

Faith Talks

November 2020



Outdoor Worship at 9am
Online Worship at 11am



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Roses to Sky and Oscar Sample
for shopping for and preparing the
Torres Shelter dinner

To Recognition Products
for our beautiful, new banner

Bill Kees and Christine Buckstead
for their help with the Virtual Choir

Bill Kees
for leading our F.A.C.E. Class

Rev. Teresita Valeriano
for guest preaching

To the FLC youth
for helping clean the church

To Meredith Woods
for ironing our new robes

Staff away time

Colter will be gone from November 6th to November 14th
Luke will be gone from November 13th to November 19th
Michael will be gone from November 30th to December 6th



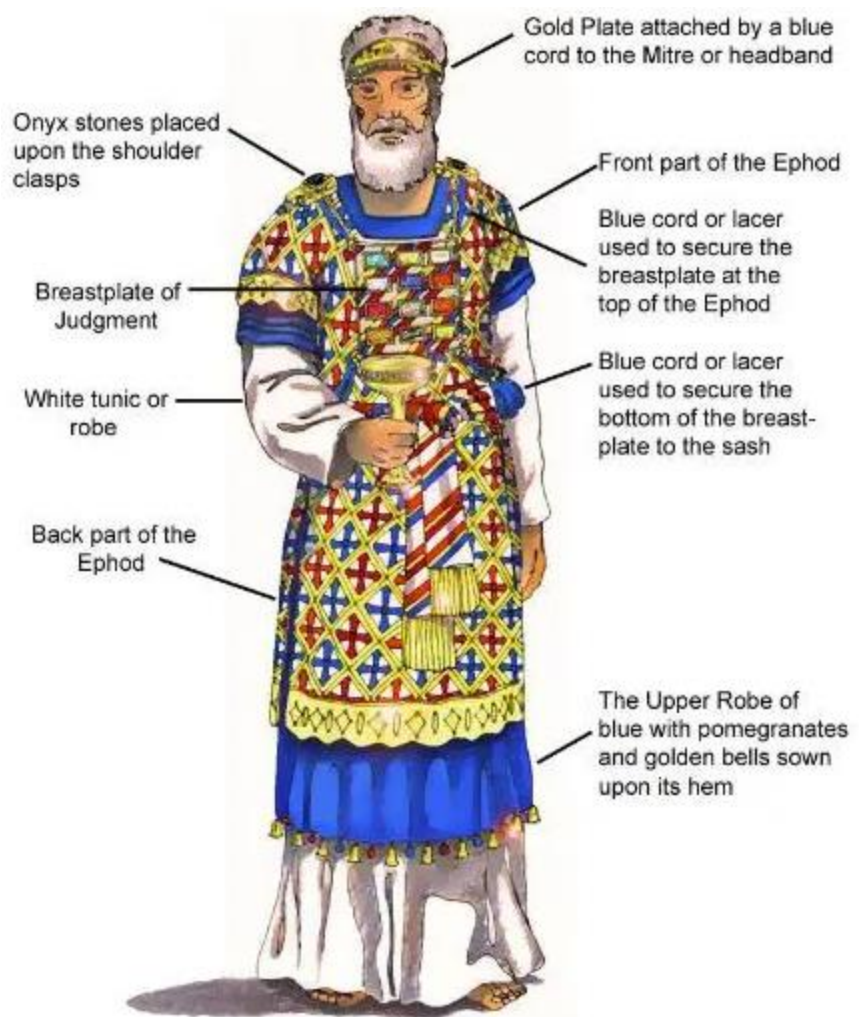
Pastor's Article

The Pastor's New Clothes

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

In November, you'll notice that I'm getting a new wardrobe! Christians generally, and Lutherans specifically have a long tradition of wearing unique clothing while worshiping that goes all the way back to God's instructions about what priests should wear in Exodus 28.

You may notice that I don't dress like the clothing of the Jewish High Priest. That's because as Christians we participate not in the priesthood that's descended from Aaron, but the priesthood of Christ. The clothing that Christians have worn has changed over the centuries. That's because the clothes that we wear fall into a theological category called, *adiaphora*, which means they are neither required nor forbidden but should be used however best supports the ministry of a community. Clothing used in worship is known collectively as *vestments*. Here at Faith Lutheran you will see three vestments: albs, stoles, and chasubles.



