

# What's Happening At Faith?



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## **CALLED to be MINISTERS**

What you hold in your hands is not just a collection of activities to pass the time, but a collection of opportunities to activate your spiritual power. Each of us has been given unique skills, passions, and abilities that the bible calls “spiritual gifts.” The Holy Spirit gives each of us these different gifts so that we might use them for the common good (1. Cor. 12:7).

Many of us are used to doing chores that we neither enjoy nor are particularly good at; we do them because they are required to get through the day. Many of us have activities or skills which we love to do but which we ignore because we think they don't matter to others, or because we've never had the opportunity to develop them. The Holy Spirit intends more than that for your gifts, and here at Faith, so do we. Our goal is to help you tap into the deep joy that comes from sharing the talents and passions that God has placed in your heart. Because when you do, you unleash abundant life both for yourself and your neighbors.

Read through this booklet and look for the ministries that make you antsy with anticipation, the ones that make you wonder with hope if you could really do that. Whether you rejoice to get your hands dirty in the earth, you get excited by setting up spreadsheets, or your heart feels full when you pray with someone in the midst of suffering, God made you to uniquely transform this world with love. We'd love to help you do just that.

## **WORSHIP THROUGHOUT the YEAR**

Faith Lutheran is a “Reconciling in Christ” community, which means that everyone is welcome to worship regardless of age, sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, physical or mental ability, or situation in life. We celebrate in worship the various ways in which a community of diverse people praise God!

### **Sunday Services**

Because of the Coronavirus, Sunday worship times are subject to change in 2020 and 2021. Live, in-person service takes place Sunday mornings. Online worship is available each Sunday.

### **Ecumenical Prayer & Supper – Annual**

Dinner, followed by worship with various congregations in Chico



### **Taizé Prayer and Labyrinth Walk – Seasonal**

Worship and contemplative prayer using the elements of walking the Labyrinth and confession.

### **Ash Wednesday – Spring**

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

### **Wednesdays in Lent – Spring**

Gather with community churches to share ecumenical Wednesday-evening suppers with great food and inspiring worship.

### **Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) – Holy Week**

Gather with palms in the courtyard and process into worship, led by the cross.

### **Maundy Thursday – Holy Week**

Holy Communion with foot washing and Stripping of the Altar.

### **Good Friday – Holy Week**

Adoration of the cross.

### **Vigil of Easter – Holy Week**

Lighting of the Paschal flame and candle, vigil reading, and song. Baptism, Holy Communion, followed by celebration.

### **Easter Day – Holy Week**

Two services with Holy Communion led by choir, brass, contemporary musicians and organ.

### **Day of Pentecost – May**

Two services with Holy Communion led by choir, brass, contemporary musicians and organ.

### **Ember Days – September, December, March**

Prayerful, seasonal reflection and attention to how God is revealed in creation; allowing nature and seasonal cycles to inform our understanding of God and of ourselves.

### **St. Francis Blessing of the Animals – October**

Blessing of the Animals in the courtyard.



### **All Saints Day – November**

Bring photographs, place flowers, light candles, pray, and sing to remember our loved ones. Service concludes with a blessing at the Columbarium.

### **Women's Thankoffering Sunday**

The women of our congregation (and the ELCA) collect what they've saved for the year and is given to the WELCA organization.

### **Wednesdays in Advent – November, December**

Gather for evening suppers and inspirational worship.

### **Advent Workshop – December**

Faith's coup de grâce; arts, crafts, music and worship during our Advent season, including gift wrapping, chili cook-offs, and fun for everyone.



### **Christmas Eve – December 24**

Children's Service: Holy Communion service especially for children followed by concert of choral and organ music.

Candlelight Service: Holy Communion with candle-lighting and song.

### **Christmas Day – December 25**

Casual worship the morning of Christmas.



## **WORSHIP TEAMS**

Our worship invites us to work together, each of us offering our unique gifts in praise and thanksgiving. We have organized our talents into areas that we feel offer the most enjoyable worship experience, but are always looking for new, creative ways to express ourselves! To share your gifts or ideas, please contact the office at (530) 895-3754.

