

faith Talks

February 2023



*Sunday Worship at 9:30 am
Ash Wed. Services Feb. 22, 7am and 7pm*

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The cover shows the mountain of the Transfiguration. The above image shows Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified.

Roses

Judy & Al Struck, Linda Zimbelman, and Ginny Crowston for helping with John Coutts' memorial reception. ~ Dawn Stafford for organizing and picking up our poinsettias. ~ Pr. Christian Chevarria for leading us in worship and educating us on his congregation in El Salvador. ~ All those who helped un-decorate our church after Christmas. ~ Joel Zimbelman for his hard work on keeping up with the property's needs, and for hosting Faith Adult Christian Ed. ~ Those who lent a hand to make Carla Vanella's funeral special. ~ Linda Zimbelman, Margaret McMillan, and Mark Lund for playing during worship while Luke was away. ~ Daun Weiss for singing at the funeral. ~ Bill Kees for collaborating with the staff and presiding during worship while Pr. Ben was away. ~ Beth Bradley and Annette Jefferson for preaching. ~ Mark and Elaine Lund for helping with pickup for Susan Kimball from dialysis.

"I want to thank everyone for all your prayers and beautiful cards and flowers. Thank you for the meals you made and bought for me. To Pastor Ben, thank you for your visits and encouraging words, and the beautiful service for John. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Forever grateful,"

-Routh Coutts and family

"Thank you to the children and adults who came by and sang Christmas Carols. They also had a plate of cookies and mandarins, plus a poinsettia and some cards the children made.

They were a delight. Again, thank you!"

-Arlene Button and Routh Coutts

Faith Family News

Dani Vogel, Director of Family Life
(530) 895-3754, danifaithlutheran@gmail.com



Our transition into the New Year was wet and rainy. One of the best aspects of my job is getting to be in community with our church! We had a few playdates at the church with some of our young families, which led to much merriment.

Our Christmas Eve Family service was delightful, and we had a great time telling the story of Jesus' birth as a whole group gathered together.

Youth and Young Adults had a cozy afternoon at the church, and took comfort from our favorite things during the gloomy month. The youth shared comfort food and drinks during the storm; later in the month, they visited an escape room. The young adults had a trivia night here at the church.



We're bringing an exciting activity back to Faith! **Faith Lutheran's Troop 12 is hosting a Mardi Gras night on February 22nd before our Ash Wednesday evening service.** There will be a pancake dinner, games, and mask making before we enter the season of Lent. **Show up at 5pm to participate.** We'd love to have you join the fun that evening!

snowshoeing
has been
rescheduled for
Saturday, February
11th. Reach out to
me if you'd like to go
on the trip!

I will be out of the office
for continuing education
as of February 1st, and will
return on February 8th.

Music Practice

Bells Tue @ 5pm / Choir Thu @ 5pm /
Contemporary Thu @ 6:30pm

Holy Land Trip Presentation

2/5 at 11AM after worship

Our pilgrims will share their experiences
in the Holy Land, including pictures,
artifacts, and insights.

Faith's Community Outreach

2/12 at 11 AM after worship

Come share how you feel our
congregation's gifts can meet our larger
community's needs (see page 6).

Sabbatical Planning

2/19 at 8:45 AM before worship

Faith Lutheran is applying for a grant to
fund a three month sabbatical for Pastor
Ben in the summer of 2024. Hear how
the council has begun to imagine this
time as a renewal for both our pastor
and our congregation, and share your
thoughts on how we best use this time
to strengthen our shared ministry.

Luncheon and Quilter's Boutique

2/19 after worship

Followed by Funeral for Cindy

Celebrate the life of our sister in
Christ, Cindy Stewart. Before the
service, we'll have a luncheon in her
honor and the opportunity to
support the scholarship and bus-
ticket ministries of Faith through
purchasing creations hand-made by
our community.

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Ash Wednesday

2/22 ~ Services at 7AM and 7PM

Worship services will be at 7am and
7pm with a Mardi Gras carnival and
Troop 12 pancake dinner at 5pm in
the fellowship hall (see page 3).

Sabbatical Planning

2/26 at 8:45 AM before worship

How to Preach a Sermon!

2/26 at 11 AM after worship

Pastor Ben is teaching a class on
how he prepares and preaches
sermons. Learn not only how he
studies scripture and crafts a good
word, but how you can too! This will
be the first in a 6-part series. In the
fellowship hall.



