

FAITH TALKS

JANUARY 2019



Worship Sundays at 9:30am

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ROSES

ADVENT WORKSHOP ELVES including Sue Reed for organizing the event; Kelly Tipton for wreathing havoc; our wonderful band; everyone who helped with Hanging of the Greens; and our spicy participants for the chili cook off!

REV. PHIL BAKER for preaching on Sunday, December 15.

LAURA MORAVEC for all that you do for the church, the kitchen, and of course arranging our lovely poinsettias.

OUR SOUPER HEROES for making soup for the Solomon family in their time of need as well as our Advent Soup Suppers.

OUR INTREPID MUCISIANS, Daun Weiss, Christine Buckstead, Margaret McMillan, and Linda Zimbelman for leading our choir and band in worship.

GAYLE PALYS for leading us in Advent projects to beautify our sanctuary.

KIM SCHWEDER for creating the PowerPoint presentations necessary for ultimate worship experience.

BOB BAY for taking care of our facility and taking the time and effort to draw up a diagram for our sanctuary.

LEO WEISS for all of his hard electrical and maintenance work.



PASTOR'S ARTICLE



Though there is nothing particularly sacred or biblical about the 1st of January, it's as a good a time as any to reflect on how life has been going and what we hope for the future. So let me share with you my own reflection.

I am incredibly fortunate. 2019 once again reminds me of the goodness in my life. At home, I am continually amazed that I have a house to call my own, that I get to live in this beautiful city, and that Annalisa has chosen to share her life with me. At work, I get to collaborate with a caring and passionate team made up of both staff and dedicated lay leaders. I get to serve a congregation of people who support one another, who live out the gospel in our community, and who continually inspire me with their faith.

Of all this goodness that God has seen fit to bring into in my life, it is this last one that I personally want to focus on in the year to come. I am often asked how I keep up my spirit and strength when I go to visit people who are sick, dying, or grieving. My response is always the same: by visiting those people who are sick, dying, or grieving. The truth is that you are the well from which I draw my faith. The ways in which you acknowledge your fears and yet put them in God's hands, the ways in which you reveal your wounds and trust that Christ shares them, the ways in which you grieve those who have died and yet proclaim the resurrection, these are the ways Jesus gives me strength.

I have said before how much I benefit from the process of writing sermons. I have said before how important it is that you all also have the opportunity to proclaim what God has done for you. This past year I have made a point to incorporate more of your stories into my sermons. It has been a joy to share the ways that the Spirit is at work when Jim Kirks gives Jacquie a ride to church (or forgets), or when Ruth Coutts give Arlene Button her eye drops.

I have made a point to invite members of the congregation to preach when I am away. And we've been blessed to hear words of comfort and hope as Cindy Kampf reminded us that God's language can be as simple as a smile and Kellie Marie Lavin bravely admitted the ways in which she wants to plan every aspect of her life and is learning to trust that God's plans are always greater than hers. But I feel called to do more, to lift up more voices in our midst that speak of the mighty deeds that God has done right here in Chico.

So here is my resolution for 2020: Each month, at least one sermon will center around how the Spirit is working in the life of a member of our congregation. This might take a variety of forms: some months I may get permission to tell someone else's story, some months I may work with the person so that they themselves can preach. But I imagine what will be most common is a style of sermon in which I interview folks, asking them pre-planned questions to draw out their story and then I can intersperse biblical connections and commentary.

I'm going to start this resolution three days early. On December 29th, 2019, Nola Dosch has agreed to let me interview her for the sermon. I won't give anything away, but let's just say Nola's life is truly a modern tale of Jesus' birth in ways that humbled and awed me when I heard how God had worked through her family. I am grateful that she is willing to share her story with us. I can only live out this resolution with your help. And so I will ask you to consider a resolution for the new year also. Many of you already share with me what God is doing in your life; this coming year, when I call you up and ask if you'd be willing to share those same stories with the congregation, consider saying yes. It will require great vulnerability and great strength, but I have found that when we are willing to be vulnerable Christ becomes our strength. In Christ you have the power to give comfort to the grieving, hope to the despairing. You have the power to inspire and transform lives. I know, because you do so for me every day. Please share that power with the people of Faith. And having shared it here, may you share it with the world.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

GREETINGS from the OFFICE!

