



Faith Talks
June 2021

Worship Sundays 9:30 AM
In-Person or Online



Roses



Colter Murphy for his years of ministry as
Director of Youth and Service

Our confirmands: Kendall Stafford, Julian Randolph,
Mason and Lily Massa, and their trekkers

The Intergenerational Orchestra for their beautiful music

Elizabeth Bogart and the Hunger Trolley Helpers Group for making and delivering hot
meals each week for those with difficult or no access to food

Everybody who came out to help clean our church

Bishop Elect Megan Rohrer; Bishop Mark Holmerud for his years of service

Ralph Godwin and Jay Sylwester for fixing our broken banner post

Janine, Lynette, Cindy, and Marge
for subbing for Michael during his vacation

Contents

Page 2 – Pastor's Article: The Story of David

Page 4 – Worship & COVID-19 Policy

Page 5 – Discover Your Spiritual Gifts: a Faith Adult Education Class;
Blessing of the Graduates

Page 6 – Chico Pride; New Members

Page 7 – The Final Trip Report

Page 9 – Note from the President: Moving Forward; Movie Night – *Soul*

Page 10 – Council Minutes

Page 12 – Financial Report; Benevolence Report

Page 13 – Weekly Occurrences

Page 14 – Comanche Creek Cleanup; Hunger Trolley Helpers Group; Staff Away Time





Pastor's Article

The Story of David

Each Sunday we read scriptures set by what is called a "lectionary." From December through May our lectionary has us read gospel lessons that tell the story of Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The lectionary also pairs each of these gospel readings with texts from the Old Testament and the Epistles so that we can see how all of scripture points to Jesus. But in the summer and fall, the lectionary shifts its focus away from Jesus' life and towards Jesus' teachings.

In the summer we are also given the opportunity to read one continuous story from the Old Testament, instead of jumping from Old Testament passage to Old Testament passage in an attempt to match the gospel. Last summer our Old Testament readings told the story of how God's promise came to be fulfilled that Abraham and Sarah would have descendants more numerous than the stars and that they would live in the Holy Land. To that end we heard of Abraham and Sarah's struggles with infertility, how those struggles shaped their relationships to each other, their family, and God. We heard about Abraham and Sarah's grandchild Jacob came to be called Israel, and how Israel's son Joseph came to rule in Egypt. We learned how the Egyptians grew fearful of the Israelites, and enslaved them, and how God raises up Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to lead God's people to freedom. And how at last, generations later, Abraham and Sarah's numerous descendants claimed the land that had been promised, and God's word was fulfilled.

This summer we will focus on another of the Old Testament's grand and sweeping stories. This summer we will study the story of Israel's most famous king, David. We will hear of his rise, his reign, his failures, and his legacy carried on through his son Solomon. June will focus on David's rise to power, and we will juxtapose David's leadership with that of Jesus. July will focus on how David envisions his own kingdom, versus how Jesus describes the Kingdom of God. August will focus on David's sin and the passing of the throne to his son Solomon who more fully understands that to be a great ruler is to seek God's wisdom.

As we read about David and Solomon and the cast of characters that surrounds them, it is important to remember that these are real people, and like all people they are simultaneously sinners and saints.



David is perhaps one of the best examples of this in all of scripture. In this shepherd-turned-king we will see shining examples of how to be God's faithful servant, and we will also see the depths of human corruption. One does not negate the other.

David is a particularly rich biblical character to study because we have not just the biblical historian's account of his life, we have the music that David wrote reflecting on his life in the form of the psalms. Each Sunday, after we read a chapter of David's life, we will hear sung David's own music praising, lamenting, or confessing those very deeds.

We won't get to read every part of David's story on Sunday morning, so if you'd like to fill in the gaps, I encourage you to read the following passages during the week in June:

June 6th at church: 1 Samuel 8:4-20, 11:14-15

June 7th - 12th at home: 1 Samuel 12:1 - 15:34

June 13th at church: 1 Samuel 15:34--16:13

June 14th - 19th at home: 1 Samuel 16:14 - 20:42

June 20th at church: 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49

June 21st - 26th at home: 1 Samuel 21:1 - 30:13

June 27th at church: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

June 28th - July 3rd at home: 2 Samuel 1:1 - 2 Samuel 4:12

July 4th at church: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Next month, I'll include the suggested weekly readings for July.