(Vestments of the Jewish High Priest as described in Exodus 28)

Alb literally means “white,” and you can recognize it as the root of the word, “albino.” It refers to a simple white robe. Christians began wearing albs in the first couple of centuries after Jesus. Christians didn’t wear albs because they were special; they wore albs because they were common! The early Christian communities strived to unite together people of various cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. In worship, they wanted signs of difference to be covered with the unity of Christ. Clothing was a major way to distinguish who was rich, poor, male, female, Jewish, Greek, or Celtic. So Christians started to all dress the same when they worshipped, and the clothing they chose was the most common and affordable garment of the day: an alb.

Originally, everyone in worship also wore a chasuble. Chasubles look like ponchos because that’s what they are! They started out as traveling ponchos that were common in the late Roman Empire. The name *chasuble* literally means “little house” because they are meant to be little mobile homes while you travel on the road. Paul mentions his own chasuble in 2 Timothy 13 “When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.” The alb/chasuble was basically the equivalent of wearing a white shirt and a jacket. However, over the centuries fashions changed in the secular world and stayed the same in the church. By the middle ages, only priests/pastors presiding at communion would wear a chasuble. Because the chasuble became associated with presiding at the Eucharist, it came to represent the apron of the priest/pastor who prepared the Lord’s Supper.

When not preparing the Lord’s Supper in worship, clergy in worship would wear a stole. The stole is a strip of colored cloth worn around the neck by clergy. Its use likely originated after the Christianization of the Roman Empire.



(Pastor Ben in New York wearing an alb and chasuble, which represents a kitchen apron. The choir member next to him is wearing an alb and a scapular, a vestment for non-clergy that represents a laborer’s apron)

The Empire used scarves to distinguish ranks within the imperial administration. Once the Roman Empire adopted Christianity, clergy started to wear these scarves to communicate their rank. Priests/pastors wear the stole hanging loose around their neck to signify that through their ordination they wear the yoke of Christ (Matthew 11:28-30). Deacons wear the stole as a sash diagonally across their chest from shoulder to hip. In this way the deacon’s stole is more secured for the ministry of direct service to which they are called.

All three vestments, albs, chasubles, and stoles started off as practical secular clothing, but came to hold spiritual meaning over time, in large part because they remind us that when we worship, we are continuing an ancient tradition that is 2000 years old. That said, the styles and ornamentation on vestments have varied according to the fashion tastes and sensibilities

of each time and place. And rightly so! At the end of the day, vestments are not sacred, they are a tool to help proclaim the gospel. Like any tool, vestments should be used only when they are effective.



(Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Secretary of the ELCA wearing a deacon's diagonal stole. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is wearing a pastor's "yoke" stole.)

This past summer, our congregation read the book *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in America*. In it, ELCA pastor Lenny Duncan speaks about the various ways our denomination makes people of color, like him, feel unwelcome, often unintentionally. One of the easiest issues to address is our vestments. Pastor Duncan comments that while he loves the Lutheran tradition, when he sees people processing in white robes with hoods he gets anxious. Though not intended as such, white robes with hoods distract him from Jesus and make him think about the KKK. This is a unique problem for the United States, with our unique history. Lutheran churches throughout Africa rejoice in white robes, but they haven't had our history with white hooded robes being used as instruments of terror.

So how can we make sure our vestments point to Christ rather than distract from Christ for all our visitors? To start off with, we've stopped

using our white albs with hoods. These robes will be headed to a Lutheran church in the Philippines where they can do ministry without negative connotations. In their place, we purchased some albs made of natural flax that don't have hoods. These albs are elegant and beautiful while also being understated and homey, kind of like our congregation. These albs will represent that we are clothed in Christ's righteousness not because they've been bleached white, but because all impurities have been removed from them to reveal their natural color, which is a gentle cream.

I've purchased for myself some chasubles so as to more fully step into our liturgical tradition. For Advent you'll see a blue chasuble, like the night sky before dawn, representing the color of hope as we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas. On this chasuble, you'll see a cross in the shape of a lily, which represents the virgin birth. It is also a reminder not to be overly worried about our clothing, for as Jesus says, "And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these (Matthew 6:28-9)."

For Christmas, Easter, and other "high" holy days, you'll see a gold chasuble with embroidered palms, representing eternity and victory respectively. For Lent you'll see a purple chasuble embroidered with thistles, representing Christ as king crowned with thorns. For Pentecost you'll see a red chasuble embroidered with grapes, representing the fire of the holy spirit and the blood of Christ poured out for us. During green "ordinary time" I'll forgo the chasuble and simply wear a stole both to emphasize the importance of the holy seasons and so that I don't overheat during the summer!