Pastor's Article

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



I want you to preach. And I'm ready to teach you how.

People frequently ask me how I write and remember my sermons each week. Sometimes it feels like the Holy Spirit is dictating the message to me word for word. Sometimes God makes me grind out the sermon over many slow and agonizing hours. Over the years, I have developed a process by which to craft a sermon when the Spirit won't do all the work for me. It's a process which continually helps me find and share the good news of Christ, and it's a process which I believe can be taught and learned by almost anybody.

By the time you read this, you will have heard three members of our congregation preach in the last four months. In October, you heard Jill Bentler preach about how God's grace sets us free from the trap of judgement. On January 22nd, you heard Annette Jefferson preach about how Jesus calls both the fishermen and us to catch people in a net of connections. On January 29th, you heard Beth Bradley preach about how "the foolishness of the cross" sets us free to be who God made us.

Each of these preachers bravely served as test subjects in a course I've been developing to teach people how to write a sermon. While the Holy Spirit takes the lion's share of the credit for the grace and wisdom that these women preached, the experience of guiding them through the process has given me confidence that this course can be a conduit for the Spirit's inspiration. So now I want you to learn to preach.

Each Sunday in Lent, starting February 26th after worship, I'll be leading this six-week course.



Jill and husband Rick



Beth (left) with wife Karsen and kids



Annette

- Week 1 (Feb. 26th): Finding the Purpose of a Sermon**
- Week 2 (March 5th): Connecting the Sermon to Everyday Life**
- Week 3 (March 12th): When Will You Ever Use This? [an interlude]**
- Week 4 (March 19th): The Dramatic Arc of Sin and Grace**
- Week 5 (March 26th): Making the Sermon Memorable**
- Week 6 (April 2nd): Practicing to Preach the Sermon**

1 Peter 3:15 states, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." Though we are not all called to a ministry of preaching, we are all called to be able to share the reason for our hope in Jesus. Even if you never preach on a Sunday morning, I hope you will come and be a part of this class. It will give you practical ways to apply the Bible to your life. It will give you insight into how I prepare my sermons each week. And it may just prepare you to share your faith with our own congregation and with the people in your life who could benefit from knowing God's love in Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

How can Faith Lutheran Church meet our community's needs?
Stick around after worship, grab a coffee from the Welcome Table, and head back into the sanctuary for a



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

community outreach

DISCUSSING OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR 2023

*Sunday February 12th after worship.
Grab a coffee and join us!*



group sharing session intertwined with a presentation created by Pastor Ben. And whether you are a sharer or listener, this is a great opportunity for newcomers to see what community ministry Faith Lutheran Church has been active in in the past, and where we'd like to go in the future!

Come and See

Cynthia Kampf, Council President
(530) 680-0925, ckampf@aol.com



Six and a half years ago, we welcomed Pastor Ben to Faith Lutheran Church. I went home that day and posted this on Facebook:

 Cynthia Kampf
July 3, 2016 · 

When my 3 year old grandson Jasper wants me to see something or go somewhere, he takes my hand and says, "Come, come." Today was the first Sunday with our new pastor at Faith Lutheran. Wow!! The church was packed with people who experienced joy, hope, and a sense of homecoming. It was an overwhelming experience. Pastor Ben Colahan is a perfect match for Chico, and he speaks Spanish. To my friends and family who are looking for a church home, I say "Come, come."

  1 comment 2 shares

 Like  Comment  Share

 Molly Barnum
I agree 100%, Cindy. It was an awesome day at Faith Lutheran. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Ben with us.

 Like  Reply  

We are blessed to have Pastor Ben with us. On Sunday, January 15, 2023, he preached on the Gospel from John 1:29-42. Verse 39 says that Jesus said, "Come and see" in response to the question "Where are you staying?" As I reflect on that question and anticipate leaving for the Holy Land in the morning (Jan. 16th), I am excited to say that I see Jesus all around me at Faith.

Where is Jesus staying? He is staying with us in the children who have huge smiles on their faces when they return to the sanctuary from Sunday School, in the many members greeting each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, in the talented voices and sounds of our musicians, in the volunteers who welcome us, usher us, serve us communion, pray for us, amplify us and allow worshippers to participate from home, serve coffee and goodies, in our Sunday School teachers, and all of you who keep the church facility maintained and safe.