Greetings FLC! Wow - - I can't believe it's already been a year since I started working here! It's been a wild ride. Between starting a new job, coming out, and making *amazing* new friends here at Faith, I've gotta say, seeing 2019 go makes me a little wistful. That being said, I'm excited to see what the New Year brings! (Hopefully fewer carbs.)

My former job consisted of office management and personal property appraisal, but the first thing every secretary, office manager, or facilities coordinator learns is that no two jobs are alike; every office runs a little differently, and each poses their own challenges (some of which revolve primarily around key issues, cough-cough.) Adapting to this job and coming to understand the needs of the facility and its congregants has been a unique, crazy, and ultimately fun experience. Each room on campus has its own quirks, quirks which sometimes come up completely out of the blue in, oh, say, November, 11 months after starting the job. (Looking at you, exterior lights.)

You have all been incredible in helping me understand how to take care of our church. Transitioning from one manager to another along with ushering in new council members, has involved a degree of re-organization in terms of our vendors like our electricians and plumbers. Sometimes we need to find new people to come in and take a look around the facility to make repairs. Sometimes things break and we need professional services we don't have listed on file. All of your suggestions and offers of volunteerism are not only appreciated, but necessary. As we greet the new year, please continue to reach out and talk about our facilities with me - - tell me when things are broken, what we can do to improve them, and who we can call on for help.

In terms of office projects, I feel that with the help of you all, we have created some amazing things! We built the Annual Report, continue to print our weekly and monthly bulletins and *Faith Talks*, provide an up-to-date website and public calendar, and the entire office has been re-organized so that our assistants and members feel comfortable using it.

Our next big project is finishing the 2020 Directory. Kevin Anderson's partner, Angel Pabalan, graciously took your photos, and now Molly Barnum and I are piecing together the final parts. We can expect the directory to be out by late

January. Under the guidance of the Equipping Ministry, we are also putting out a brand new *What's Happening at Faith* booklet, a guide to ministries and annual events at Faith Lutheran Church. This will be out in early February.

Many of you know I have been working with Council President Joel Zimbelman on improving our facilities. In 2020, our goal is to provide new and clear signage for the building, as well as an all-inclusive, non-gendered, family-friendly, wheelchair accessible restroom with a changing table. Needless to say, there is no shortage of work to do! There are some ways that you can help as well:

- If you possess a facilities key, check in with me if you haven't already. I am updating our 2020 list of loaned keys and I look forward to you looking me right in the eyes and saying, "See, Mike? I still have my key!"
- If you have any talents in the handyman-plumbing-electrical area and would like to volunteer your services, please let me know!
- If you spend a lot of time in any given room on campus, keep an eye out for needs that arise so that we can keep the room and the people who use it feeling good.
- And finally, if you are part of a ministry whose needs can be better met whether it's a matter of facilities use, meetings times, food, or anything in between, please give me a call and we'll work to improve it together.

Thank you all for your constant support and carbs, but seriously, I only need one of those things.

Michael



SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 5

9:30a HOLY COMMUNION
11:00a Coffee Hour

JANUARY 12

9:30a HOLY COMMUNION
10:30a Mt. Cross Presentation
12:00p Safe Space Training

JANUARY 19 – SAFE SPACE WINTER SHELTER

9:30a HOLY COMMUNION
11:00a Coffee Hour
FACE Class: *Christ in Crisis* with Don Heinz

JANUARY 26 – SAFE SPACE WINTER SHELTER

9:30a HOLY COMMUNION
11:00a Coffee Hour
FACE Class: *Christ in Crisis* with Don Heinz



WORSHIP MINISTRY SCHEDULE

*Please check the online Ministry Scheduler for the most up-to-date schedule.
If you need assistance accessing the online schedule, contact Colter at (530) 895-3754.*