**Altar Guild** – Sets up communion

**Assisting Ministers** – Lead the congregation in worship and prayer

**Audio/Visual Technicians** – Run the sound board and PowerPoint slides

**Coffee Hour Hosts** – Makes coffee and serves snacks after service

**Communion Ministers** – Serve the bread and wine at communion

**Eucharistic Ministers** – Take and serve Holy Communion to people who can't attend worship

**Greeters** – Welcomes everybody to worship

**Healing Ministers** – Offers a blessing prayer and anointing with oil

**Lectors** – Reads the first and second readings

**Ushers** – Provides hospitality to everyone

**Welcome Table** – Welcomes members, new and old, as they walk through the doors



## **FAITH MUSIC**

Faith Lutheran rings with songs from every corner of the world! All God's people at faith sing praise with ancient hymns, new gospel, jazz, contemporary songs, and global music from many cultures. Singing together is a way of building community, learning and exploring what is old and what is new. We encourage everyone to sing and play with us whether you're a veteran musician or have never sang before in your life! If you are interested in participating, please contact the office at (530) 895-3754. We look forward to hearing your song!



### **Choir**

From fall through spring, the choir rehearses once weekly and sings regularly at our Sunday service. The choir sings a broad selection of choral literature from the great masters to newly composed works in a variety of musical styles.

### **Contemporary Worship Team**

From fall through spring, the CWT rehearses once weekly and sings regularly at our Sunday service. The CWT sings a wide range of contemporary, gospel, and global songs from around the world. Vocalists, guitar, drums, and various other instruments lead the community in song.

### **Instrumentalists**

A wide variety of musical instruments are used throughout the year: brass, guitar, woodwinds, strings, drums, percussion, hand bells, and more. Musicians of all levels are invited to share their talents!

### **Collaboration**

Faith Lutheran is known for hosting concerts by the North Valley Chamber Choir, the Chico Children's Choir, Music Teacher's Association of CA, and more!

## **FOOD at FAITH**

### **Coffee Hour – after or in between services**

Every Sunday, grab a cup of joe and hang out with other members and visitors from FLC. It's a great ministry to serve in, too! Serving and cleanup are easy, especially with our state-of-the-art Bunn coffee makers, courtesy of Mt. Shasta Water. So whether you're here to drink or serve coffee, welcome!



### **Meal Train**

Meal Trains are Faith's way of lending a hand when one of our members is sick or injured. We cook dinners and deliver them so that our fellow FLC member has time to rest and recover.

### **Men's Breakfast – Friday mornings**

This is a nice opportunity for men to gather and talk about topics that are important to them in a welcoming environment. Come join us for breakfast, discussion, prayer, and support. No need to call first - - just show up!

### **Tables for 8**

Tables for 8 are groups of eight members, singles and couples, who gather in homes to share food, fun and fellowship as they become better acquainted with one another; good food, games, and conversation!

### **Women's Ministry Bake Sales**

The Women's Ministry loves to host bake sales, whether it's in addition to their semiannual boutique to fund scholarships, to raise money for Stonewall Alliance during Pride month, or anything in between! From pies to cookies, these ladies really know how to bake!



## **FAITH EDUCATION**

Faith is a congregation that likes to take action, and the first step to taking action is learning about our community. We at Faith are blessed to have so many opportunities to learn from one another, whether it be from different congregations, from people young and old, or from our own neighbors.

### **Online Bible Study**

Deepen your worship experience studying the Gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday. Background, context and literary information, commentaries and questions for reflection intend to bring the Word of God into your everyday life. This study provides some tools that may increase your comfort studying the Scriptures on your own. Hard copies are available in the sanctuary.

### **Pastor's Bible Study – Tuesday afternoons**

How does the pastor go from the bible passages assigned each week to the Sunday morning sermon? Come find out and be a part of the process! Study the upcoming Sunday's bible passages with Pastor Ben. We will talk a little about history and context, then focus on using Martin Luther's techniques for understanding how the bible addresses the needs and concerns of our community today.

