out and start new ministries but rather find

ways to open doors for others to use their unique and God given gifts in the ministry area that brings them the most joy and fulfillment.

In October of 2019, the team held the “First Equipping Summit” which endeavored to explain the 6 principles of equipping the laity: Assimilation (orientation), context, discovery, matching, placement, and coaching and recognition. More than 30 people turned out for this educational event, with several going on to become a part of the **Equipping Team**. In early March, a “Second Equipping Summit” was held in the form of a Sunday morning Faith Adult Christian Education class which had about 15 in attendance.

In December 2019, in an effort to make both visitors and our existing community at Faith, feel welcome on Christmas Eve we hosted a “Welcome Table” complete with hot coffee, cider and cookies. Out of this experiment has grown another team of 15 under the Team leadership of Annette Jefferson, Tricia Homesley, Judy Struck, and Mary Schweder, each having the gift of hospitality and the value that hospitality has an important place in our life together as a community at Faith Lutheran. Until the onset of coronavirus, the plan was to bring the welcome table back on Ash Wednesday through Easter. This table will become a regular point of greeting on Sunday mornings.



Another project full of anticipation is the concept of nametags. With the passion and value placed on this project by congregational president Joel Zimbelman, and design and other input from



Cindy Kampf, Ralph Godwin and Annette Jefferson, another team was born, a size and design chosen, and the first order processed. We now have a beautiful display rack designed and constructed by Ralph Godwin which will be rolled out to the welcome table each week, where people will be encouraged to make both long time members as well as first time visitors feel more welcome and connected.

A lot of discussion this past year has been centered on the concept: “through the eyes of a visitor.” What does the first 7 minutes upon entering the parking lot at Faith look like? Areas in which we shine were identified as well as some areas on which we might want to do some polishing. Looking through these eyes will be a regular part of Equipping Team meetings.

The **Equipping Team** has started the process of highlighting a “Ministry of the Month” under the direction of Sherrill Heinz and April Beckett. The thought is to celebrate and lift up areas of

ministry through whatever means are available to us. Articles, announcements, prayers, video, and sermons. Similarly, and with the leadership of Sherrill Heinz, Annette Jefferson and Margaret Bergman, individual and often hand-written thank you notes or other personal recognition have been sent to the many people who helped with Safe Space and those of our partners in ministries involved with the various “Ministries of the Month” individually thanking our people who are indeed ministers at Faith. This is a herculean task of recognition these people have placed as a value for Faith Lutheran. Ministry is why the church exists and without those involved in ministry, what purpose does the church have?



**Tithe.ly**

One of the items the team has prioritized is the need for a database able to handle membership, connections, gifts inventories, interests, facilities management and financial operations all within a single piece of church management software. With the onset of the coronavirus, this need moved to the front burner and Faith is well underway to explore the ministry opportunities using Tithely. Dave Rush, and Cindy Kampf along with Pastor Ben and your church council have been facilitating this effort.

This next fiscal year promises to be both exciting and challenging. The 6 areas of ministry are identified but the ways in which we achieve our goals may require some creativity. The team will not be sitting idle during the quarantine. We will try to meet virtually to see where we might plug in to again open doors and make it easier for others to fulfill their passions in ministry. We are looking into the possibility of hosting an educational event, bringing in an outside specialist in the area of **Equipping Ministry** and even checking out the possibilities of teaming up with other Christian faith communities in and around Chico who might share similar interests.

The **Equipping Team** could accomplish nothing without the ongoing support and encouragement of the staff. Pastor Ben, Colter and Michael while occasionally looking at us with a blank stare, have walked out on that limb of faith in supporting team efforts.

Kim Schweder



## Kagitumba Parish



Faith Lutheran enjoys a companionship with the Kagitumba parish in northern Rwanda. The companionship is part of a larger relationship that exists between the Sierra Pacific Synod and the Lutheran Church of Rwanda which involves 21 congregations from the Sierra Pacific Synod and 15 parishes in Rwanda.