	JANUARY 5	JANUARY 12
ASSISTING MIN	Sherrill Heinz	Meridith Woods
AUDIO/VISUAL	Greg Massa	Leo Weiss
COFFEE HOUR	Tod and Sherri Kimmelshue	Flo Martin, Joan Palmer
CHILD CARE	Kelsey Cacace, Becky Rouse	Kelsey Cacace
COMMUNION	Beth Bradley, Carol Gates, Carl and Faye Johnson, Michelle Marrs, Kyle Martin, Laura Moravec, Cyla Nelson, Judy Struck, Caryl Quinones	Deanne Blankenship, Mark and Leanne Chrisman, Lisa Emmerich, Janice Heckerson, Grace Mahannah, Sophia Randolph, Sky Sample, Bob and Cindy Stewart
GREETERS	Elaine Lund, Matt Reed	Molly Barnum, Barb Torgeron
HEALING PRAYER	Gen Brink-Capriola	Penny Melvin
LECTOR	Mark Kimmelshue	Naomi Lazarus
SACRISTAN	Penny Melvin	Dave Barnum
USHERS	Dorothy Nelson, Bonnie Pulliam	Travis Johnson, Susan Kimball
	JANUARY 19	JANUARY 26
ASSISTING MIN	Janine Rush	Raquel Krach
AUDIO/VISUAL	Cynthia Kampf	Greg Massa
COFFEE HOUR	Susan Riggins, Dawn Stafford	Char and John Miller
CHILD CARE	Kelsey Cacace	Kelsey Cacace
COMMUNION	Becky Dyck, Sherrill Heinz, Vickie James, Sharon Prindle, Kit Robinson, Becky Rouse, Dianna Snyder, Judy Struck, Lynette Stensrud	Dave and Molly Barnum, Deanne Blankenship, Gen and Robert Brink-Capriola, Sherrill Heinz, Carl and Faye Johnson, Grace Mahannah, Denise Parkin
GREETERS	Molly Barnum, Howard Stensrud	Elaine Lund, Betty Whitmore
HEALING PRAYER	Sky Sample	Bill Kees
LECTOR	Stephen Fratallone	Marny Jolliffe
SACRISTAN	Bill Augros	Sherri Kimmelshue
USHERS	Carol Grandy, Tina Solomon	Rob and Sophia Randolph

SAFE SPACE WINTER SHELTER



Living without a home is unimaginably difficult, even more so when the weather turns cold in the winter. In Chico, Safe Space Winter Shelter provides emergency housing for Chico's most vulnerable during the coldest months of the year. The organization is able to do this through the generosity of churches who open their doors.

Faith Lutheran has a tradition of hosting Safe Space, and we will continue that legacy this year, for two weeks, from January 19th through February 2nd. During **the week of January 19th - 26th**, we need your help in a variety of roles to keep things running smoothly for our guests. Please stop by the bulletin board in the parish hall to read job descriptions for each role, and to sign up for one or multiple shifts. On behalf of the Safe Space Winter Shelter clients, thank you for lending a hand!

ASYLUM-SEEKER SPONSORSHIP MEETING

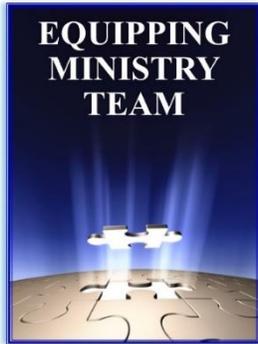
First Baptist and Faith Lutheran are exploring the possibility of sponsoring a person or a family seeking asylum in the United States. This meeting will be for the purpose of talking about what shared resources each of our churches and individual church members can bring to the table. Anyone with an interest in being part of this important project is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please consider what resources you could offer before the meeting.

January 18 at 2pm at Faith Lutheran Church



EQUIPPING MINISTRY NEWS



The interest in becoming a part of the Faith Lutheran Equipping Team has been amazing! There are now 18 members who will soon be breaking down into “sub-teams” focusing on different areas of ministry and opening doors for individuals to be connected with ministries done through our community at Faith Lutheran. Always room for more to join in the fun. Look forward to more information and a 2-part workshop to be conducted after Sunday worship sometime shortly after the first of the year. Questions? Please contact Pastor Ben, Colter, or Kim and Mary Schweder (714) 803-4060 or email at: kim.schweder@thejoyfactor.net

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dear Members of Faith,

The Search Committee for the Director of Worship and Music is excited to invite you to participate in part of the interview process that will happen in January. There will be two persons who will interview during the week of January 13-17, 2020. Your part would be to come on Tuesday and Thursday, January 14 and 16, from 6:00 pm to about 8:00 pm. We desire people who will participate fully in this time. What does this mean? You will be asked to sing or play an instrument as a community. If you are interested you may also sing with the choir. At the end of this time will be invited to respond in a brief written form the the committee has prepared. We hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity to participate.

