

Faith Talks

AUGUST 2020



OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT 8:30AM
ONLINE WORSHIP AT 11AM

**3 – PASTOR'S ARTICLE
5 – WEEKLY EVENTS
6 – A LETTER FROM LUKE
7 – TABLES FOR 8
8 – A NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT
9 – EQUIPPING MINISTRY NEWS,
COUNCIL MINUTES
II – FINANCIAL REPORT**



Roses to **JOEL ZIMBELMAN, MARK KIMMSELHUE, and TOD KIMMELSHUE** for presenting during the Annual Meeting. And to **ALL OF OUR ARTICLE WRITERS** who helped with the Annual Report including **SUSAN REED, BILL KEES, KIM SCHWEDER, LAURA MORAVEC, MARGE TROESTER, DIANE KNIGHT, JUDY STRUCK, JAMIE HOLMES, BARB TORGERSON, and RANDY FRANKEN.**

DOUG DESOTO, PENNY MELVIN, BONNIE PULLIAM and MATT REED for joining our church council.

KIM SCHWEDER and KAI MCDERMOTT-PAPPANI for helping out with our A/V.

MARGARET, DAUN and LINDA for helping Luke out with worship and music.

CINDY KAMPF for lending us her audio equipment and for helping us with live worship.

CYLA NELSON for taking over some of our grocery deliveries.

FRANKLIN QUINONES SCHOTT for taking photos of our live worship.

EVERYONE who lent a hand to help renovate Bethel AME.



**STAFF AWAY TIME
LUKE – JUL 27-AUG 10
COLTER – AUG 3-AUG 13
PR. BEN – AUG 24-SEP 7**

**WORSHIP TIMES MAY CHANGE IN
THE COMING WEEKS. VISIT
CHICOFAITHLUTHERAN.ORG TO
STAY UP TO DATE!**



For the past year, our council has been prayerfully asking, “How has God uniquely gifted and called Faith Lutheran to live out the gospel?” We studied the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), we read the descriptions of the early church in the book of Acts, we named Faith’s strengths and Chico’s needs. And then we wrote. And we discussed, and lovingly argued, and prayed, and wrote some more. After a year of prayer and study, our council has written a new mission statement for Faith Lutheran Church, a statement to give clarity to our priorities and purpose. Our mission is to be:

**“A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD’S LOVE WITH A
PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE.”**

The mission statement is intentionally short. We want everyone to be able to memorize it. But its brevity is deceptive. These 13 words (one for Jesus and the 12 disciples) contain profound theological depth.

A community: While Faith has finances that we have to balance, we are not a business. While we have a mission, we are not an institute. We are first and foremost a community. Being a community means that we are people who care about each other beyond each person’s ability to contribute to a balance sheet or an objective. Our mission is to be in relationship with each other because we care about each person as a person. Our mission is to share life together, love each other, and to forgive each other when we fail to love each other.

Reflecting God's love: We are a community with a purpose. At the Last Supper, Jesus says to his disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34) Our purpose is to love. But we only have love to share because God first showered us with love. Or in the words of 1 John 4: 19, "We love because God first loved us." And so our mission statement says "reflect God's love." This is a reminder that it is always the Holy Spirit who accomplishes our mission. God's love is always present and abundant. Our role, like that of lighthouse mirror amplifying a beacon, is to make God's love visible to those who cannot yet see it. We share God's love both through our words and our deeds, within the church walls, and more importantly, beyond the building.

With a place at the table for everyone: As we share with others the love that we have received from God, we invite them to become a part of our community and the mission that we share. On a literal level, this means that we welcome everyone to share with us the body of Christ at the communion table. But what we celebrate around the communion table is that when we share the body of Christ together, together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it (1 Cor. 12:27). And so having a place at the table means that each person can bring themselves fully to be a part of our community, not just to be a spectator, but to be a vital participant. Our mission is to value each person's voice and gifts and give them opportunities to shape our life together. Finally, a place at the table for everyone means committing ourselves to asking who is not currently present at our table, and why that might be. Just as the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you" (1 Cor. 12:21), so too we cannot be satisfied to have empty seats at our table, to have parts of our body missing. We strive to have a place at the table for everyone to strengthen the individuals around the table, to strengthen our community, and to strengthen our ability to reflect God's love.

