

# FAITH TALKS

## OCTOBER 2020



STARTING OCTOBER 1<sup>TH</sup>  
IN-PERSON OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT 8:30AM  
ONLINE WORSHIP AT 11:00AM



- 3 – Pastor's Article
- 5 – A Letter from the Council President
- 6 – News from the Office
- 7 – A Letter from Luke
- 8 – Equipping News
- 9 – Sunday Worship for October
- 10 – Vote your Conscience, Drive-In Movie,  
Kids Call Returns
- 11 – Family Game Night, Steve Troester Memorial  
Blood Drive, Blue Bags, Asylum Team  
Transfers to Nor-Cal Resist
- 12 – Ministry of the Month: Social Ministry
- 13 – Financial Report
- 14 – Council Minutes



Roses to Mike Kruschke and Elise Gladu for preparing dinner at the Torres Shelter

Everyone who participated in drive-in Bingo

Leo Weiss for fixing our fence and hanging our whiteboard

Work Training Center for all the hard work they've been doing to keep our facility clean and our lawn managed

Everyone who offered to donate furniture to Kelly Tipton

Bethel AME, First Christian, the Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, Trinity Methodist, First Baptist, the Liston family, the Faith Lutheran Quilters, Char Miller, Carol Jemison, Daun Weiss, Christine Buckstead, and Stonewall Alliance Center for contributing to Chico Pride

Everyone who wrote letters during God's Work, Our Hands

Robert Morton and Webster Moore for their musical offering

Carl Johnson would like to thank Oscar and Sky Sample for transporting Faye & Carl to and from Stanford Hospital for Carl's ICD implant and checkup, and to everyone who prayed for the Johnsons before, during, and after the operation. The peace, calm, and reassurance were unbelievably positive

### Directory Amendments:

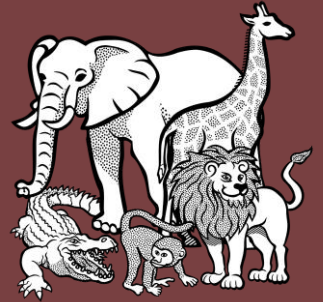
Barbara Torgerson's new email: [bjtorgerson567@gmail.com](mailto:bjtorgerson567@gmail.com)

Dorothy Nelson's new email: [dorothynelson3543@gmail.com](mailto:dorothynelson3543@gmail.com)



# PASTOR'S ARTICLE

## ST. FRANCIS DAY



October 4<sup>th</sup> is the festival day of St. Francis, patron saint of animals, merchants, and ecology. As we do each year, we will once again be using this festival as an opportunity to bless the animals in our lives. But this year, St. Francis's Day takes on a special significance. For many of us, our pets have been our primary companions in the past six months. For many of us, nature has been the place in which we've found peace and a semblance of normalcy during this pandemic. For all of us, the smoke of the past six weeks has been a reminder that the health of our natural resources directly affects our health.

It's easy to see how nature matters to us. But as Christians, let us also ask, how does nature matter to God?

The scriptures make clear three major themes about the Creator's relationship with non-human creation: 1) God cares about the well-being of the natural world. 2) Jesus' redeems not just people, but all of creation from human sin. 3) All of creation praises God as part of a cosmic congregation.

God cares for the natural world, not just because of the ways it supports human life, but because everything that God created is a delight to God. The very first chapter of the bible is a description of how God makes everything in the universe, from light, to stars, water, plants, and animals, and after each thing, God sees that they are good (Genesis 1). God continues to care for God's good creation throughout the bible. Psalm 104 is 35 verses praising God for not only creating the world, but for ensuring the well-being of its inhabitants. The psalmist sings, "You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal...The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God...how many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures...these all look to you to give them their food in due season." Jesus affirms that God clothes flowers in the splendor of their beauty and cares individually for each sparrow and will not forget them (Matthew 6:28-30 10:29).

But what is perhaps more surprising to many Christians, is that the salvation that Jesus brings includes that natural world. This is because human sin has direct consequences for the rest of creation. After Adam and Eve eat the fruit of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, God says, "cursed is the ground because of you" (Genesis 3:17). The story of Noah's flood is the story of how human sin brings destruction to the whole earth. God recognizes that the animals are blameless in this sin and yet they suffer the consequences, so God commands Noah to ensure that the various species will survive (Genesis 6).

Human sin continues after the flood and so does the natural world's need for redemption from it. In steps Jesus. In John 3:16, the word "world" in the original Greek is literally "*cosmos*."