King David's story is epic on every scale. And it has much to teach us, not only about God and governance, but family, friendship, and the longings of the human heart. I look forward to spending the summer reading the richness of scripture with you.

**Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan**

Worship and Covid Policy

The Center for Disease Control released new guidelines for vaccinated people that greatly reduced the number of places in which vaccinated people are instructed to wear masks. The State of California also released a statement stating that California's mask mandate will continue in effect until June 15.



With this scientific and legal information, Faith's council met last night to discuss what the implications are for our spiritual community. We entered our conversation mindful that the past 14 months have been incredibly stressful and challenging for our whole community. There are those among us for whom masks have been physically uncomfortable and socially stifling, and they cannot wait to remove them. There are also those among us for whom wearing masks has given them some semblance of control over the safety of their loved ones in a year of turmoil, and they are not yet ready to remove their masks. While most of our congregation has been vaccinated, children under 12 still cannot receive the vaccine, forcing parents to be particularly cautious as masks come down. And there are some adults who cannot or will not take the vaccine.

With all these considerations in mind, Faith has adopted the following new Covid-19 policies:

Following California state law, we will continue to require masks for worship until June 15th, at which point, they will become optional. Continuing the mask mandate until June 15 gives those of us who are anxious about removing masks time to come to terms with the transition. It also gives hope to those of us who are anxious to be rid of masks that the end is in sight. Waiting to remove masks gives us another month to improve community immunity. Importantly, this timeline abides by the law. If you have not been vaccinated, please continue to wear your mask for the safety of children who cannot yet be vaccinated.

Effective immediately, we will stop taking RSVPs, stop assigned seating, and stop temperature checks. Seating will now be first come, first served. Based on the CDC guidelines, ceasing assigned seating and temperature checks will have minimal impact on the safety of worshippers, and it will be a tangible step towards making worship feel less restrictive and more welcoming. Each week we consistently have an abundance of available seats, even limiting our capacity to 50%. Additional seats will be added over the next several weeks as restrictions relax.

Small groups (15 or less) meeting on Faith's campus may meet without masks when vaccinated and with the consent of the people gathered. Both CDC guidelines and the State of California permit a group of fully vaccinated people to gather indoors without masks. If you are meeting with a small group at Faith, please ask those you are with if they are vaccinated and comfortable removing masks.

This past year has been one of constant change and learning new ways to care for ourselves and for our neighbors. I am grateful for the love, generosity, and courtesy that our congregation has shown each other throughout these challenges.

Your Brother in Christ, Pastor Ben Colahan

Discover your Spiritual Gifts

A Faith Adult Christian Education Class



Come join us online (Zoom) Starting Sunday, June 6, 11:00 AM
<http://zoom.us/j/5308953754> (passcode 667)

What are “spiritual gifts?” Spiritual Gifts are your innate and learned talents and skills that when applied, become powerful tools of service.

6/6 **Discover who you are:** gifts and challenges (light and shadow). Using the enneagram, we will learn what it is and how it can help you become more aware of your behavioral patterns; how different people meet life’s challenges and opportunities.

6/13 **What are my gifts from God?** What are some of the gifts that God gives us and what do they look like?

6/20 **Living in Authenticity.** Do I understand who I really am? Or do I wear a mask to cover up the parts of myself I don’t like?

6/27 **How can I use my gifts?** What are the opportunities here at Faith, in Chico, in the world for me to use my gifts?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sherrill Heinz and April Beckett at sdheinz@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!



If you’re a graduate,
make sure to
receive a blessing
during worship on
Sunday, June 6th!

Chico Pride 2021



June is National Pride Month, and Faith Lutheran is again working with Stonewall Alliance to build strong bridges, affirm our queer-identifying members of Faith, and participate in one of Chico's most prominent annual events. This year, Pride's theme is: *no place like home*.

After last year's success, our campus will provide a space for another interfaith service. Join us on **Thursday, June 17th at 7 PM in the courtyard** as we enjoy music, scripture, and other contributions by First Christian, First Baptist, Trinity Methodist, Bethel AME, Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, Congregation Beth Israel, and St. John's Episcopal. Feel free to wear your most vibrant and colorful outfit! No RSVP needed but masks are required.