In the year ahead, the congregational council will be asking themselves and you how we can better live out this mission. How can we better reflect God's love outward to people who do not know that they are loved unconditionally by the creator of the universe? How can we better ensure that people truly have a place at the table we share, are making a meaningful difference here at Faith, and aren't just watching from the edges? How can we better know and care for each other as a community? We already live out this mission in vast and beautiful ways. And the council is already taking steps to help us do so better. The capital campaign that you will be hearing about in other parts of this *Faith Talks* has as its first goal the installation of a new audio visual system capable and broadcasting clearly and smoothly across the internet, because we recognize that in the years to come, reflecting God's love effectively out into the world will mean having a strong visible presence on the internet. The capital campaign's second goal is to raise money to repair our sanctuary's roof, which has begun to leak. We realize that if we want to literally gather around a table, it helps to have a roof over our collective heads.

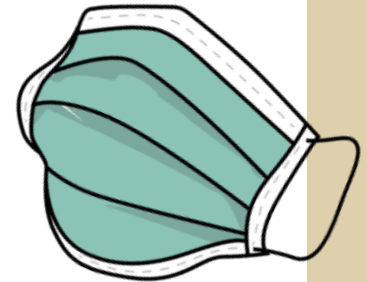
We have also been working with the Equipping Ministry team, as they attempt to develop a system by which we can better keep track of each person's gifts and passions, match each person with a mentor, and train each person how to utilize their God-given gifts for the sake of the kingdom. In this way, we hope that each person will be able to bring themselves more fully to our shared table, and more effectively reflect God's love out into the world.

**“A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU: LOVE ONE ANOTHER. AS I HAVE LOVED
YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”**

(JOHN: 13:34)

These are some of the ways we are striving to more effectively reflect love out and empower people to gather in. But our journey will be one of continually reminding ourselves of our purpose and continually striving to live it out more fully. “A community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone,” this is what we strive to be. It is a worthy goal. It is a sacred goal. It is a goal towards which we are already headed and which we will never fully reach. May God bless us as we strive toward it together.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan



COVID-19 Prayer Group Meets Daily

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).

Centering Prayer Tuesdays at 4pm on Zoom

Go to <https://zoom.us/j/5308953754> to log in or call 1 669 900 6833 with the meeting ID number 5308953754 (which is our church's phone number.)

Bible Study Tuesdays at 5pm on Zoom

Go to <https://zoom.us/j/5308953754> to log in or call 1 669 900 6833 with the meeting ID number 5308953754 (which is our church's phone number.)



TRANSITIONS in WORSHIP

Happy July all! The month of June has come and gone and to top that off, July is halfway through! We've been keeping very busy at Faith Lutheran. Last month was a month of great excitement and anticipation for all of us! We successfully transitioned from online/livestream-only services to the very first in-person and simultaneous livestream services. What a ride that was! We started in-person services on June 21st and then on July 12th we transitioned one more time to an outdoor service at 8:30 AM and left the 11:00 AM service for those who tune-in online.

July will continue to be a great month here at Faith and I'm so thankful for all of you and for your support, kindness, flexibility, and generosity. It's because of all of you that we've successfully been able to pass the Capital Campaign so that we can begin raising money for a new audio/visual system which will allow us to further our ministry here at Faith Lutheran. This new system will equip us to do a number of things such as simultaneous, seamless worship for the folks who choose to come and worship in-person and for the folks who choose to worship online. In addition, the system will include new cameras for the sanctuary, audio/visual mixing capabilities, and speakers (just to name a few things.) This will allow us to create a high-quality experience for all along with archival possibilities to pull from services in the past so that we might be able to reflect, incorporate, and grow together as a community.