Since 2002 Faith Lutheran Church has supported several different projects including providing scholarships for secondary school students, hosting Rwandan visitors,

participating in Sierra Synod Delegation visits to Rwanda, and providing some limited funding for the construction of a parish church. We currently provide a quarterly stipend for Reverend Mukama Eddy Santos to support the work he does in the Kagitumba parish. Kagitumba has supported Faith Lutheran by keeping us in prayer as we were calling new pastors and other church leadership positions through the years, and as we faced the challenge of supporting the community of Paradise during the time of the Camp Fire. They have also provided inspiring testimony about the Christian experience of post-genocide peace and reconciliation, having experienced the transformative power that such reconciliation brings to communities in conflict.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about this companionship is encouraged to contact Marge Troester, Colter Murphy, Bill Kees or Joel Zimbelman.

Marge Troester  
Kagitumba Liaison  
Faith Lutheran Church-Chico



## Pride Ministry

For many, many years, there has been a line item on our budget for the downtown Pride festival. This year, Faith expanded significantly in terms of queer outreach, and some of our leftover budget for the Pride festival went toward other endeavors (see below.) Our leftover budget (and leftover festival supplies) were put to good use during other events. Therefore, in 2019, Pride became its own ministry encompassing all LGBTQ+ outreach.

### Downtown Pride Festival

Chico celebrated Pride in August by honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Before the festival, the Women's Ministry baked over 30 pies and raised over \$600 for Stonewall Alliance Center. The Quilters hand-crafted a beautiful, rainbow quilt for our raffle, which was won by 9-year-old Haven, a Pride attendee. Kellie Marie and Andrew Lavin led our congregation in creating bracelets whose colors reflected different genders and sexualities, and our congregation, led by Sherrill Heinz, spent two Sundays creating colorful postcards using alcohol inks. The bracelets and



postcards were given out as prizes at Pride, and people appreciated that our church lovingly hand-crafted each item. Since the bracelets and postcards sported rainbows, bi pride, trans pride, and other identity colors, we as a congregation educated ourselves with two different brochures: *Your Trans Neighbor* (a transgender Q&A) and *LGBTQ+ Identities and their Meanings*. The festival itself was a huge success filled with laughter, games, balloons, and love!

### Support for CSU

Because of the support we provided during Pride week, Faith was invited to table for CSU's queer week. Cyla Nelson, Becky Rouse, Annalisa Colahan and Michael Nicholson set up a table on CSU's lawn with brochures and a bunch of leftover rainbow swag. We also gifted CSU's Gender and Sexuality Equity Center \$250 to help sponsor their Queer Prom event.

### Trans\*Outreach

Faith continues to collaborate with Stonewall in providing a safe place for Chico to host its Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil annually on November 20. A week before the vigil in 2019, we hosted a trans Q&A in Room 7 consisting of an openly transgender man, woman, and nonbinary person. The energy was incredibly positive as Faith asked questions



about transgender lifestyle, pronouns, hormone therapy, what it was like coming out, etc. This helped our Faith family prepare for the vigil as we better understood the sorts of struggles our trans siblings in mourning sometimes face. To prep for Trans\* Day of Remembrance, we planted white flags in our lawn, one for each person killed as an act of transgender violence in 2019. Next, we hosted the vigil where we read the names of the deceased. It was a heavy night, but comfort food was provided not only by Stonewall but by a *bunch* of you!

Faith Lutheran Church will continue to collaborate with Stonewall Alliance and CSU in efforts geared toward the Pride Festival, Trans\* Day of Remembrance, and other endeavors that support our community. As it stands there will be no in-person Pride festival this year due to the coronavirus; Stonewall intends to host online Pride in the fall and Faith will of course show its support.

Michael Nicholson

### Social Ministry



Colter Murphy led the Social Ministry Team for half of the year as the chair of the team in Marge Troester's absence while she was gone in Berkeley. Marge returned a few months ago, and Colter and Marge are currently sharing the duties of chairing the Team.