### **Women's Bible Study – September through June**

The Mary and Martha Bible Study group and Elizabeth Bible Study group welcomes all women who are looking for Christian fellowship and study of the scripture. Our study guide is the Lutheran women's magazine Gather.

### **Faith Adult Christian Education (FACE)**

Faith Lutheran Church has been offering FACE classes for 30 years, and contrary to our last *What's Happening at Faith* claiming that 2019 will be our best year, 2020 will be our best! Join us for bible studies, discussions on a broad range of topics, ecumenical activities with other congregations, and more.

### **Sacred Conversations**

*Sacred Conversations* is a monthly forum that takes place in the Sanctuary, addressing relevant topics and hosting panelists from all walks of life. Such panels have included Immigration, Preparing for Death, and more.

## **FIRST THIRD of LIFE**



### **Sunday School**

Those ages 0-9 and their parents/guardians are welcome to join us for Sunday School in the nursery. Sunday School focuses on Holy playtime, singing, prayer, and storytelling. During the COVID pandemic, we have been meeting weekly for a virtual kids call, which follows a similar format to Sunday School.

### **Confirmation**

Those entering 6th grade are invited to learn more about the Bible, what it means to be Lutheran, and how to live out the gospel in their daily lives through weekly classes. Upon completion of classes, these youth are welcomed to become voting members of Faith Lutheran and are confirmed. Confirmation is an important milestone in the faith journey of our youth, and we welcome mentors to walk alongside our confirmation students as "trekkers" who join them on their journey of faith.

### **Youth Group**

Middle and High School youth are encouraged to attend weekly youth group at Faith. This is time to be in community with one another, share in our journey of faith, and learn more about our relationship with God. During COVID, youth group has transitioned to weekly online video calls, which are similar to regular weekly youth group: check-in, devotion time, fun games, and prayer.

### **College**

Those ages 18-35 and enrolled in continuing education are welcomed to be part of our unique college Faith Lutheran community. During the school year, the group is welcomed for dinner at the homes of various Faith members, with discussion and fellowship following the meal. During COVID, the group continued to meet but is taking a break for the summer, and will reconvene at a regular weekly time once the school year begins again.

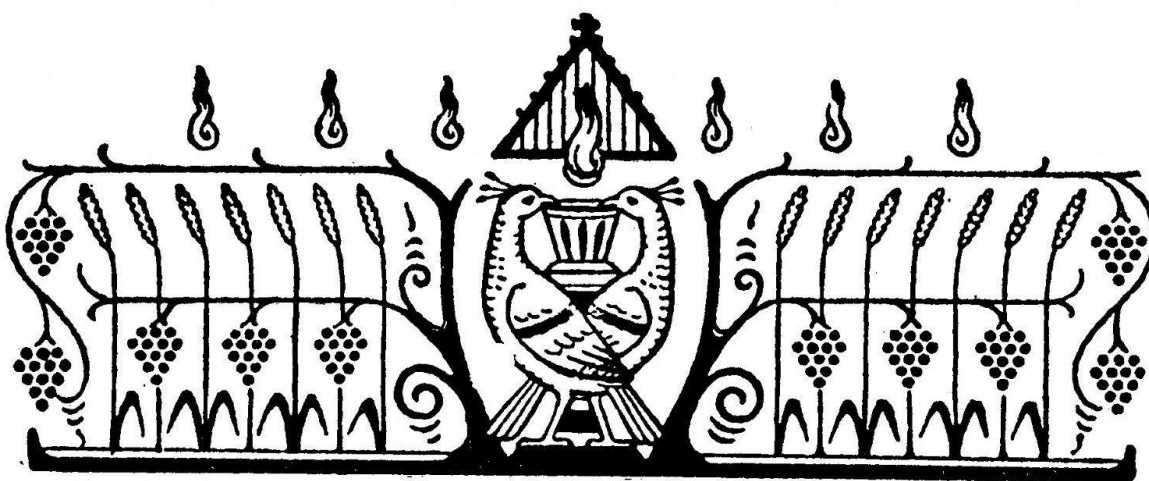
## **PRAYER and SUPPORT MINISTRIES**

### **Centering Prayer – Tuesdays at 4pm**

The contemplative prayer method of Father Thomas Keating is used in this ongoing ecumenical practice. Those new to the practice, as well as those with experience, are welcome. Starting with a brief reading and musical piece, a 20 minute silent, contemplative sit follows. The upcoming Sunday's gospel is then read as *lectio divina* (reading the word with the heart), followed by voluntary naming of what stood out to each listener. We are a member of the Contemplative Outreach Sacramento/Stockton Area (COSSA) organization who offer area centering prayer events and classes and who are a resource for people searching for a local centering prayer group.