In the last *Faith Talks*, I mentioned that Kim Schweder and I had been working with ProPresenter 7 and trying to get that system under our belts to provide a seamless service for all. This has been very successful, and we are excited to have Kai Pappani-McDermott helping us out with the system and providing his wonderful expertise each Sunday. We are ecstatic to start training team members and to start getting whomever would like to learn the system into worship with us. If you think this is something that would interest you, please contact me at lukenicolay1@gmail.com. We'd love to have lots of team members who are trained and ready to operate the new software.

Music has continuously been on the hearts of many. We continue to strive for new ways to praise God without using our voices. This has been a challenge, but we've had lots of creative ideas such as the use of drums and other percussion instruments, guitars, and a myriad of instruments. It's been a joy to see the reactions from the congregation. We continue to think about and look for new ways to praise our wonderful Creator.

Thank you, again, to each and every one of you for your love, support, flexibility, and grace during this time! This community thrives because of each of you. Blessings to you all for a wonderful summer!

Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship and Music



Tables for 8 sign-ups have begun with first time gatherings to begin in September. Tables for 8 Zoom Style are groups of eight individuals, both single and couples, who will meet on Zoom to become better acquainted with one another or stay connected with others in these times. One can bring their favorite beverage and dessert to this meeting if you choose. If you have any questions or would like to sign up please call Lynette Stensrud at (530) 896-0616 or (530) 966-7004 (text) or email at Lynettes0815@gmail.com. Please include name, phone number and email address. We look forward to having you join us!



A NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I want to invite you to be part of a new writing project that we're going to launch on Faith's web page! Pastor Ben's accompanying letter discusses our new church mission statement:

**"A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE,
WITH A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR
EVERYONE".**

This new church year also coincides with the launch of our first stewardship and capital campaign in over fifteen years. Details of this \$400,000 fundraising project is discussed in a letter you will receive, and there's lots of additional information on our web site. August 2020 really is a time of new beginnings! And that's also an appropriate time to reflect on the past—where we've been; how we've grown; what has strengthened us over the years. New beginnings encourage a "look over the shoulder;" some thought and appreciation of the journey that has brought us to this moment in our lives.

As we wrestle with ways to reimagine and strengthen Faith's ministries and our buildings for our work, we want to gather together a few stories and memories from members who have worshiped at FLC during the past three-four decades.

We are asking you to write a short "love letter to Faith Lutheran Church" that describes some event, activity, or experience at this church that you found particularly meaningful as you grew up and attended here. Your letter might focus on an experience in church or Sunday school; an event that you attended; a service project that used your talents; or the special way that someone at Church (parishioner, pastor, or staff) enriched your life. For ideas on how to get started, check the church web page this week as we post the first love letters that we receive. And send us a picture so that we can see how you've grown, matured, and gotten better looking!

There are lots of you who are still worshipping weekly at Faith (whether at the 8:30 a.m. courtyard worship or online at 11 a.m. each Sunday) and this invitation is for you as well. Even brand new members have great stories to tell about what is connecting them now to our community. At the same time—even if you've been gone three years or thirty—take this opportunity to reconnect with us and share the gifts that you received when you were part of Faith!

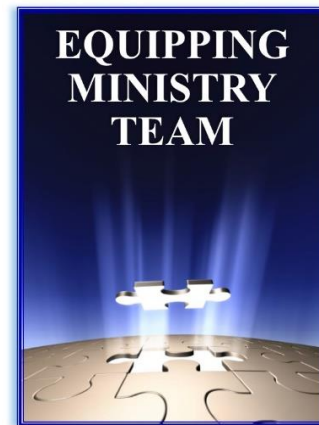
Joel Zimbelman, President, Church Council
joelzimbelman@gmail.com

EQUIPPING IN THE NEW NORMAL

The Equipping Team though not physically meeting, continues to work in different areas at Faith. As with all of us, we continue to figure out what the new normal looks like with a sense of excitement and anticipation. This past month, team members have been working to develop “position guides” for every volunteer position within the church. These “Position Guides” (AKA job descriptions) will be a great tool as we go through the “DISCOVERY” part of developing an Equipping ministry. Please let me explain a little more about “DISCOVERY” as food for thought.