Faith Lutheran is a community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone. We want every aspect of our worship to be welcoming. Through reaching back into our history, may we make our present more welcoming and more beautiful!

Faith Adult Christian Education

Hard Choices and Free Will in the Christian Life. How Does it all Work?

Sundays Nov. 8, 15, 22 @ 10am

Life is full of “hard choices” about our vocational decisions, who to spend our lives with, and a host of personal daily challenges. Many personal moral principles and practical motives inform these choices. And occasionally there are things to be learned about choosing (or not choosing) from the conversations of past thinkers or even the people that we know from our own lives. Find out how two great thinkers – Mark Twain and Pastor Ben’s great, great, great grandfather – thought about these questions! Our series begins with a dramatic reading and imaginative debate that these two thinkers might have had in 1895 (based on actual documents) in the form of an entertaining conversational play written by Pastor Ben’s dad, Clark Colahan.

Sunday, Nov. 8th ~ Clark himself will reenact the debate! For those that want to read the play ahead of time (with background information on Twain’s and Clark’s decisions) you can find it on our website under About > Resources, or email Joel or Michael for a physical copy. There is an abridged version and a longer version to choose from, plus some notes on the topic by Clark. Reading is not required; just join us for the event if you like!

Sunday, Nov. 15th ~ We’ll shift our attention to the present, and explore how members of various professions make decisions today. Hear several from our own community discuss how they make those choices in their lives. You will have time to ask questions and join the town hall.

Sunday, Nov. 22nd ~ We’ll take up this debate in the context of our Christian and Lutheran heritage. Jesus (and Luther following him!) call us to say “yes” to God’s abundant grace. But how free are we really to choose our religious salvation? Get the low down, and the high up, from Pastor Ben and other folks who have given it plenty of thought.

We teach all sorts of FACE classes, and this one promises to have some enjoyable philosophical discussions at its heart. Questions? Call Joel Zimbelman at (530) 520-9608 or email joelzimbelman@gmail.com.

Log in on Zoom at 10am by going to
<https://zoom.us/j/5308953754>
Passcode 667



A Letter from Luke

Greetings and salutations, cher Faithers! October has been another busy one (I feel like I say this every month and it seems as though the next month is even busier, ha!) and quite a bit has occurred. The handbell choir successfully started and will be recording/playing for everyone starting November 1st, we've had a number of folks who've come to share their gifts and talents with us live/online from the Chico community and also from the Faith Lutheran Community, we had a beautiful LGBTQIA+ service of visibility for pride week, and a number of other exciting activities. What a joy it is to know that even during this strange time we can all continue to be connected and share special moments with each other.

November is gearing up to be an exciting month! We are now preparing to go plunging into the holiday season and lots will be coming up. As we go into November and eventually into the holiday season, here's a few things to be on the lookout for:

1. We would love to see your faces in worship! If you'd have any interest in doing a reading, sharing a call to worship, or doing a passing of the peace, please send me an email at lukenicolay1@gmail.com or give me a call at (316) 655-9364. These will all be pre-

recorded and we are more than glad to help you out or answer any questions.

2. Bell choir performances! The bell choir started rehearsing in September and are now prepared to play for services. The first Sunday that the bells will be sharing their gifts will be on Sunday, Nov. 1st for All Saints Sunday.

a. The bell choir will also continue to meet on Tuesday evenings at 4:30 PM. If you or anyone you know has some interest in ringing, please don't hesitate to contact me! We'd love to have you!

3. Choir will continue to meet every other week via zoom. We will also be exploring the possibilities of doing a virtual choir along with some small pre-recorded, socially distanced anthems with 1 person on a part.

It doesn't seem possible that November is already here and the holidays, soon will be, too. We will continue to strive together to create meaningful worship and to grow together as a "community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone." Thank you all for your continued support, grace, love and flexibility during this uncertain time. God is truly moving and working through each and every one of us.

*Luke Nicolay,
Director of Worship & Music*

Sunday Worship

In-Person Worship 9am

F.A.C.E. Class 10am

Online Worship 11am

Sunday, November 1 ~ All Saints Day

Joshua 3:7-17, Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, November 8 ~ 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 15 ~ Women's Thankoffering

Judges 4:1-7, Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 22 ~ Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, November 29 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

ADVENT WORKSHOP!