The Social Ministry Team fundraised for and organized Rise Against Hunger, an intergenerational service project where participants packed meals to be sent out globally to those who are hungry. We held the annual Steve Troester Memorial blood drive, which was

quite successful this year; we met our goal of 20 units collected during the drive. We stuffed backpacks full of school supplies and delivered them to local schools for children in need. Colter organized God's Work Our Hands, an intergenerational service project which was held at Paradise Lutheran church to assist them with a variety of projects on their campus. Our church wrapped gifts collected by the fire department to be given to children in need at Christmas, another intergenerational project. Our church hosted both Trans Day of Remembrance and World AIDS Day Remembrance in collaboration with Stonewall Alliance and the Pride Ministry, and saw a terrific participation in this year's Pride Festival in the plaza downtown. Faith Lutheran Church enjoys a deepening companionship with the Kagitumba



Parish in Rwanda. Colter travelled to Rwanda as part of the Sierra Pacific Synod's delegation group to celebrate the Lutheran Church of Rwanda's 25th anniversary. Through this trip, Colter was able to further deepen the beautiful relationship between Faith Lutheran and our partner congregation in Kagitumba.



Our church continues to support Camp Fire survivors, and culminated a long-term effort to provide mattresses through a furniture company called Living Spaces. We also funded a water bottle filling station for Paradise Elementary, which was recently installed and is now in use. Faith Lutheran continues with its commitment to serve those in our community living without a home, and sends teams once per month to the Torres Shelter, where folks cook and serve a hot meal for over 160 clients. We also send our congregants once per month to help serve breakfast at the Jesus Center, and we are working on ways our congregation can deepen our relationship with the Jesus Center. Faith Lutheran hosted Safe Space Winter Shelter for two weeks this year, providing low-barrier housing for over 60 clients during Chico's coldest months.

Faith Lutheran continues to partner with organizations serving those experiencing homelessness during the COVID19 pandemic, and is providing food storage space in our kitchen to Safe Space and Project Roomkey for pre-made meals they are distributing. Faith members are delivering groceries to those who lack access to do so themselves. In some cases, grocery recipients are not asked to pay for the groceries, and Faith Lutheran foots the bill through the generous giving of our church community.



## Stephen Ministry

### **Care Receivers**

Stephen Ministers serve God by providing distinctively-Christian, confidential, free, one-on-one weekly spiritual support to people going through difficult times. During the past fiscal year, six people have received Stephen Ministry care through Faith's program.

### **Stephen Ministers and Leaders**

As of this report, Faith Lutheran has three active Stephen Ministers: Cyla Nelson, Linda Rice and Dianna Snyder. The Stephen Leaders and their areas of responsibility include Gen Brink-Capriola (referrals and congregational awareness), Jamie Holmes (team coordinator and continuing education), and Graham Skinner (supervision and congregational awareness).



### **Stephen Minister on Leave**

Sky Sample has recently taken a hiatus as a Stephen Minister after seven years of service. We deeply appreciate the gifts she has brought to Stephen Ministry and her dedication to helping her care receivers. We look forward to her return.

### **Booklet Ministry for the Bereaved**

Retired Stephen Minister Becky Dyck has faithfully continued Faith Lutheran's booklet ministry to those who are grieving. Since 2014, Becky has sent series of four booklets entitled *Journeying through Grief* to members and friends of the congregation on behalf of Stephen Ministry and FLC. Mailed at intervals of three weeks, three months, six months and eleven months after the loss, these booklets explain the feelings and issues that are common to grieving persons at those points and offer compassionate suggestions for coping with loss.

### **Stephen Ministry Training**

The Leaders from Bidwell Presbyterian and Faith Lutheran have again combined resources to train new Stephen Ministers. We had one training session before the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to stop meeting in person. Because the training isn't conducive to teleconferencing, we will resume when we are able. We're excited about having more people sharing their gifts through this ministry.