Stonewall Alliance Center will have a "Pop-Up" festival on **June 26th from 10 AM – 2 PM in the Stonewall Parking Lot on 6th and Orient**. Catch us there, play a neat trivia game, and win some prizes - - FLC Pride buttons! And if you have a picture or design you want to see on our buttons, send a picture to Michael at office@chicofaithlutheran.org. Kids are especially encouraged to send in art! **Deadline for art submissions is Sunday, June 13th**.



New Members



Emily & Jude Rose



Alyssa Manes



Sarah Sautner



Ryan Day



On Pentecost Sunday, we welcomed these four wonderful new members to our Faith family!

Alyssa – alyssamanes@hotmail.com (530) 591-5521
Emily – emilypretto@gmail.com (530) 864-8012
Ryan – ryanday007@gmail.com (530) 774-5689
Sarah – sautner78@gmail.com (530) 922-8494



The Trip Report

Farewell

It's hard to believe I'm sitting down to write my final trip report. I first began writing these monthly trip briefs as a way to communicate with all of you about what the youth and I were up to. I enjoyed writing about all the trips almost as much as I enjoyed leading them. By the time you read this I will already be in Montana, beginning in my new role as Children, Youth and Family Director at St Paul Lutheran in Missoula. As a parting note, I thought it would be fun to recap some of the adventures we've had over the past three years.

We've made three trips to the Lassen National Forest in the wintertime to go snowshoeing. These were awesome intergenerational events! Snowshoeing is both beginner-friendly and a challenging workout for everyone, and the conversation that naturally occurred as folks were breathing hard were second to none. I loved eating lunch with everyone on the snowbank after we've all worked up a healthy appetite.

In the springtime, we took two trips to the Jesus Center Farm. The first was a collaboration with a campus ministry group in Montana who were passing through after some time in San Francisco. Quin Troester led our group then, and our youth bonded with the college students. The second time was on the property of Mike and Elise, two FLC members who lease their property to the Jesus Center to farm. This was another special trip, as the youth picked pea sprouts and radishes and learned about local food webs.



A few special hikes stand out for me. One was at Bald Rock, where the youth and I witnessed a marriage proposal from far away while exploring the great slabs of granite. Another was a stroll out at the Pine Creek section of the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge, which took place right at the start of the pandemic. It was a rainy day, but it felt good to be hanging out outside despite the lingering fear caused by pandemic anxiety. The most recent hike we went on was at Table Mountain. Despite the vast crowds the day was full of beautiful flowers and camaraderie.

There have been several fun, intergenerational events tied to particular seasons. For one, the Advent Workshop led by Susan Reed. What an awesome event. I remember Michael and John proudly winning the chili cookoff, and I remember the sounds of our house Christmas band playing all of the caroling classics. Another favorite is the Ash Wednesday Carnival, complete with a bounce house and a pancake dinner. It's always

so fun to do goofy things together. I can still picture Alex Van Dusen's messy face after he searched a whipped cream pie to find sour candy.

Months of preparation went into planning Camp Noah, a special camp in 2019 for children who survived the Camp Fire. This was an incredible week full of smiles, healing, and joy. To see all of the volunteers come together despite their doubts was truly inspiring. The colorful image of a giant parachute being played with in our sanctuary will always stand out to me, as well as the fun water relay race we did on the final day.

Several big trips are worth mentioning. One, Rancho Santa Marta, was an incredible experience with a diverse group of happy helpers. Through the work we shared together and the memories we made over street tacos and games of catch, we grew closer as a group and in our faith. The hospitality of Rancho Santa Marta was overwhelming and special to receive.



Another big trip was the middle school retreat put on by the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee (SPSYC), which was held at Mt. Cross. It was awesome to lead this trip with Dianna Snyder and get to know Mason, Lily, and Kendall throughout the weekend. On our last day we went to the beach in Santa Cruz and ate some delicious ice cream. It was a great time.

All of these trips have brought our church closer together, and helped us grow as a community of faith. It's

startling to see just how much our youth have grown, through service to their community and time spent together. I am immensely proud of all of our high school, middle school, elementary, and pre-school youth. I know they will continue to grow and to change the world with their tenacity and creativity. I have been blessed to know all of them.

I have also been blessed to have known so many joyful adults who have been eager to spend time with these young people. Without the support of them, these trips would have been impossible. Each adult brings their own style to leadership and has their own unique way of relating to young folks, and I have had the joy of learning from each adult. A heartfelt thanks to them! And to any adult who has supported the First Third of Life Ministry in any way, I give my sincere thanks.