As we look to have individuals connected to the church community, some people are overlooked in the church because others think they have nothing to offer; others get passed over because it seems they have too much to offer. They are perceived as too busy, too affluent, or too committed to other things to be interested in church work. And, if truth be told, the assumptions are often right. If all we have to offer people is “church work,” we should not be surprised if they decline our invitations.

People need a compelling reason to become involved. The opportunities must fit their gifts, their interests, and their calling from God.



If they cannot see that their participation expresses some genuine compassion for others, even those who do serve will eventually lose interest. One of the central objectives of discovery is to improve our ability to match needs with people. Or to put it another way, we want to connect “people resources” with “people needs.” Good discovery helps us care for each other more effectively.

The challenge for those of us working in ministry is then to simply listen with a caring heart to those around you, those with whom you share ministries and be open to the often surprising gifts, interest and talents they might have. After Discovery, then often invitation is the easy part!

COUNCIL MINUTES TUESDAY JULY 14 2020, 6:15 P.M. ZOOM

Present: Colahan, Zimbelman, Sample, Kimmelshue, Heinz, Knight, Kimball, Kampf, Woods, Melvin, DeSoto, Reed, Pulliam, Homesley. Guest: TBA. Absent: None

- Devotion-meditation on scripture for new beginnings (Joel Z)
- FLC Council Covenant (attached; please download a copy of our covenant and keep it available for future Zoom meetings)
- Opening Prayer—Pr. Ben
- Approval of minutes

- Last council meeting 6/9/20. Motion to approve by Sky and seconded by Sherrill. Motion passes.
 - Annual Meeting 6/28/20. Motion to approve by Mark, seconded by Susan, motion passes.
- Financial Report-presented by Mark K. Tricia requested that designated funds without a clear designation to be italicized. Mark agreed. Motion to approve by Cindy and seconded by Sherrill. Motion approved.
- Announcements, business and calendar events
 - Covid-19 and recent announcements from Gov. Newsom expected to be forthcoming. Even with being on the watch list, FLC isn't out of compliance due to outside worship. We don't have any in house events so currently should be safe.
 - Jamie Homes would like to meet regarding Stephen ministries training and would be held outside, perhaps in the columbarium one or two times per week. It takes several months to train new ministers and there is a current demand and no extra ministers currently available. It takes 50 hours of training. Kampf also offered her backyard should they need privacy. Sherrill will talk to Jamie regarding the council understanding that this may change as COVID-19 issues change.
- Introduction of new members (statements from annual report attached) and returning members. New members include Penny Melvin, Bonnie Pulliam, Matt Reed & Doug DeSoto.
- An Introduction to work this year. Bringing our passions to our work and brainstorming creative involvement. In our present circumstances, figuring out how to keep the spark alive in the life of FLC how to minister and engage can be a challenge.
 - Joel will be sending out invites for all council members spend a few minutes thinking about how our passions can be translated into possible ongoing ministry opportunities.
 - What does a council member do (Pr. Ben). We are charged to carry out the mission of the church and how to delegate out the duties. How do we make sure that we know that God loves them and how to reflect this out into our community. This isn't a place to do the nuts and bolts, how do we include all members in the mission.
- Stewardship and Capital Campaign—Zimbelman (and lots of thanks to Tod Kimmelshue, co-chair of the campaign).
 - Material on the website
 - Sending out an introductory letter to all members
 - Tricia recommended that we send out the mission statement along with the capital campaign to ground the purpose for the fundraiser.
 - Our challenge: Goals, needs, priorities, process. All council members are asked to familiarize themselves before our next meeting for further discussion.
- Closing Prayer (Pr, Ben)
- Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Knight