Submitted by Jamie Holmes

## **Women's Ministry**



**MARY and MARTHA BIBLE STUDY** meets the second Thursday of the month, September through June at 10am. We welcome all women who are looking for Christian fellowship and study of the scripture. Our study guide is the Lutheran women's magazine *Gather*. **ELIZABETH BIBLE STUDY** meets the second Thursday of the month, September through June at noon.

**QUILTERS** led by Char Miller ordinarily meet weekly on Tuesdays at 9am to noon in the Parish Hall, though they are not meeting during quarantine. People of all levels of quilting/sewing abilities are invited to attend. This year masks were made for our members and their family and friends in need for protection

against the Coronavirus. A rainbow quilt was crafted for the Downtown Pride Festival as a raffle prize and was claimed by 9-year-old Haven. Quilts were given to Shawna Burhans as she began her journey to seminary, as well as Kevin Anderson (our former Director of Worship and Music) as he and his partner Angel started a new adventure in Santa Monica.

#### **BAKE SALES/BOUTIQUE ITEMS**

- Bakes sales continue to be held in February and October. All bakers in the church donate baked goods, and quilters provide handmade items. Monies earned provide gifts as follows:
  - Paratransit B-Line tickets are given to members unable to drive, enabling them to attend worship, church events and medical appointments
  - Two \$1,000.00 scholarships were awarded to the following congregational members to acknowledge their achievements and volunteer service to our church, their schools and the community:
    - Rosa Nelson at St. Mary's
    - Brandon Lavis at Butte College
  - \$700 was donated to Shawna Burhans to help with her journey to seminary
  - \$624 was raised as a donation to Stonewall Alliance in August

#### **THANKOFFERING SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER**

The generous offering from the entire congregation totaled over \$1,417. These monies were sent to the national Women of the ELCA for their work in this country and the world.

ROSES TO THE CONGREGATION FOR THEIR WONDERFUL SUPPORT OF ALL WOMEN'S PROJECTS. THEY WOULDN'T BE SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT YOU.

Virginia Goodrich, Char Miller, Lynette Stensrud, Barbara Torgerson,  
Coordinators



## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

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1. Welcome by Council President Joel Zimbelman
2. Opening Litany and Prayer by Pastor Ben Colahan
3. Approval of May 19, 2019 Congregational Meeting Minutes (p.24)
4. The Year in Review by Pastor Ben Colahan
5. Intro to new mission statement: *A community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone*
6. Appreciation of Staff by the Equipping Ministry
7. Thank you to the council by the Equipping Ministry
8. Election of New Council Members by the Equipping Ministry
9. Presentation of [Constitution](#) by Mark Kimmelshue (for a physical copy of the constitution, please swing by the office)
10. Time for Questions
11. Vote on [Constitution](#)
12. Presentation of the [Budget](#) (p.28) by Council Treasurer Mark Kimmelshue
13. Time for Questions
14. Vote on the Budget
15. Presentation of Stewardship/Capital Campaign by Joel Zimbelman, Todd Kimmelshue, Pr. Ben Colahan
16. Time for Questions
17. Vote on Capital Campaign
18. Vote on Capital Campaign Priorities #1 (Sound System) and #2 (Roof Repair)
19. Youth Ministry at Faith by Colter Murphy
20. The Lord's Prayer

## May 19, 2019 MINUTES

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**WELCOME** by Council President Raquel Krach

**OPENING LITANY AND PRAYER** by Pastor Ben Colahan

**VIDEO** by Pastor Ben, *Year in Review* including the impact of the Camp Fire, welcoming Paradise Lutheran, welcoming Colter Murphy and Michael Nicholson, and a recap of the accomplishments of the congregation.

**APPROVAL of MAY 28, 2018 CONGREGATIONAL MINUTES** A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as recorded.

**YEAR IN REVIEW** Council President Raquel Krach recapped the goals set forth and accomplished through the appreciative inquiry. She announced that council is now working on answering the question, “where do we go now” by utilizing the book *Church Unique*. The ultimate goal is to find the intersection of our unique congregation and to cast a vision for the next phase of life.