I know that the future holds many fun trips and events for the young people of Faith Lutheran, and I can't wait to read about them when I start receiving my copy of Faith Talks in Montana. Blessings to all of you, and thank you for a terrific three years of ministry together.

Colter Murphy, Outgoing Director of Youth & Service



Note from the President Plans Moving Forward

By the time you read this month's *Faith Talks*, our Annual Meeting will be behind us and new Council officers and members will have been voted in. It's a great feeling to be departing my two-year service as President knowing that we have a great team assuming new roles. There is a lot demanding our attention in the coming year—staff positions to fill, budgets to manage, assuring the upkeep on our buildings, and above all growing our community in faith, membership, and activities. It really does “take a village” to flourish as a church, and though we have a dynamic staff and council, Faith Lutheran will only thrive and fulfill its ministry with the involvement of each of us. Think about how you want to be part of the work of Christ in the coming year, and then step into that work!

I plan to remain on the Council as an “ordinary member,” but I will also continue co-chairing the Stewardship and Capital Campaign (through 2022) with Tod Kimmelshue. And I will be assembling a plant operations and maintenance team to assist us as we move forward on building upkeep and renovations. Those tasks seem mundane and at times a nuisance (and expensive). But our location, worship space, and the many resources we offer the community are important parts of our ministry, and we need to address those concerns continually.

Blessings on you in the coming months. Keep the Church Council in your prayers. I look forward to finally worshipping with many of you in person on Sunday mornings.

Joel Zimbelman, Outgoing Council President



**MOVIE NIGHT AT FAITH: SOUL
FRIDAY JUNE 11 @ 6:30PM
IN THE PARISH HALL**

Enjoy a night at the movies with your fellow Faith members! We'll be watching *Soul*. "Joe is a middle-school band teacher whose life hasn't quite gone the way he expected. His true passion is jazz -- and he's good.

But when he travels to another realm to help someone find their passion, he soon discovers what it means to have soul." We will watch the movie in the sanctuary, and masks fitting snugly around the nose and mouth will be required. Please RSVP if you plan on attending by calling Michael in the office, 530-895-3754.

Council Minutes

May 17, 2021 in Joel Zimbelman's Back Yard

Present: Colahan, Zimbelman, Sample, Kimmelshue, Heinz, Knight, Kimball, Kampf, Woods, Melvin, DeSoto, & Pulliam. Absent: Homesley & Reed.

1. Devotion – Joel Zimbelman
2. Opening Prayer – Pr. Ben Colahan
3. Covenant – read by all
4. Approval of minutes from last meeting- Mark made the motion to approve as presented, Meridith seconded. Motion passed.
5. Financial Report-Mark Kimmelshue – doing well to date especially considering the current financials include three staff members' salaries. Susan made motion to approve, Sherrill seconded the motion. Motion passed.
6. Announcements and upcoming dates of note:
 - a. Annual meeting this Sunday immediately after service
 - b. Council terms change over on July 1st
 - c. Vacation bible school happens June 7th thru the 11th at St Johns
 - d. Holden Village is open again, most likely will happen for the summer of 2022
7. Review of proposed agenda for the annual meeting. The annual meeting will also be available on Zoom. The new audio-visual system will allow members attending virtually to take the floor utilizing the speakers and the video screens in the sanctuary. This will allow for everyone to be able to ask questions or share their thoughts.

The full budget for 2021-2022 has been posted on line to the FLC website.

8. Update on Family Life Director search – Pr. Ben. Cindy and Pastor Ben have completed five Zoom Interviews, all were well qualified but none were the perfect fit. Over the past week the team has made contact with additional candidates while another option might be to call a deacon. A deacon is someone who has gone through seminary and is trained for word and service ministry. Base compensation is \$58,000 which is \$4,000 over budget. If no other applicants pan out, Pastor Ben wanted permission to begin the process to look to calling a deacon. This could take a while to finalize the call.

Mark made the motion that if a suitable candidate isn't located within the next two weeks, to allow Pastor Ben to begin the search for a deacon. Sherrill seconded. Motion approved. Joel also encouraged everyone to reach out to see if we can come up with additional candidates.