Faith Lutheran Church is once again hosting its annual Advent Workshop, a yearly yuletide celebration of the season and a chance to make unique crafts! This year's event will be held outside in Faith Lutheran's courtyard. Families and groups will reserve their own crafting table. All tables will be 6 feet apart and masks will be required. This year's crafts will include wreath-making, as is tradition. All craft materials will be provided. Reserve your crafting table by emailing Colter at colter.g.murphy@gmail.com or by contacting the main office.

RECURRING EVENTS

Covid Prayer Group

Every Day at 1pm

Call between 1-1:05pm. Dial 1-669-900-9128 and enter the meeting ID 884 029 41 999 followed by #. Enter the password 229 181 followed by #.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Every Sunday after Online Worship
zoom.us/j/5308953754 (password 667)

Weekly Kids Call

Sundays at 3:30pm

Email Colter at
colter.g.murphy@gmail.com

Centering Prayer

Tuesdays at 4pm

zoom.us/j/5308953754 (password 667)

Bell Choir Rehearsals

Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Contact Luke at lukenicolay1@gmail.com

Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 5pm

zoom.us/j/5308953754 (password 667)



Wednesday, November 18 at 10am
FLC Parking Lot

Tune your radio to 98.3 FM! We'll slip Bingo cards through your window and take prayer requests! If you win, honk your horn and flash your lights!

November Events

Blood Donors are Essential



Faith Lutheran Church - Center Blood Drive In memory of Steve Troester

Tuesday, October 27 ♦ Noon – 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4 ♦ 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Located at Vitalant - 555 Rio Lindo Avenue, Chico

Face mask required to donate.

Appointments requested for social distancing.

For an appointment, go to donors.vitalant.org & enter Blood Drive Code SMFR023 or call Vitalant at 530.893.5433.

Please bring a photo ID. Eat well & drink plenty of water before donating.



BloodSource is now Vitalant



Steve Troester

Beloved husband, father,
church member and
community activist.

vitalant.



Drive-In Movie

Wednesday, November 11 at FLC at 6pm

In honor of Veterans Day, we'll be showing the Oscar award winning 1942 film *Yankee Doodle Dandy*! Bring your dinner, tune your car radio to 98.3 FM and enjoy the show!

TRANSGENDER DAY of REMEBRANCE

From the afternoon of Sun. Nov. 15 – the afternoon of Fri. Nov. 20, come decorate our outdoor altar in the basketball court to show support for the folx who have died as an act of trans violence this year. Supplies will be available, or you may bring your own such as flowers, poems, kind notes, or other respectful crafts. **The Trans Day of Remembrance Vigil will take place Fri. Nov. 20 at 6pm.** For questions, contact Pride Ministry coordinator Michael at (530) 895-3754.



SEEKING BIRTHDAYS!

Starting in January, our staff (and several enthusiastic members) would like to be able to wish members of our congregation happy birthday...but we don't have a list! Please let us know when your birthday is. Email, call, or write a letter, any way to let us know when to celebrate YOU!

A LETTER from the KAGITUMBA PARISH

Dear friends I greet you all in Jesus Name and savior. I'm happy to share with you many greetings for Kagitumba congregation, we are fine we don't have any case of covid-19. Dear friends I'm also happy to inform you that I get another chance to continue my studies. I thank God for that. Now I'm studying Masters of Divinity in USA online classes the campus called Sioux Falls Seminar. Dear friends continue to pray each other God be with you all in Jesus Name.

*Pastor Mukama
Kagitumba parish*

Our Website: A Guided Tour

As you know, Faith launched its new website earlier this year. News and Events are updated weekly and can be found on our website at any time as well as in our weekly E-blasts. But there are a few features in the meat of our website that haven't formerly been introduced!

Love Letters to Faith

<https://www.chicofaithlutheran.org/about/love-letters-to-flc>

Our Love Letters now have their own page. You can view them here any time, or scroll through them on our homepage. If you would like to submit a Love Letter, please do!

Resources

<https://www.chicofaithlutheran.org/about/resources--17>

Under our resource page you can find printable Reimbursement Requests, full PDF copies of all *Faith Talks* issues from 2020, the latest edition of *What's Happening at Faith*, LGBTQ+ resources, the Annual Report and Budget, directions to local food banks and places of shelter, video resources, and physical resources currently made available in the office.

Partners in Ministry

<https://www.chicofaithlutheran.org/about/partners-in-ministry>

See Faith's affiliates – those we collaborate with or who we partner with regularly.