God so loved the cosmos that he gave his only son that whosoever believes in him shall not die but have life everlasting. Belief is for humans, but the love that sent Jesus is a love that includes the galaxies spinning in deep space. Fulfilling the words of Isaiah, Luke 3:6 proclaims that “all flesh shall see the salvation of the Lord.” The word “flesh” in Greek is “*sarks*,” which refers not only to human flesh, but animal meat, the fleshy part of fruit, and even more generally the physical or natural order of things. Paul writes that natural world knows about Jesus and yearns for human redemption so that all of creation might also be liberated, saying, “For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” (Romans 8:19-21). Isaiah gives us a glimpse of what redemption looks like for the natural world in the description of the peaceable kingdom, “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

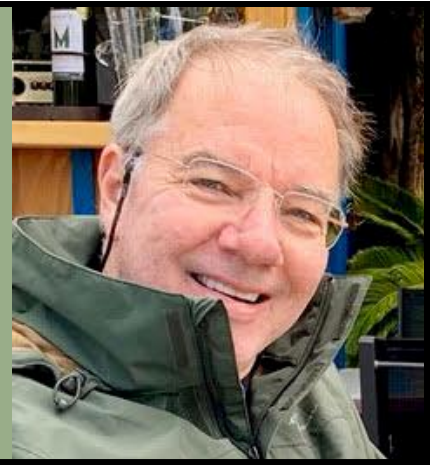
Since the natural world also looks to God as Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer, it should be no surprise that the scriptures speak abundantly of creation singing praises to God just as we do each Sunday morning. The writer of Revelation proclaims, “Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!’” (Revelation 5:13). Even “the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands” (Isaiah 55:12). We are part of a vast congregation that includes trees, mountains, animals, and even stars, all of which join us in singing God’s praises. And like the members of any congregation, we can learn from them greater faith. Job writes, “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind” (Job 12:7-12).

We worship a God who not only cares about the natural world, but who in Christ is redeeming creation from human sin. May our faith lead us to participate in the same work of caring for creation. And now that the smoke has begun to clear, I encourage you to spend time in the incredible natural beauty of northern California. When you do, remember that you are in the midst of a grand congregation singing God’s praises. Join in the song.

*Your brother in Christ, Pastor Ben Colahan*



# A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

I can barely see you through the smoke, haze, masks, and social distancing! What a month we've had here in Chico; and a few more challenges face us over the coming weeks. In ways I could never have imagined, I now look forward to our weekly worship services online, the e-Blast that I get from Michael every week; my Zoom meetings with Church Council; and an occasional face-to-face with Pastor Ben and the rest of the staff.

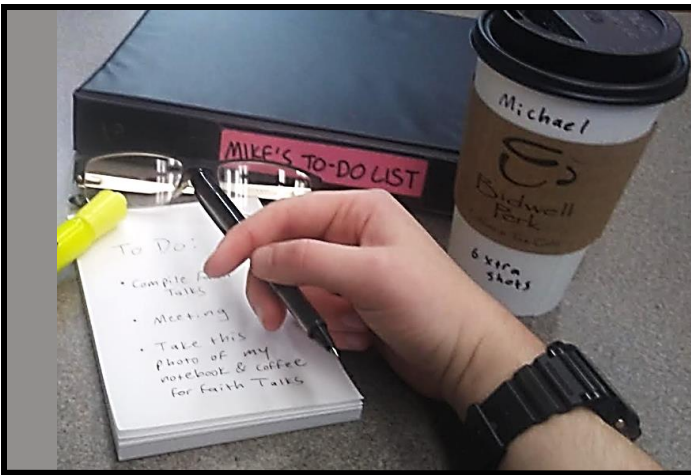
Thank you for your generosity in our Stewardship campaign. Council members and our Stewardship Campaign leaders met with Tri-Path Technology, and we anticipate that work will be able to start on our Sanctuary AV project toward the end of September or early October. This will include sound and video cameras for the sanctuary and a new campus networking project (including robust wi-fi, new wiring, and connections to cable). We are close to having the funds to pay for this important upgrade (about \$95,000 received so far), and we welcome your ongoing commitments and gifts. I am both grateful for your generosity but also not surprised by our progress to our goal. Faith Lutheran Church has always acted decisively in bringing our visions for ministry to life. This is no different than many other projects we have embraced over the years, though it is a tad more costly! In my next letter I hope to be able to announce that all funds for these AV and networking upgrades have been received. With

some luck we will have this system in place by the time we all begin in-person worship in the sanctuary.

You will notice that a few "love letters to Faith Lutheran Church" are starting to appear on our web site. I urge you to take the time to read the notes from former pastors, members, and former members scattered across the country. So many folks that we've known over the years have taken the time to write to us as we move to our next period of life in community and ministry. Their letters remind me of the wonderful work that we have been able to accomplish over the years, and the energy and anticipation that is at play as we move forward. If you enjoy these letters as much as I do, please consider writing and sharing your own with us!