**APPRECIATION OF STAFF & OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS** Colter Murphy, Kevin Anderson, Michael Nicholson, and Pastor Ben were thanked for their tremendous work throughout 2018-2019. Outgoing Council Members Craig Meyer, Taron Zilch, and Linda Fisher were recognized and thanked for their service on council. Pastor Ben recognized and thanked outgoing council member and president, Raquel Krach, for her many years of incredible leadership and service to our congregation.

**ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS** Joel Zimbelman, Tricia Homesley, and Meredith Woods were nominated to serve for their first two year term on council. Sky Sample, Mark Kimmelshue and Sherrill Heinz were nominated for reelection for another two year term. The motion was made, seconded and carried. Raquel announced the new executive team for 2019-2020 fiscal year will be

President: Joel Zimbelman  
Vice President: Sky Sample  
Treasurer: Mark Kimmelshue  
Secretary: Diane Knight

**PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET** by Treasurer Mark Kimmelshue. The budget was presented and discussed. Designated funds were reviewed. Pastor Ben discussed Synod Benevolence and what activities that funding supports. Sherrill Heinz made a motion to approve the budget, Susan Kimball seconded and motion carried to accept the July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 budget as presented.

**THE MEETING CLOSED WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Respectfully submitted, Diane Knight, Secretary

## NOMINATION REPORT

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### Proposed Council for 2020-2021

#### CONTINUING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joel Zimbelman	President	2019-2021
Sky Sample	Vice President	2019-2021
Diane Knight	Secretary	2018-2020
Mark Kimmelshue	Treasurer	2015-2021
Susan Kimball	Council Member	2018-2020
Sherrill Heinz	Council Member	2017-2021
Cindy Kampf	Council Member	2018-2020
Meridith Wood	Council Member	2019-2021
Tricia Homesley	Council Member	2019-2021

#### COUNCIL NOMINEES 2020-2021

Doug DeSoto  
Matt Reed  
Penny Melvin  
Bonnie Pulliam

#### THIS YEAR'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joel Zimbelman  
Sky Sample  
Diane Knight  
Mark Kimmelshue  
Sherrill Heinz  
Pr. Ben Colahan

#### NEXT YEAR'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joel Zimbelman  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA

## ABOUT OUR COUNCIL NOMINEES 2020-2021

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### Matt Reed



I have lived in Chico since late 2009 and was born and raised in Southern Vermont, where I graduated from Brattleboro Union High School. I'm a proud graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey. My wife and I share three children and enjoy everything Chico has to offer. In my spare time, I am a member of Faith Lutheran Church and the National Exchange Club, which both allow me to give back to the community. It is an honor to be considered for inclusion on the Faith Lutheran Council. If elected to the Council I will bring a new member perspective, which will allow for insight for continued growth. Additionally, as a husband and father of three children ranging in age from 6 - 14 I would help to increase family and youth involvement at Faith Lutheran. Lastly, I bring over 20 years of professional financial insight, which will help guide Faith Lutheran with future facilities improvements. Thank you again for your consideration.

### Doug DeSoto

After forty years of work in the military, fire service, law enforcement, education, and housing, I retired in 2018. I currently live in Chico with my wife, Carmelita, and our dog, Emma. Our two daughters and grandchildren also live in the Chico area. Carmelita and I have been members of Faith Lutheran since 2019 and enjoy being part of this unique community and the many opportunities provided to do service in Christ name. If voted in as a council member I would strive to follow and encourage my fellow council members to follow the words in 1 Peter 4:10: To be good stewards of the manifold grace of God and serve one another with whatever gift each of us has received in support of the mission of Faith Lutheran Church.