He is staying in the work of [Community Outreach], guiding our staff members and the church council as we meet to further the work of the congregation. He is in the many small groups that grow and learn together.

We are very fortunate to be in this place. Our congregation has been very generous with time, talents, and financial support. In the coming months, let us reach out to the unchurched among us in our community. Who can we invite to Faith Lutheran to encounter Jesus? I look forward to seeing what we do to make this a place where Jesus is truly present and where everyone has a place at the table. May this day bring you joy, hope and a sense of homecoming.

Cindy



Thrivent is sending out notices (if you are eligible) regarding Thrivent Choice Dollars. Thrivent Choice Dollars are the dollars made available to you from Thrivent charitable outreach funds. If you get a notice please remember Faith Lutheran Church in your selection.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK

Sunday, February 12th - 19th



Make sure you pay close attention to the sanctuary on Sunday the 12th! There will be a "bounty board" on the south wall. What kind of bounties will you be setting out to claim? Why, random acts of kindness of course! Pay for the person behind you in the coffee shop drive-thru; compliment a stranger; call someone who you haven't spoken to in a while and check in on them. There will be lots of bounties like these you can take on. Return on the 19th and put a checkmark next to all the bounties you claimed so we can see how many acts of kindness were committed this February!

Spiritual Gifts Pt. XIII: Teaching

Michael N-D, Manager (Edited by Bill Kees)
530-895-3754, office@chicofaithlutheran.org



"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." -Psalm 32:8, NRSV.

Is Faith Lutheran Church an institution of education? We do after all host a variety of adult Christian education classes and teach Sunday school. We affiliate with outside institutions of education too, like OLLI, Passages, and others so that they can teach right here in our building.

Our learning and growth dates back beyond the establishment of our church in 1950. The Sierra Pacific Synod (ELCA), which is our synod, is "committed to being re-formed." Lutheranism is rooted in reformation which began with Martin Luther's 95 Theses in 1517. Luther, a Roman Catholic monk, disputed the sale of indulgences, a practice of the church (paying money to the church in exchange for the absolution of sins). The church excommunicated him, sparking the Protestant Reformation. We're rooted in faith planted from the seeds of the educators of today to the founders of Faith, the reformation, Jesus, and Abraham. The bounty of these seeds can be found right here at Faith: other educators who nurture and help Jesus's children grow.

Linda Rice

Special education teacher for K-8 for 19 years (1st grade for 7 years)

"God tapped me on my shoulder to be a teacher (though I didn't realize it was him/her) when I was a little girl. I love my job so much- my students impress me every day with how hard they work."



Dat Snyder

6th grade social science and English teacher, 32 years

"I love to see what path [my students] choose and how their lives progress into adulthood. The final piece is having children of former students."



Carol Grandy

1st grade teacher, 35 years (retired)

Carol found an importance in subject variety and exposed her kids to cooking, math, music, multicultural dancing, and even sign language!





Eileen Wayne

Health Occupation Instructor

"I teach [people of low income], marginalized and in most cases from migrant or native families. These are gifted people who are determined to better their circumstances by getting their high school diploma and medical certifications or licensures one step at a time. They are attending school full time, working full time and are almost all full time parents or caregivers of aging parents. They have set lofty goals and I'm blessed to be a part of their journey."



Caryn Albrecht

High school math teacher, 25 years

"I feel really rewarded by being able to teach students who 'think they don't like mathematics' in ways that help them connect back into the subject and gain an appreciation for it. I love the enthusiasm and spark when I spend time teaching a student and I can see when it suddenly connects for them!"



Denise Parkin

High school and college English teacher, 20 years (retired)

"[God] helped me overcome my own 'superior feeling' and allow myself to work with those who needed my help and education to become the best they could be. My biggest success was teaching a deaf woman who wrote like one would sign, to write like a hearing student."



Suzie Ernest

Kindergarten teacher for 30 years (retired)

"Five and six year olds are open and honest. They are kind. They love listening to stories. I love watching their faces light up when they get to do science experiments or measure water or read a whole sentence on their own. Every child comes with their own gifts and potential, and I got to help each one be successful."



Dave Barnum

2nd-5th grade teacher, 36 years (retired)

Dave liked to see his "Shybos" open up and share what was on their mind. Teaching was a chance to make learning fun, and an opportunity to create his own teaching methods. And "they remember," he says. "Past students returned to my class years after leaving, [and I reconnected] with them in our community many many years later!!"