9. Capital needs for 2021-2022 – Goal is to fund raise an additional \$150,000 for the next 12 months, but no money will be spent until the funds have been received. The list of next goals can be found on the FLC website.

Mark made the motion to make the next priority the upgrading the nursery, rooms 6 & 7 and create an exterior bathroom. Doug seconded the motion. Motion passed.

10. CDC update and FLC mask policy – CDC stated late last week that they were removing the mask mandate for anyone who has been vaccinated; however yesterday Governor Newsom stated that masks are still required in California until June 15th. The following guidelines were discussed and adopted for FLC.
 - a. No longer assigned seating.
 - b. Stop RSVP requirements as we are still considerably under the maximum capacity.
 - c. No temperature checks.
 - d. Effective through June 15th masks, will be continue to be required for Sunday service. Thereafter masks will be optional based on CDC and the State of CA guidelines.
 - e. Small groups (15 or less) when vaccinated may meet without masks when comfortable.
 - f. Rows of chairs will be spaced 6 feet apart with groups of 8 chairs. Additional seats will be added over the next several weeks as restrictions relax.
 - g. Begin Inviting outside groups to utilize the space.

Mark made the motion to approve the above protocol, Doug seconded. Motion carried.

11. Closing Prayer, The Lord's Prayer

12. Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 pm

Respectfully submitted, Diane Knight

Upcoming Meetings

Next Executive Meeting: Thursday, June 3 (tentative)
8:30 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church

Next Council Meeting Tuesday, June 15
6:15 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church

General Fund Finances

As of 4 - 30 - 2021

	BUDGET TO DATE	ACTUAL TO DATE	PERCENT OF BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	\$370,017.73	\$358,115.76	96.78%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$370,315.83	\$353,702.35	95.51%
NET INCOME / LOSS	(\$298.10)	\$4,413.41	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/20		\$33,560.21	
Net Revenue through 3/31/21		\$4,413.41	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$37,973.62	

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.

At the end of ten months, both income and expenses are tracking slightly below budget. This has resulted in net revenue so far this fiscal year of \$4,413.41.

Thank you all for your continued support.
If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue
(530) 520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com

Benevolence Report



Welcome to the first Benevolence Report, brought to you by Financial Secretary Lynette Stensrud, Manager Mike, and our illustrious bookkeeper Jeanette Joslyn. In an effort to be more engaging and hands-on with our finances and benevolence, we will provide a small blurb after each Financial Report about designated giving. This month, we're happy to report that our Rise Against Hunger trivia event raised \$430. That plus \$128.69 from the Social Ministry fund went to support Rise Against Hunger directly for a total of \$558.69. To recap from recent-past events, \$212 raised from Lent was given to Safe Space; \$871.31 was raised from our Rancho Santa Marta fundraiser, and combined with \$128.69 Social Ministry miscellaneous fund, we were able to give an even \$1000 to Bethesda Teaching Ministries who oversee ministry in Rancho Santa Marta; and \$1000 was distributed from our Disaster Relief: COVID fund.

-Lynette & Michael

Other Events in June

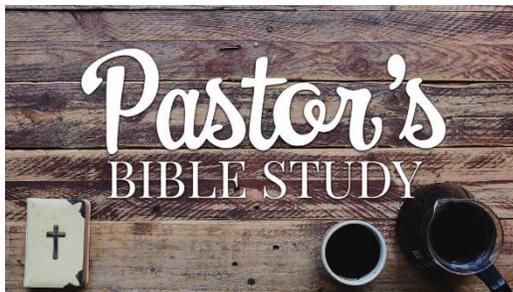


Centering Prayer

Tuesdays from 4-5pm on Zoom

<http://zoom.us/j/5308953754> (passcode 667)

Centering Prayer reads the Gospel for this coming Sunday. This practice helps one to more fully engage times of worship each week. It also invites anyone who comes to be renewed in faith. This community is part of the organization that identifies with Father Thomas Keating. Join us weekly on Tuesdays at 4 on Zoom for Centering Prayer.

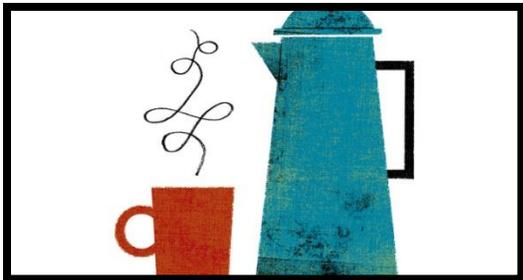


Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays from 5-6pm on Zoom

<http://zoom.us/j/5308953754> (passcode 667)

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.