### Bonnie Pulliam



My husband, Glenn, and I have lived in Durham for the past 30 years and grow pistachios on our five acre property. Our family has been attending Faith Lutheran for 25 year and three of our four sons were confirmed at Faith. As a 34 year elementary educator, I have valued Faith's ongoing commitment to youth. I retired from teaching five years ago, and made a conscious decision to become more involved in our church community. I currently serve on the Social Ministry Team, Coffee Hour Team, am a participant in Tables of 8 and serve on the Asylum Committee. We have helped at Safe Space, the Saturday morning Jesus Center breakfasts, Campfire Mattress Distribution Days and Chico Pride Day! I am the proud grandma of four and counting! (Best job ever!!) As I have become more involved in our church, I have reaped so much in terms of fellowship, a sense of real belonging to our church

community and a deepening of my faith. I feel now is the time for me to give back to a church that has given so much to me. I am so very proud of Faith Lutheran for its hearty welcome to all, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race or social status. I am committed, as a Christian, to love and serve all of my neighbors as Jesus has commanded. I will listen to our congregation as we discern God's plan for Faith as we move forward together.

### Penny Melvin

My husband, Tom and I are fortunate to be life-long Chicoans. We have been attending Faith Lutheran for over 30 years. All four Melvins were baptized at Faith. I am currently employed by Chico Unified School District having worked at elementary, middle, and high schools for most of my adult life. After volunteering for a number of years within the Chico area at large (mostly with the homeless), I am eager to bring whatever gifts I can to Faith Lutheran as we journey together in Christian community. I am encouraged by the many aspects of our congregation, including our commitment to include all members, those young at heart, to those young in years in all our various programs. Faith Lutheran Church has supported me and my family in prayer, love, and support. It would be my great honor to express my gratitude to the congregation by serving on our council, hoping to always remember Micah 6:8, "to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God."



## 2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

### Budget to Actual Income and Expense Faith Lutheran Church 2020/2021 Budget

	Budget 2019/2020	Budget 2020/2021	Budget Difference	Percent Difference
Total Income	\$431,417.00	\$442,879.00	\$11,462.00	2.59%
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Admin. Wages	\$136,964.00	\$145,880.00	\$8,916.00	6.11%
Assembly/Other	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Benevolence	\$27,160.00	\$29,300.00	\$2,140.00	7.30%
Office Supplies/Maintenance/Utilities	\$34,600.00	\$35,000.00	\$400.00	1.14%
Discipleship/Stephen Min.	\$4,100.00	\$2,700.00	(\$1,400.00)	-51.85%
Equipping Ministry	\$0.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	100.00%
First Third of Life/Education	\$5,300.00	\$5,400.00	\$100.00	1.85%
Operations/Property	\$32,900.00	\$37,195.00	\$4,295.00	11.55%
Music Wages	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Outreach/Evangelism	\$11,250.00	\$11,225.00	(\$25.00)	-0.22%
Personnel Benefits	\$79,079.00	\$70,801.00	(\$8,278.00)	-11.69%
Program Wages (Pastor)	\$76,174.00	\$80,738.00	\$4,564.00	5.65%
Worship and Music Operating Exp.	\$8,340.00	\$8,340.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Designated Fund Reimbursement	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Employee Search Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$431,417.00	\$444,379.00	\$12,962.00	2.92%