Molly Barnum

Kindergarten teacher, 25 years (retired, current volunteer)

"Teaching kindergarten is The. Best. Job. Ever. When they walked in the classroom on day one, their worldview grew tenfold...new "best" friends, books galore, art, counting, letters, learning to write their name, reading, etc. I got such joy in seeing the wonder in their eyes. I am still involved with education, as I volunteer in our daughter-in-law's Kindergarten class at Citrus Elementary School on Mondays.



Sharon Drindle

3rd grade teacher (retired)

"I tried to create a classroom environment that allowed students to make mistakes, grow, and learn while still being accepted. I taught them to problem solve over disagreements and conflicts with other students. We held weekly class meetings where problems were aired, solutions presented, and decisions made on what a student would try next time. I felt that I was giving them tools to use in everyday life. When I see former students grow up, holding down a job, and starting a family of their own, I feel a sense of accomplishment that during their time in my classroom, they received something that may have helped them succeed and become productive members of our society."



Andrew Lavin

College/University Philosophy teacher

"I noticed an aptitude early in life for learning and explaining what I've learned in a clear way. When people don't understand a concept, I'm often able to key in on exactly where the hang up is and recast the idea in a different way. This is a gift God has given me and it fits well with my personality to put it to use as an educator. I love my subject matter—I love thinking about the good life and what makes an action right or wrong and the nature of reality. I love helping people think more clearly and precisely. And I love using some of my hardest-won skills to improve others and the world in general."



Kellie Marie Lavin

History/Gender & Sexuality in History teacher for college students

"I get to experience the joys of designing curriculum, storytelling and performing (in a sense), and interacting with young people. I love to share important history but also to relay the absurdities of history, the things that make us laugh or strike us as totally bizarre."

Conservation at Faith

Do you ever wonder if paper bulletins will really be recycled? Do you see plastic utensils piling up in the garbage after a potluck and feel a pang of guilt? Do you ever think, "Wow, that's a *lot* of single-use waste?" You are not alone. A handful of Faith's parishioners asked the staff if we could talk about ways to reduce this kind of waste here at the church.



Let's start with better recycling and recycling education! Soon, you'll see recycling bins in the sanctuary and fellowship hall, not just in the kitchen and offices. **What can we recycle?** Plastic bottles, containers, and milk jugs; glass bottles and containers; cardboard products; aluminum and metal cans; paper products; and finally, household containers like laundry

detergent and hand sanitizer bottles. **What shouldn't we put in the recycling bin?** Electronic waste, used oil, paint, carpet and similar cloth should all be taken directly to the recycling center and should not be mixed in with cans, bottles, paper, etc. **What should we do if we're unsure if an item is recyclable?** Go to irecyclesmart.com and click on Local Recycling Info. Since recycling varies slightly from state to state, this resource will help you figure out if your items are recyclable in your area.

We will avoid using single-use dishes and utensils whenever we can. The staff had a good laugh when Annalisa Colahan, Pastor Ben's wife told them she had no idea there were a bunch of dinner dishes in the kitchen, but it's a good thing she brought that up! It makes sense that a person might not know what resources we have available in the kitchen unless the ministries they carry out call them specifically to the kitchen. Cue kitchen education:



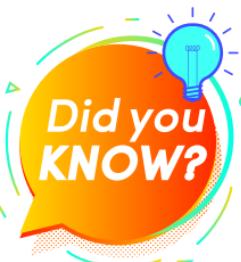
Anyone with an interest is welcome to learn the ins and outs of our kitchen. There are a handful of parishioners invested in its maintenance who would welcome you and show you around. Our dishes, utensils, serving trays, tablecloths, dishwasher and other items are meant to be used, and the more people who know how to properly care for them the better! An easy way to get to know the kitchen and some of our members better would be to offer a helping hand on Sundays or during other church events.

You are welcome to help clean up cups or coffee paraphernalia anytime. Pop into the kitchen on a Sunday and help out with the dishes, or stick around after a soup supper and help clear tables. The help is always, always appreciated.