Virtual Coffee Hour

After service each Sunday at on Zoom

<http://zoom.us/j/5308953754> (passcode 667)

Casual chat and conversation with our congregation.



Daily COVID-19 Prayer Group

Every day at 1pm

Join us if you can with Bill Augros as our host. Please call between 1:00-1:05pm. Dial 1-669-900-9128 (a San Jose number) and enter the meeting ID 884 029 41 999# (make sure to enter # at the end.) Enter the password 229 181# (make sure to enter # at the end.) You will hear Bach radio. State your first name. Please be silent in meditation until the music stops at about 1:05pm. If you can't get in, please call Becky

(897-0699) or Barbara (592-7367). When the host reads your name, you can say or read a poem, state a concern about COVID-19, ask for a prayer for yourself or someone else, or pass (just listen.) We will start over and continue until everyone passes. If you call in late, that's okay, just interrupt us and state your first name. If you have any questions, please call Bill Augros at (530) 895-9229 or email him at billaugros@gmail.com.




Comanche Creek Cleanup

SUNDAYS FROM 1:20-2:40PM

Looking for something to do on Sunday afternoons? Join the Social Ministry Team in support of the North State Shelter Team's "Get to Know Your Neighbor and Comanche Community Team Clean-Up" at the Comanche Creek Greenway - where unsheltered folks are living - every Sunday from 1:20-2:40 pm. For more information contact Marge Troester or Doug DeSoto (530) 354-1453.

Join us in supporting the **HUNGER TROLLEY HELPERS GROUP** whose mission is to deliver hot comfort meals to the homeless. The Social Ministry Team recently teamed up with the Hunger Trolley Group to allow use of Faith Lutheran's Kitchen to prepare these meals. The Hunger Trolley Group has been feeding people since very shortly after the Camp Fire of 2018. "We saw a need -- we only ask people one question -- no qualifications for food except to answer, "yes" to the question, "Are you hungry?" With the closing of the Jesus Center to the public, the Hunger Trolley Group is continuing its mission to prepare and deliver meals to our unhoused neighbors one night a week. For more information on the group or if you would like to volunteer to be a helper, contact Elizabeth at hungertrolleyhelpersgroup@gmail.com or contact Doug De Soto.



STAFF AWAY TIME

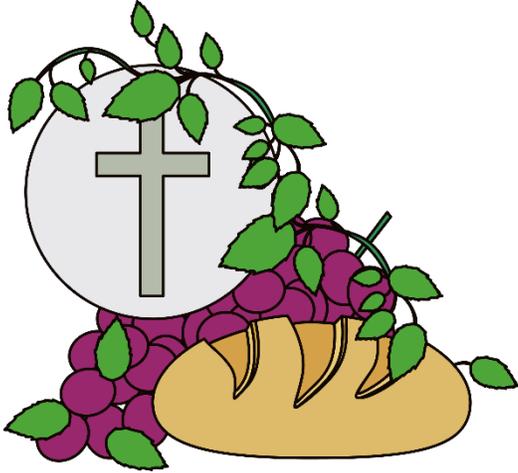
Michael will be on vacation from Friday, May 28 – Sunday, June 6 and will return on Monday, June 7.

Michael will be on leave from Tuesday, June 22 – Wednesday, June 30 and will return on Thursday, July 1.

Substitutes will be available during regular office hours.

667 East First Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 345
Chico, CA



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Place Label Here

Faith Lutheran Church Council
council@chicofaithlutheran.org

Predisent

Joel Zimbelman

Vice President

Sky Sample

Treasurer

Mark Kimmelshue

Secretary

Diane Knight

Members

Tricia Homesley, Sherrill Heinz, Meridith Woods,
Susan Kimball, Cynthia Kampf, Doug DeSoto, Bonnie
Pulliam, Penny Melvin, Matt Reed

Worship Sundays at 9:30 AM

Office: (530) 895-3754

Hours: Monday – Friday, 10AM-3:30PM

Email: office@chicofaithlutheran.org

Website: chicofaithlutheran.org