Blessings to you as you consider this,
Search Committee for the Director for Worship and Music

A LETTER from the STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are you a good listener who likes helping someone who's going through a difficult time? Stephen Ministry is a national Christian program that enables selected laypersons to provide free, confidential one-on-one support through non-judgmental listening, encouragement, and prayer. Faith Lutheran and Bidwell Presbyterian have teamed up again to provide the 50 hours of training for new Stephen Ministers called to this rewarding ministry. If you're interested in learning more, please see the bulletin board in the hallway by the sanctuary or contact Jamie at 530-321-7855.



THE YOUTH TRIP REPORT: ADVENT WORKSHOP

Welcome to the eleventh edition of The Trip Report, a monthly briefing on youth and intergenerational events. This month, I will share about the 2019 Advent Workshop.

I grew up in Missoula, Montana, and attended Immanuel Lutheran Church from the time I was born until I left for college. One of my favorite things we did every year around Christmas at Immanuel was the annual cookie workshop. I loved the smells, eating cookies, getting to spend time with folks older than me, and having the lowkey space to chat. Last year when I found out that Faith Lutheran also does a workshop in Advent, I was skeptical. Could it live up to all of the good times I had known from workshops past in Montana?

Preparation for Faith Lutheran's Advent Workshop happens months in advance. Susan Reed gets on the phone and calls up all sorts of folks who usually show up and play a part: the musicians, the crafters, the bakers, the candlestick makers (just kidding). This year, we put the call out to the congregation, asking them to lead a craft or two during the workshop. We also decided to advertise a chili cookoff, hoping that the promise of bean-filled glory would lure some otherwise non-participatory folks to join in the fun.

I arrived at the parish hall on the day of the workshop and greeted Sue and Kelly Tipton. Kelly was busy setting up the wreath-making table, and Sue promptly sent me away to go buy some last-minute construction paper. After acquiring the needed paper, I made it back to the church. Craft leaders had arrived and were setting up their tables with examples, instructions, and materials. The cookie-decorating table had a large plastic tub filled with cookies and tubs of frosting. I tried one (or maybe two) to make sure they were up to snuff, and indeed they were. Before we knew it, folks were arriving to take part in the workshop. There were so many kids! More importantly, the kids were having fun and didn't look bored in the slightest. The "slime" station was a favorite, as was the rock-painting station. Several helpful youngsters approached me and offered to decorate for me a "personally customized" Christmas cookie. Who was I to refuse?! I tried to ignore the mounting mental tally of "cookies consumed"...





I headed over to the sanctuary to provide some direction for an enthusiastic group of folks who agreed to beautify the church for Advent and Christmas. The hanging of the greens was happening once again. With boxes unloaded from the attic, strands of lights checked, and Chrismans shimmering with sequins, we began hanging the lighted greenery along the perimeter of the sanctuary and putting up the large Christmas tree. A large thanks are in order to Ralph Godwin who braved the dizzying heights of our tallest ladder to place ornaments on the tree.

A few of my friends arrived to do some crafting, so I let our industrious crew in the sanctuary continue with their good work. One

of my favorite parts of the Advent Workshop is how accessible it is for non-church folks: participants just get to show up and make crafts and hang out. For folks like my friends, this is a great way to spend time at church without any expectations, and get to be a part of our warm community. My buddy Drew and his girlfriend Bridgette made a beautiful wreath with Kelly's help. Bridgette brought her niece, Norah, and Norah had a great time too. When I saw her she was pounding down a cup of hot cider and heading to the next table to make another craft. As per usual, our musicians did a fabulous job playing Christmas classics for all to enjoy. Their Christmas attire and silly hats brought a smile to everyone. I'm always impressed with the quality of musicians who find their home at Faith. We certainly have some exceptional talent in our midst!