Our Facility

<https://www.chicofaithlutheran.org/about/our-facility>

This page not only tells visitors about what our facility has to offer, it provides a Facilities Maintenance Request that anyone can use! If you see something wrong with the facility (a broken window, a leak, a crack) please fill out this form. It goes straight to me at the office. From there, the staff can log into the Facilities Management Database; a password-protected, management-only portion of the website so those addressing facility maintenance can share updates with each other.

COVID-19 Resources and Guidelines

<https://www.chicofaithlutheran.org/about/covid-19>

You can read more about FLC's handling of the pandemic here. This includes facilities etiquette as well as resources we offer in regards to the coronavirus including masks, temperature checks, online/social distanced events, and sermon CD deliveries.

Music

<https://www.chicofaithlutheran.org/podcasts/sermons-from-faith-lutheran-church>

On our sermons page, you can click "Faith Lutheran Church Music." Our selection is sparse, but we look forward to including more music in 2021.

Submitted on time(ish), Michael

Council Minutes

Tuesday, 20 Oct. 2020, 6:15 on Zoom

Present: Present: Pr. Ben Colahan, Joel Zimbelman, Sky Sample, Mark Kimmelshue, Sherrill Heinz, Diane Knight, Tricia Homesley, Cindy Kampf, Meredith Woods, Penny Melvin, Doug DeSoto.

Absent: Bonnie Pulliam, Matt Reed, Susan Kimball.

1. Devotion by Joel
2. Opening Prayer by Pr. Ben
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Joel made move to approve the minutes. Mark 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
4. Financial Report-Mark Kimmelshue.
 - Mark expressed concern over the general fund. Typically, September giving starts to pick up once school begins. This year is unusual all the way around.
 - 1st 3rd of life can be used to help fund Colter's expenses.
 - Thrivent fund can also be used for general fund if needed.
 - Diane made a motion to approve the financial report, Sherrill seconded. Motion carried.
5. Announcements:

Stewardship and Capital Campaign has hit its first milestone. We continue to receive some modest contributions and I expect this to continue until we move to the next targeted item. Tri path will begin install within the next week. We have received over \$110,000 in gifts and about \$40,000 in future pledges.

Maintenance and grounds

- Roof cleaning and some minor repair will proceed in the next week or two. Covid delays are a regular occurrence these days.
- Signage should be done shortly, just small item remaining.
- It looks like HVAC is an issue of a few thousand dollars, but not pressing. Waiting to repair just the one of six unit. Electric main appears to be ok for now.
- Next month need to discuss the next goal for the capital campaign.
- Grounds occasionally littered, but not a great deal of issues with folks wandering the campus. Some people occasionally found sleeping on the grounds a night. Security company has been very helpful while not being too aggressive.

Use of our facilities by outside groups. The MTAC (Music Teachers Association of California) weekly sessions are going well. Luke is doing a great job overseeing their activities.

6. Worship issues: (Pr. Ben)
 - a. Christmas & holidays
 - i. Advent workshop: Tables outdoors with families scheduling times at the tables. Each table will have packages for each family to make decorations.
 - ii. Advent week: Set up times throughout the week that family members can set times during office hours to have personal worship time in the sanctuary.
 - iii. Christmas Eve: Living nativity outdoors in late afternoon. Will request farmers to bring animals with music playing. Perhaps singers on the roof weather permitting. Will have a place at the manger to place food for a family food drive. Will also do a pre-recorded on line service.
 - iv. Christmas Day: On line streamed service.
 - b. Next two months of services
 - i. If any staff person ends up with COVID-19 all in person services will be cancelled.
 - ii. Since weather still good, we will go forward with in person services at 9:00 in the courtyard beginning Sunday, October 25th. 10:00 Face class and 11:00 on line service.
 - c. Winter months services
 - i. Once it begins to rain could move inside or offer drive in service option in addition to on line service.
7. Covid fund, rent is variable and generally a one-time issue due to job loss. This has been working well, but our Covid fund has run out of money and we've been supporting three members of the congregation secure groceries on a regular basis.
 - a. Guidelines: must be directly affected by a job loss or income loss due to COVID-19
 - b. List food banks, links to passages, and Instacart options on the website
 - c. Take to the congregation with the information
 - d. Joel made motion to move \$1,900 from the Joseph Project to reimburse costs for food from the COVID-19 fund and up to \$1,000 from Grant 22 to cover the next 3 weeks of financed groceries. Sky seconded the motion. Motion carried.
8. Other:
 - a. Matt Reed is still on council, but he has relocated from Chico to Vermont. He has agreed to remain as a virtual member.
 - b. Start thinking about new possible council members.
9. Closing Prayer
10. Meeting Adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings: All Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Knight

Next executive meeting: Thursday, October 29th at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom. Link will be sent by Pr. Ben – as always, there is a chance we will cancel the meeting if business does not warrant another Zoom encounter.