### **Ignatian Prayer**

Ignatian Prayer uses a practice called *examen*. The primary questions asked are where have you felt connected to God since we last met and where have you felt disconnected. We encourage other members to step into this journey.



### **Ember Days**

Another contemplative practice is paying attention to the change of the seasons of the year. It is called *Ember Days* and happens around the time when we move from Spring to Summer to Fall to Winter. This is usually a morning event held here at Faith. The practices engaged are Prayer Collage, Labyrinth, and Nature walks.



Stephen Ministry is a program in which trained laypeople provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are going through difficult times. Stephen Ministers listen non-judgmentally to their care receivers, providing care, support, encouragement, and prayer. Stephen Ministry is confidential; the identity of those receiving care and what is discussed in the caring relationship remains private. Who needs a Stephen Minister? Anyone going through a difficult time, including but not limited to those suffering from the death of a loved one, hospitalization, illness, job loss, disability, natural disaster, divorce, infertility, birth of a special needs child, unwanted pregnancy, miscarriage, parenting struggles, empty nest, mild to moderate depression, trouble with the law, or others.

### **Taizé Prayer**

Taizé Evening prayer is a practice done jointly with worship and Contemplative prayer at special seasons of the year, i.e. All Saints. In Holy week on Monday-Wednesday we gather in morning prayer using the Labyrinth following prayer and confession. The Labyrinth was then put in the Fellowship Hall for the remaining of Holy Week, Thursday- Saturday. On the third Sunday of the month during worship members may have a healing minister pray for concerns that they lift up to the healing minister. We invite all to step into this practice as it gives opportunity to reflect on how you proclaim Jesus Christ to the world through you actions.

### **Prayer Chain**

Do you have a prayer request or concern for which you would like our church community to pray? *Call us!* We will reach out to Faith members and let them know that somebody you care about is in need of prayer.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Meet once a month to pray and make shawls

## **COMMITTEES at FAITH**

### **Church Council**

Our council is comprised of a president, VP, secretary, and treasurer as well as a handful of other council members. As a team, they provide support to our staff and congregation and help manage finances, policies, and oversight of our building.

### **Columbarium**

The Columbarium Garden is being used by the Faith Family as a place of contemplation, worship and remembrance, and 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.



### **Endowment**

The endowment fund provides for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation, as well as support for mission work at home and around the world, strengthening and extending God's mission through Faith Lutheran Church. It reaches out in response to human need by making grants to promote and support education for Christian life and service.

### **Funeral Committee**

This committee provides lunches or light food for memorial or funeral services, including set-up and clean-up, and is of great help during life's most challenging moments.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

The **Social Ministry Team** seeks to connect Faith Lutheran to our broader community, locally, regionally, nationally, and globally, through acts of service and solidarity. The team meets once monthly and is still meeting during the COVID19 pandemic via zoom instead of in-person.

- **Blessing of the Backpacks:** the collection and distribution of backpacks and supplies for school students.
- **Blue Bags (Chico Food Project):** a collection of food donated by the congregation to benefit the hungry in the Chico area.
- **CHAT Thanksgiving:** coming together in November to provide a meal for the Chico Housing Action Team
- **Disaster Response:** response to disasters like the Camp Fire or Coronavirus in which Faith organizes food, mask, and bedding distribution as well as emotional support like the sending of thank-you or birthday cards, flowers, etc.
- **God's Work, Our Hands:** a day of all-congregational community service in lieu of traditional worship.
- **Jesus Center Breakfasts:** a once-monthly means of community service in which we make breakfast for the Jesus Center.
- **Rancho Santa Marta:** annual, week-long service trip to Mexico to help with construction projects and other important tasks.
- **Rise Against Hunger:** packaging meals to send out across the world in order to feed the hungry.
- **Rwanda:** connection with our sister parish in Kagitumba, Rwanda, who we support in prayer and finances as they build their new church
- **Torres Shelter Dinners:** going to the Torres Shelter monthly to prep and disperse meals to those without homes in Chico