Future Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday 8:30 a.m. July 23

Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday 8:30 a.m. August 6

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m. August 11



FINANCIAL REPORT

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 06/30/2020

| | Budget To Date | Actual To Date | Percent Of Budget |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL INCOME | \$427,204.00 | \$414,667.05 | 97.07% |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$427,204.00 | \$416,282.86 | 97.44% |
| NET INCOME/(LOSS) | \$0.00 | (\$1,615.81) | |
| Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/19 | | \$29,053.42 | |
| Net Revenue through 06/30/2020 | | <u>(\$1,615.81)</u> | |
| Ending General Fund Balance | | <u><u>\$27,437.61</u></u> | |

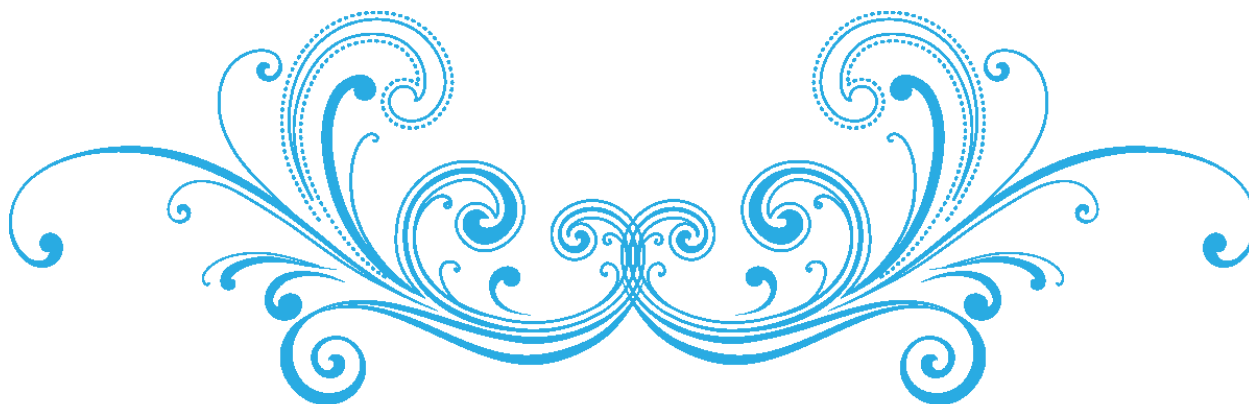
In an effort to be transparent and keep the Faith Lutheran Community up to speed and in touch with the finances of the Church, this report will be posted in Faith Talks on a monthly basis. Above is the fiscal yearend report. As shown, general fund expenses for the year exceeded income by \$1,615.81. It should be noted that total expenses for the year include \$7,100 in employee search costs incurred during the search process for Luke, and \$10,000 to \$15,000 in facility upgrades to the office building. Neither of these expenses were included in the budget for last year but were able to be covered by the General Fund. Taking all of this into account, Faith Lutheran had a very good year, which is projected to continue through the upcoming year.

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

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com



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Chico, CA 95926

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Joel Zimbelman

JZimbelman@csuchico.edu

Vice President: Sky Sample

skysample@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mark Kimmelshue

kimmelshue@armcorice.com

Secretary: Diane Knight

dianeknight396@gmail.com

Council Members: Sherrill Heinz, Meredith Woods, Susan Kimball,
Tricia Homesley, Cynthia Kampf, Doug DeSoto, Penny Melvin, Bonnie Pulliam,
Matt Reed

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

SUNDAY SERVICE at 8:30

ONLINE SERVICE at 11am

OFFICE: (530) 895-3754

HOURS: Mon-Thu 10 AM-3:30 PM

EMAIL: faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.chicofaithlutheran.org