And who could forget the chili cookoff?! Dave Rush played the part of judge, and boy did he have a tough job! All four chilis that entered the contest were of equal caliber, with different merits to each of them. I sampled all four. However, one chili stood out in the group. This chili had a strange (dare I say *diarrhea*) green color to it, with a savory and perfectly spiced flavor profile. This chili won the cookoff, and congratulations are in order to our office manager, Michael, and his partner, John. The chili was named "Mike and



John's Bean Adventure." As John put it before the competition, "I think it makes sense to call it an adventure, because most adventures involve mortal peril." We give thanks that no one died from consuming Mike and John's Bean Adventure.

Overall, I felt like the Advent Workshop was a great success this year. I saw so many happy faces at the church who might not otherwise come to Faith Lutheran, there were so many wonderful crafts and memories made, and folks of all ages came together. You may wonder, from the beginning of the article, whether or not I think Faith Lutheran's Advent Workshop holds a(n Advent) candle to Immanuel Lutheran's holiday cookie workshop. As the proud Scandanavians from Montana would retort: "Yah sure, you betcha!"

Have an adventure-worthy idea for an upcoming youth/intergenerational event? Interested in becoming involved with Faith Lutheran's youth? Colter would love to hear from you! colter.g.murphy@gmail.com



UPCOMING YOUTH AND INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker

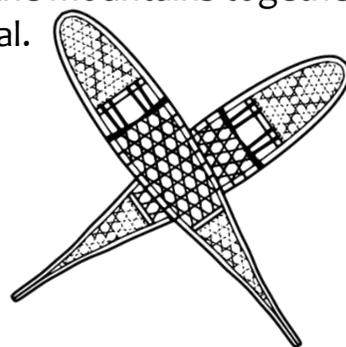
Saturday, January 4th, afternoon (showtime tbd)

Come check out the new Star Wars movie with Pastor Ben, and then discuss how the movie might be seen through a theological lens. We'll meet at the Cinemark movie theater and have our discussion over pizza at Mod after. This event is free.

Snowshoeing near Lassen *intergenerational*

Saturday, January 25th, 9am

Walk around the snowy woods with strange contraptions strapped to your feet. Beginners are welcome, snowshoeing is easy to get the hang of. We'll meet in the FLC parking lot at 9am and drive up into the mountains together. **MUST RSVP for snowshoe rental.**

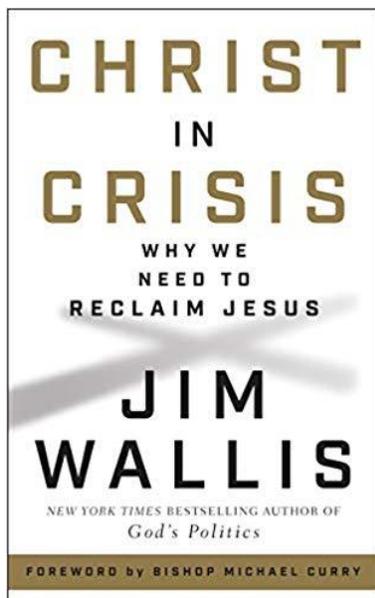


FAITH ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION for JANUARY 2020

F.A.C.E. classes take place Sundays at 11am

Mount Cross Lutheran Missions – January 12.

Located in the coastal redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains, experiencing our smallness and God's awesomeness is a daily experience for Mt. Cross campers and retreat attendees. Add in a challenge course, hiking trails, archery, campfires, worship space, climbing tower, and great food, and you can imagine the great programs on offer for members of the ELCA in Northern California. Mt. Cross runs seven weeks of summer camps, sponsors their own retreats, and is open the rest of the time for groups of all sizes and shapes to use their facilities and build their own programs. Colter took a group of kids from FLC to Mt. Cross this past year; this January 12, Rev. Sarah Erickson, Mt. Cross's Executive Director, will introduce us all to this magical place that is great for young and old alike. Meet camp representatives who will tell us about the camp and help us plan activities there in the future.