### Income and Expense Comparison

	7/1/2016 Through 6/30/2017	7/1/2017 Through 6/30/2018	7/1/2018 Through 6/30/2019	7/1/2019 Through 5/31/2020
<b>Income:</b>				
General Fund	\$334,690.01	\$356,639.23	\$367,043.63	\$377,734.56
Other Income	\$2,721.33	\$4,226.71	\$3,761.50	\$2,617.94
Total Income	\$337,411.34	\$360,865.94	\$370,805.13	\$380,352.50
<b>Operating Expense:</b>				
Admin. Wages	\$79,713.01	\$85,847.64	\$128,486.08	\$126,580.48
Assembly/Other	\$1,783.82	\$2,342.28	\$2,041.84	\$795.26
Benevolence	\$20,288.95	\$22,861.36	\$24,400.25	\$22,439.20
Office Supplies/Maintenance/Utilities	\$39,645.31	\$39,631.62	\$39,247.12	\$34,818.08
Discipleship/Stephen Min.	\$3,262.49	\$1,419.19	\$231.10	\$1,031.20
First Third of Life/Education	\$210.30	\$282.70	\$2,461.51	\$3,032.49
Mortgage	\$44,208.00	\$18,342.76	\$0.00	\$0.00
Operations/Property	\$24,296.94	\$39,269.86	\$17,721.62	\$35,264.02
Outreach/Evangelism	\$3,786.65	\$6,912.40	\$7,181.00	\$5,018.63
Personnel Benefits	\$30,879.00	\$36,277.69	\$57,490.28	\$56,016.78
Program Wages (Pastor)	\$71,057.66	\$73,655.00	\$76,184.45	\$69,826.24
Worship and Music Operating Exp.	\$7,699.82	\$7,296.37	\$8,016.75	\$6,656.04
Capital Improvement Fund	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$11,000.00
Search Committee	\$1,857.19	\$4,929.00	\$3,882.90	\$7,101.42
Total Operating Expense	\$340,689.14	\$351,067.87	\$379,344.90	\$379,579.84
Net Income/Deficit	(\$3,277.80)	\$9,798.07	(\$8,539.77)	\$772.66

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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The Church Council has been addressing a range of issues this past year, but some of our most important discussions have focused on repairs, replacements, and upgrades to our physical plant and to elements integral to the worship environment at FLC. Our building and systems are aging, and we have concluded that a multi-year renovation of our church is needed. We began that task this past year, and we've posted on our website a list of "mission accomplished" items that we were able to pay for and complete. But we have much more to accomplish. And though our operating budget is in very good shape for our ongoing ministries (thank you!), we believe that the time is right for us to embrace a stewardship and capital campaign to raise the funds needed for these essential tasks. Among the items that we need to address in the near future:

1. A sound system replacement for our sanctuary, and a new audio-visual system for broadcasting our services
2. Repairing and/or replacing sections of the roofs on our three buildings
3. Bathroom repairs, renovations, and reconfigurations
4. Updating our internet connections and TV projection systems in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, offices, and Room 6
5. Refreshing the paint, carpet, and furnishings of the nursery, fellowship hall, offices and classrooms
6. Repairing damaged building structures, stucco, and drain systems
7. Painting our church buildings
8. Refreshing our irrigation systems and landscaping

The detailed analysis of these tasks, together with cost estimates are [available for you to view](#) online. In order to address all of these challenges, the Church Council agrees that we need to raise approximately \$400,000 over the coming three fiscal years (2020-2023) so that improvements can be made in a timely manner.

We know that this is significant goal for our members, and especially in a time of financial strain for many in our community and the nation. But many of these challenges are becoming quite acute and affect in serious ways the ministries that we can reasonably take on, the meaningfulness of our worship, and our partnerships with other groups in Chico.

We have some funds saved that we can begin to apply to the most pressing of these needs (items 1, 2, and 3 above). And we are committed to only moving forward with projects once we have the funds in hand or firm commitments for such support from our members.

The Church Council will ask today that the Congregation approve two motions 1) to move forward with a Stewardship and Capital Campaign over the next three fiscal years with a goal of raising approximately \$400,000; and 2) begin immediate and targeted fundraising to address the needs of items 1-3 above. Further details of our requests to you for such support will be shared as we move into the summer. In the coming year, monthly updates on costs, plans, and progress will be shared with the congregation. And we will also share with you ways in which you can support these improvements in addition to financial support.

We have taken on some significant maintenance tasks on our property over the past 25 years. But this will be our largest and most challenging stewardship drive and renovation of our facility. We thank you advance for your support, your prayers, and your generosity.

Tod Kimmelshue and Joel Zimbelman  
Co-Chairs of the FLC Stewardship and Capital Campaign for 2020-2023

## AUTHOR/CONTRIBUTOR INDEX

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On behalf of the staff, we would like to thank each and every person who contributed to this report, which includes report and photo submissions, communication during the editing process, proof-reading, and the time it took you to create a piece of this report. Thank you.