Additional executive meeting: Thursday, November 5 or 12 s needed/TBD at 8:30 a.m. Zoom. Link will be sent by Pr. Ben, ditto on cancellation possibility.

Next council meeting: Tuesday November 17 at 6:15 p.m. Zoom. Link will be sent by Pr. Ben and included in minutes.

Financial Report

General Fund Finances as of 9/30/2020

	Budget	Actual	Percent
	To Date	To Date	Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$92,164.32	\$85,267.82	92.52%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$111,094.75	\$106,979.69	96.30%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$18,930.43)	(\$21,711.87)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/20		\$33,560.21	
Net Revenue through 09/30/20		<u>(\$21,711.87)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u>\$11,848.34</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.

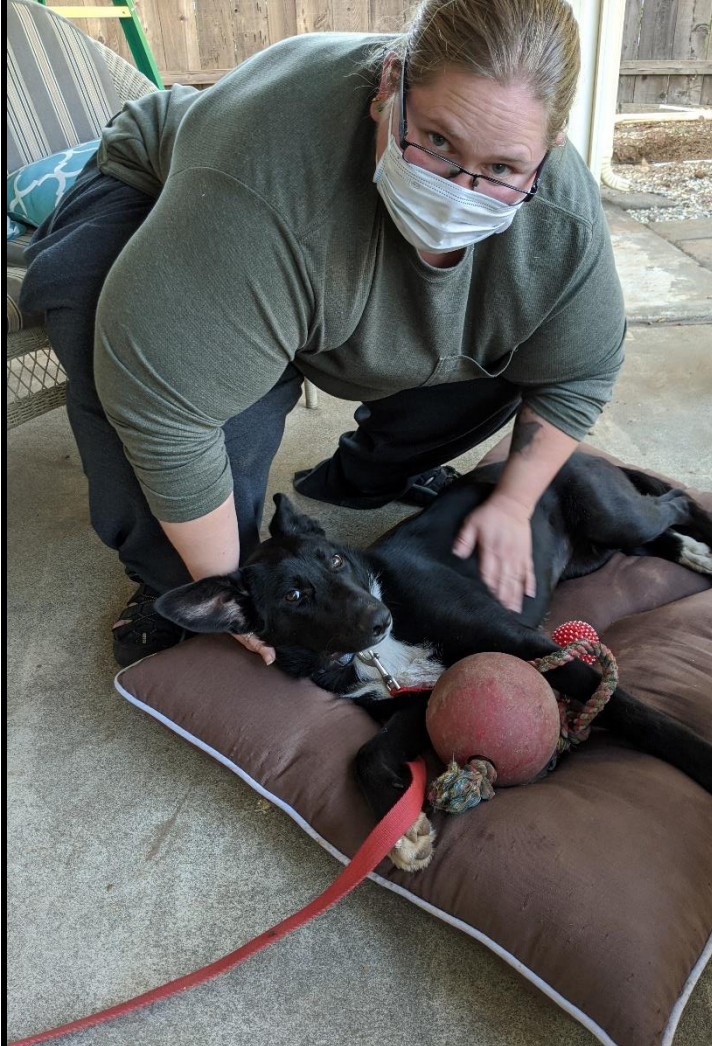
Shown above are the General Fund financial results for the first three months of the fiscal year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). The report shows that actual expenses exceeded income by \$21,711.21 for the period. Income was about \$6,900.00 less than expected, due primarily to less than expected income in September. The Church Council will be watching this as we move through the remainder of the 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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Faith Lutheran Church Council

Predisent: Joel Zimbelman
Vice President: Sky Sample
Treasurer: Mark Kimmelshue
Secretary: Diane Knight

JZimbelman@csuchico.edu
skysample@gmail.com
kimmelshue@armcorice.com
dianeknight396@gmail.com

Council Members: Sherrill Heinz, Meridith 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

OUTDOOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP at 9am SUNDAYS

ONLINE WORSHIP at 11am SUNDAYS

OFFICE: (530) 895-3754

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

EMAIL: faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com

WEBSITE: chicofaithlutheran.org