There is one more area where we unfortunately produce a ton of waste...and you're holding it right now. The office runs through tons of paper and ink. Every week we print 100 bulletins. Leaders Books for worship ministers run about 14-15 pages each, and multiple copies are printed every week. And of course there's *Faith Talks*. Usually the newsletter runs at about 20 pages in length (though this one is only 16). 4 pages of *Faith Talks* is equivalent to 1 legal size paper, so we use 5 pieces of paper per newsletter. 250 copies are printed monthly, which means we go through 1,250 pieces of paper per edition. None of this includes ink, whose cost averages \$250 a month. That's 3k on ink a year!

Over the next month, the staff will be reaching out to you to see if you'd be amenable to receiving a digital copy of *Faith Talks* instead. (Those who don't use computers will still get a paper copy.) For some of you, this will be an easy decision; for others, you'll find it difficult weighing the pros and cons. To make matters more complicated, we send out over 200 newsletters per month, which means we qualify for a bulk mailing discount. Last year, Michael conducted a cost comparison for going digital, and he found that if half of our congregation goes digital, we'll actually be paying more each year due to the loss of bulk mailing discounts. However, if we are able to get two thirds of our congregation to receive a digital copy, we will start to save money, not to mention cutting way, way back on waste.

Here are some of the pros for your consideration: Digital copies have better resolution than what you see printed, and every page is in full color. It will save resources, money, and there will never be mail delays. We also understand that it's exciting getting a physical copy in the mail, and there is something special about holding something in your hands and reading it. For those of you who are able to read *Faith Talks* online, we humbly ask that you consider the option. Should you choose to receive a digital copy, we will send you an email once a month with a PDF you can download, as well as a link to the webpage where we post the newsletter.



YOU CAN READ ALL OF OUR PAST FAITH TALKS ON OUR WEBSITE. CLICK "RESOURCES" AT THE TOP OF THE HOMEPAGE. THIS WILL SHOW YOU EXACTLY WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE EACH MONTH IF YOU GO DIGITAL.

A Letter from Rev. Dr. David



Reverend Doctor David, Kagitumba, Rwanda Parish
(Edited by Michael N-D)



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting, Father, Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ who was born for us! It has been long time without keeping in touch. I hope you are doing fine. We thank Mighty God who loves us and cares for us every day and every minute, specifically as we are approaching the special day of Christmas 2022, Glory be to God.

Receive love and greetings from my family (all my children are home for the Christmas holiday), as well as my wife. Receive also greetings from Kagitumba Parish. In this Christmas we were expecting to baptize more than 10 children and confirm more than 10 adults. According to government regulations we are not allowed to worship in an unroofed church building, and so on Tuesday, December, 20th, 2022 I went to the government office to ask for special permission to use our unroofed church building for special baptism and confirmation. Unfortunately they rejected! And so with sadness on Christmas, all members of Kagitumba parish will worship at their homes! But we will be together with other church members in Spirit.

I, my family, and Kagitumba parish wish you, your family, and all members of Faith Lutheran Church in Chico merry Christmas and Happy New Year of 2023. May God bless you.

Rev. Dr. David
Parish pastor of Kagitumba.



An Invitation to be a Link of the Prayer Chain

When someone is in need of immediate prayer, for example surgery or an accident, the prayer chain takes effect. Parishioners place phone calls to one another and let them know the circumstance. Then, each parishioner prays for our sibling in Christ. Please consider becoming a link of the prayer chain. This is an opportunity to connect with others in a meaningful way, to let your faith touch upon the lives of those experiencing pain, grief, darkness, or other difficult situations. Call or email the office and let Michael know that you would like to learn more.

financial Report

Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer
(530) 520-8228, kimmelshue@armcorice.com



General Fund Finances as of 12/31/22

	Budget	Actual	Percent Of Budget
	To Date	To Date	
TOTAL INCOME	\$294,211.11	\$253,968.48	86.32%
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$266,262.50</u>	<u>\$237,143.96</u>	89.06%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$27,948.61	\$16,824.52	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2022		\$56,320.95	
Net Revenue through 12/31/22		<u>\$16,824.52</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u>\$73,145.47</u>	

General Fund giving for December was in excess of \$94,000.00. As shown above this solved the previous deficit problem and provides a strong balance in the General Fund as we move through the next six months of the fiscal year. This doesn't mean that we are able to let our guard down. Ideally, we need to have General fund giving of \$38,000 per month to reach our budgetary Goals.

The Church Council will continue monitoring this and report here on a monthly basis.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

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A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE WITH A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE

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