## WOMEN'S, MEN'S, and PRIDE MINISTRIES

The **Women's Ministry** hosts various bake sales throughout the year, raising funds for scholarships that go to college or trade school, and providing paratransit tickets to folks that need a way to church. Some of these bake sale are accompanied by boutiques in which the Women's Ministry and others at Faith provide hand-made items to sell. Women's Thankoffering Sunday is hosted by this ministry as well as the Quilters who, each Tuesday (barring Shelter in Place) meet in the Parish Hall to craft beautiful quilts with the fabric they store at the church.



The **Men's Ministry** enjoys engaging in good conversation over breakfast each Friday at 7am. While Shelter in Place is in effect, the men meet over Zoom. Otherwise, they meet at Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo Avenue.

The **Pride**, or LGBTQ+ ministry, is the force behind the booth that we host each year at the downtown pride festival. We collaborate often with Stonewall Alliance not only for the downtown festival, but for Transgender Day of Remembrance in November and World AIDS Day in December as well as providing LGBTQ+ education here at the church.



# Ministry Directory

## **Advent Workshop**

Susan Reed  
(530) 966-4775  
suereed1970@gmail.com

## **Bible Study (Online & Pastor's)**

Pr. Ben Colahan  
(530) 895-3754  
colahanb@gmail.com

## **Bible Study (Women's)**

Randy Franken  
(530) 891-8634

## **Coffee Hour**

Janine Rush  
(530) 774-5647  
jlrush51@gmail.com

## **Columbarium**

Susan Reed  
(530) 966-4775  
suereed1970@gmail.com

## **Council**

Joel Zimbelman  
(530) 520-9608  
joelzimbelman@gmail.com

## **Endowment**

Bill Kees  
(530) 966-1626  
willykey@mac.com

## **Equipping Ministry**

Kim Schweder  
(714) 803-4060  
kim.schweder@thejoyfactor.net

## **Faith Adult Christian Education**

Joel Zimbelman  
(530) 520-9608  
joelzimbelman@gmail.com

## **First Third of Life (Youth)**

Colter Murphy  
(530) 895-3754  
colter.g.murphy@gmail.com

## **Food/Kitchen Inquiries**

Laura Moravec  
(530) 514-0377  
llmoravec@gmail.com

## **Funeral Committee**

Judy Struck  
(530) 228-5383  
astruck@csuchico.edu

## **Men's Ministry**

Howie Stensrud  
(530) 896-0616  
stensrudhowardh1@gmail.com

## **Music**

Luke Nicolay  
(530) 895-3754  
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## **Prayer (Centering, Ignatian, Ember Days, Taizé)**

Bill Kees  
(530) 966-1626  
willykey@mac.com

## **Prayer Chain**

Molly Barnum  
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mollyb539@hotmail.com

## **Prayer Shawls**

Carolyn Kees  
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## **Pride (LGBTQ+) Ministry**

Michael Nicholson  
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faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com

## **Sacred Conversations**

Pr. Ben Colahan  
(530) 895-3754  
colahanb@gmail.com

## **Social Ministry**

Colter Murphy  
(530) 895-3754  
colter.g.murphy@gmail.com

## **Stephen Ministry**

Jamie Holmes  
(530) 321-7855  
jaeholmes@gmail.com

## **Tables for 8**

Lynette Stensrud  
(530) 966-7004  
lynettes0815@gmail.com

## **Women's Ministry (and Thankoffering)**

Barb Torgerson  
(530) 570-2624  
bjtorgerson567@gmail.com

## **Worship**

Luke Nicolay  
(530) 895-3754  
lukenicolay1@gmail.com