Christ in Crisis: Why we need to reclaim Jesus – January 19, 26, and February 2 and 9th

Join us for a study of Jim Wallace's new book *Christ in Crisis* led by Donald Heinz. Just off the press in September, Wallace argues that for far too long we've ceded the power and person of Jesus to political movements with no ambitions toward His radical love. As Lutherans and Christians, reclaiming Jesus is not only our responsibility, it is necessary now more than ever. Jim Wallis clearly lays out the questions we each must answer in order to tread the pathway toward His reclamation. This is a book for right now, for all God's people. Wallace is the long-time founder and editor of *Sojourners* magazine and

the author of seven other books. Copies of the book (hardback and kindle) will be on sale beginning January 5th.

Future 2020 Events: Gospel of Matthew Bible Study, Lenten New Members' Classes, "The Equipping Church" equipping ministry events, study of *A New Ancient Harmony: A Celtic Vision for the Journey into Wholeness* by John Phillip Newell, Rise Against Hunger, and May's annual meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Faith Lutheran Church

General Fund Finances as of 11/30/19

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$150,684.25	\$145,272.83	96.41%
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$178,001.67</u>	<u>\$166,440.43</u>	93.50%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$27,317.42)	(\$21,167.60)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/19		\$29,053.92	
Net Revenue through 11/30/19		<u>(\$21,167.60)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u><u>\$7,886.32</u></u>	

In an effort to be transparent and keep the Faith Lutheran Community up to speed and in touch with the finances of the Church, this report will be posted in Faith Talks on a monthly basis.

Income and expenses for November were about equal, so we broke even of the month. As shown above however, year to date we are \$21,167.60 behind. A very strong income amount in December would be a nice gift. Let's all of us see if we can help make that happen.

Thank You All for your continued support. Keep it up.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com

COUNCIL MINUTES 11/11/19

Present: Mark Kimmelshue, Ben Colahan, Sherrill Heinz, Joel Zimbelman, Diane Knight, Sky Sample, Cindy Kampf, Susan Kimball

Absent: Tricia Nickerson & Meridith Woods

1. The meeting began with a devotional and opening prayer lead by Pastor Ben.
2. The covenant was read by all attendees.
3. **Minutes from 10-8-19** were reviewed. Susan made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Cindy seconded and motion carried.
4. **Financial Reports-** Mark presented the Financial Report for period ending 10-31-19. There was an increase in utilities in October which was a result from the annual PG&E true-up. Additionally administrative wages were higher due to the final payout of Kevin's vacation.
5. **Council Group Photo-** Colter stopped in and took a picture.
6. **Ongoing Activities**
 - a) Purchase of additional arm chairs for the sanctuary.
 - b) Kitchen evaluation to be conducted by Hobart.
 - c) Electrician and plumbing- currently there issues with some faucets, toilets, repair to some wall pipes and possible electrical wiring. Joel has professionals coming in to assess.
 - d) Tri Path Sound Engineering in Chico giving quotes on a new AV system, upgrading the sound system in the sanctuary & adding a small public address system in the fellowship hall.
 - e) Signage- Chico Graphics Signs are working on mockup graphics for the new campus signage.
 - f) Columbarium benches have been assembled and are now in use.
 - g) Ongoing security issues.
 - h) Holden Village holding a week for FLC camp next August.
 - i) Music director holding some skype interviews.
 - j) Purchase of a defibrillator.
 - k) Back parking lot sign was rotted out and is being rejuvenated by Bob Bay.
7. **Mission Statement-** 43 possible mission statements were submitted by all members of council. Each one was reviewed and discussed. *All members have been asked to select their top 3 choices with a rewrite for each selection.* Selections should be short, easy to memorize and can't be misunderstood.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Management Meeting: Thursday, December 5th @ 8:30

Monthly Council Meeting – January 14, @ 6:15 pm

Respectfully submitted, Diane Knight

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Secretary: Diane Knight

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Council Members: Sherrill Heinz, Meredith Woods, Susan Kimball,
Tricia Nickerson, Cynthia Kampf

To leave a phone message for any staff or council member, contact the office at (530) 895-3754

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