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<b>Columbarium</b>	Susan Reed
<b>Endowment Committee</b>	Bill Kees
<b>Equipping Ministry</b>	Kim Schweder
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Pastor Ben Colahan
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<b>Worship and Music Report</b>	Luke Nicolay

Page 24 photo of campus by Bill Kees

# Litany

- L. Gathering together as God's people in this place, may we always be aware of your presence in our midst.
- C. Lord, may we always be aware of your presence.
- L. Knowing that the Word is our light, may we continue to grow in our scriptural and confessional understandings.
- C. Lord, may our minds continue to grow in your word.
- L. Recognizing that stepping out in faith is not easy, we ask that you give us strength, O Lord, to listen and be bold and daring.
- C. Lord, give us the patience to listen and the strength to be bold and daring.
- L. While we strive to know ourselves and your will for us, may we build our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- C. Lord, help us to build faith-filled and healthy relationships with others.
- L. Recognizing that we are often the ones asking, "And who is my neighbor?," may we open our eyes, ears and hearts to all those in the community in which we live.
- C. Lord, may we always be open to those in the community in which we live.
- L. Recognizing the importance of Moses, the prophets and disciples, may we work together to accompany and raise up leaders for your church.
- C. Lord, may we have the insight, encouragement and skills to raise up courageous leaders.
- L. Recognizing the many gifts you have entrusted to us, may we use these gifts to do your work in the world today.
- C. Lord, may we use the gifts entrusted to us to do your work.

## God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl-wind, as on Pen - te -  
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your  
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from  
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's

cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;  
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,  
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,  
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,

past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,  
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,  
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;  
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;

there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!  
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!  
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!  
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

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 Music: John Hughes  
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- L. Let us pray. As we strive to be your church of the present and the future, may we nurture a spirit of collaboration and solidarity. May we all be partners in sharing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.
- C. Amen.

# Beyond the Wall: Making All Things New



When have you discovered newness in life through Christ? Did you have to step out in faith to do so? Perhaps you had to let go of your will and accept God's will. This

is a major turning point in the faith journey of many people. There are examples in Scripture about Job (Job 29-30), Elijah (I Kings 19:4-14), Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-2) and the women at the tomb (Luke 23:55 – 24:5). Consider the story of the rich young man (Matthew 19:16-26, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 18:18-30). He approached Jesus with a simple question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." When the young man heard this, he was very sad and walked away, because he was very rich. Given the choice, he found it difficult to forsake wealth in this world for the promise of God and eternal life.

Sometimes there are barriers or walls that complicate trying something new or stepping out in faith. What walls or barriers have you encountered? Consider the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), who wanted to witness Jesus preaching but was too short to see past the crowd. After Zacchaeus climbed a tree, Jesus called out to him and invited himself to lunch in Zacchaeus' home. We know what Jesus said to Zacchaeus,

and he was a different person afterward. He had changed from wanting wealth and success in this world to desiring significance through a life of faith. When have you, or your congregation, chosen success over significance? Perhaps when using numbers or the size of your facilities as a measure. Moving toward significance usually means sacrificing success. In what areas of ministry is your congregation seeking significance today?

Stepping out in faith may be a personal choice for a short time but usually involves accompanying others. As members in the body of Christ, we are not called to meet our own needs alone. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) calls us to go beyond our barriers and bring the message of Jesus Christ to others. This helps us grow beyond a Christian enclave to become servants of Christ and a serving community. In what ways has your congregation moved from an enclave to a servant community?

Overcoming barriers and walls to make things new involves stepping out in faith. It means shaking loose from lethargy and moving out from sheltered comfort. In the process we break the chains of sin that hold us back and divide us from making us one in Christ. When we share in the distress of God's heart to do the kingdom's work, we are in tune with God's will, choosing significance over success and becoming a servant community. This is when we feel the vitality of our faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. May you experience this newness in Christ in and through your ministry.



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**RECONCILING *in* CHRIST**