My heartfelt thanks goes out to our amazing staff at FLC. From Pastor Ben to Colter and Luke; from Michael, Jeanette and Lottie to our volunteers like Leo Weiss, Laura Moravec, Musicians, Judy Struck, and the unsung heroes who keep our church going while we worship from afar, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart! Our Mission Statement and its accompanying visual image of the shared bread and wine are a testament to our resilience in the face of adversity, optimism about the future, love for each other, and unity in Christ. There's never been a more blessed time to be Church in Chico. And you are all part of this wonderful community!

*Joel Zimbelman, President, FLC Council*



# NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Hello Faith! It's been a hot minute since I've seen your faces (well, the parts that aren't covered anyway!) It's a hard to accept that we're surpassing ½ a year of mask-wearing, no in-person worship, and no indoor facility rentals. When you come into the office, you get to check in on the staff and on the campus. Even our "regulars" (musicians, people dropping off offerings, etc.) are in-and-out. I want to take a moment to paint a picture of what things have been like managing the facility and working with the staff during the last 6 months.

When the pandemic started, the staff didn't know what to think. How long were we supposed to suspend in-person worship? How long was this going to last? None of us – and by us, I mean everyone in the country, everyone across the globe – could have grasped the impact Covid would make. And although our staff sometimes needs to make difficult decisions or endure exhausting days, you have given us valuable insights over these last few months that we wouldn't have realized if not for the pandemic.

**Patience and support.** You reach out to us often, letting us know that we're doing our best and that our effort is appreciated. Sometimes we feel like our work is sloppy, or like we're firing from the hip. We don't intend to be sloppy of course, but when we commit to a decision and have to change it the next day because of unforeseeable reasons like poor air quality, we regret our inability to be consistent. So thank each of you for your patience as we all do our best to encourage one another.

**Technological know-how.** Each of the staff (and

thought we'd learn about technology. As a result, we're upgrading our A/V system, and all Faith audio and video in the future will have much clearer quality not just throughout the pandemic, but for years, decades after.

**Facility care.** Many of our staff, council, and members have had more time to poke around the facility and find issues that need addressed. Some things are minor like our lawn needing a little more attention or the windows needing to be cleaned. Others issues, like the roof needing repairs, our lack of a functional A/V system, are larger. Addressing these items has significantly improved the quality of the building, and that includes our new signage, fresh paint on the benches, and our building being power-washed. When we are able to see each other again, I'm confident that you will be pleased with the state of our facility.

As far as my personal work goes, I've been able to tackle several large projects, like building our new website. Our website's resource page (<https://www.chicofaithlutheran.org/about/resources-17>) contains the most up to date *Faith Talks*, *What's Happening at Faith 2020* complete with ministry directory, video resources, Pride Ministry resources, and more. The News and Events on our website are continually being updated, and I guarantee you will find new content every single week.

So thank each and every one of you for the support you have shown the staff during the pandemic. We love you and look forward to seeing everyone together again in the future.

~Michael



# A LETTER FROM LUKE

## FALL WORSHIP PLANNING



Greetings FLC! Time continues to fly and pick up speed as we approach fall and eventually the holiday season. We are already beginning preparations for October and November and will soon be getting ready to plan out Advent and Christmas. It feels so strange to type these words, but, before we know it, it'll be that time. August was quite an exciting month. The bell choir was able to get back together after a somewhat lengthy hiatus and we had many guests visit the church including Tom Alden, Robert Morton, and others. We also had the drive-in bingo with the new radio broadcasting system, as well as huge strides for the A/V system for the sanctuary. As we approach this Fall, here's a couple of things

1. **A/V**- If you're interested in becoming a member of the Audio/Visual team, please contact me at [lukenicolay1@gmail.com](mailto:lukenicolay1@gmail.com). We are beginning a new training schedule for the next month or two until the new system comes in.
  - a. Trainings will happen on Sunday Mornings during service so that you can observe what occurs and get some first-hand experience from Kai, Kim and Kyle.
2. **CHOIR**- while we are not able to meet together at this point, if you're interested in being a part of the choir please let me know. We will be working on some virtual choir as much as we can throughout this part of the season along with a meeting either once a week or every other week (still TBD) as folks can attend.
3. **WORSHIP LEADERS**- Calling all folks who would like to help lead worship through music, readings, or assisting minister! If you are interested, please get in touch with me to let me know what you'd be interested in doing. If you are interested email me at [lukenicolay1@gmail.com](mailto:lukenicolay1@gmail.com) or give me a call at (316) 655-9364.
  - a. Roles Available:
    - i. Music Leader
    - ii. Reader (either live or pre-recorded)
    - iii. Assisting Minister

Thank you to each of you for your help, generosity, support, and love throughout these trying times. We will continue to push on ahead and to create a space and "a community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone." What a joy and a blessing it is to be able to serve alongside each of you.

Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship and Music



# EQUIPPING MINISTRY AMIDST A PANDEMIC PART 1



The whole paradigm of Equipping Ministry is built around equipping others to then move into the community using their God given gifts and tools, to train others and raise them up to new levels of ministry. I was trained that no matter the ministry, leaders should train (equip) others with the goal of working your way out of a job with the idea that the more you give ministry away, the more ministry you will have to do. It may sound odd, but I believe in that axiom with all my heart. I believe ministries within the Faith community, whether they realize it or not, are doing just that. With that said, I would like to humbly relay a story in which I have been blessed to play a tiny part.

Along with others, I have been able to play a part in expanding the audio/video ministry. For me, my part was small but extremely satisfying. This past March, just as the world appeared to be falling apart, Pastor Ben and Luke Nicolay immersed themselves into the world of church technology. I am fairly certain that technology was not the field they chose to study and while I have learned both have exceptional gifts in that area, technology was not the reason they are working at Faith Lutheran. Pastor Ben and Luke took it upon themselves to be “equipped” so that the community at Faith could still be connected by worship on a weekly basis. However, it should come as no small shock that during worship, Pastor Ben and Luke have other

things they need to be doing. Faith has had an A/V ministry for many years but not through the midst of a pandemic...social distancing...high risk factors etc.

This, for me, became equipping in action! Both Pastor Ben and Luke invited Kai Pappani and me to assist. Kai is not afraid of technology and not afraid to jump in but this was definitely a new area for both of us. Kai and I (more Kai) dove in and endeavored to learn not one, not two but 7 pieces of software that were required to stream live worship into the homes of our Faith family. It took 6 months, a lot of work and determination, abandoning any fear of failure as we knew disaster would strike and both grace and patience on the part of Pastor Ben and Luke.

To be clear, this story is not about Kim and Kai. Kim and Kai Part 2 of this story continues to unfold and the Grace of God, the leadership of the church and random members that we pass on different days continues to flow. Part 2 of this story is the fun, energizing and productive part of what can truly happen when you make a concerted effort to “give your ministry away” and understand the blessings and growth that can come from that. Stay tuned for part 2!

*Kim Schweden, Equipping Ministry*



# WORSHIP AND FACE CLASSES

St. Francis Day — Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4th — Online Worship 9:30am  
Exodus 20: 1-9, 7-9, 12-20; Matthew 21: 33-46

Sunday, October 11th — Times TBD  
Exodus 32: 1-4; Matthew 22: 1-4  
FACE Class at 10am

Sunday, October 18th — Times TBD  
Exodus 33: 12-23, Matthew 22: 15-22  
FACE Class at 10am

Reformation Sunday — **Wear Red!**  
Sunday, October 25th — Times TBD  
Deuteronomy 34: 1-12, Matthew 22: 34-46  
FACE Class at 10am

***A New Ancient Harmony: A Celtic Vision for the Journey into Wholeness. A Faith Adult Christian Education Class. Oct. 11, 18, & 25 at 10am. Taught by Bill Kees.***

Join Bill Kees of Faith Lutheran Church for our first fall 2020 FACE series (others will be presented in November and December). Bill has studied Newell's work and participated in various Newell-led workshops in the past. This is a perspective and vision of the Christian way that will be new to a lot of folks, but that is likely to speak to you in important ways as we face the adversity of fires, economic challenges, and Covid-19.

In a world that seems increasingly fragmented, Newell calls us to a vision of life's essential oneness. He invites us to be part of a new ancient harmony focusing on creation's sacredness and unity, works out a vision and a pathway toward transformation in our lives and world.

Books are available in the FLC office and can be purchased for \$15 a piece. If you cannot afford the book but still want to participate, speak to Michael.



# OCTOBER EVENTS

## VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE

Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm

The Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network is presenting and evening with Regina Q. Banks. Regina will be sharing the Lutheran Office of Public Policy's faith perspective on California's Ballot Propositions on Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 p.m.



**You Are invited to a virtual evening with  
Regina Q. Banks.**

**Director of Lutheran Office of Public Policy.**

**Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 p.m.**

**We will be exploring the  
California Ballot Propositions  
from a faith perspective.**

**Presented on Zoom by the  
Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network.**

**Register now!**

**Email Edie Lott at [thelotts@gmail.com](mailto:thelotts@gmail.com) with your name,  
city and congregation to register. You will receive a  
Zoom Meeting Invitation the week before the event.**

## DRIVE-IN MOVIE – *The Sandlot*

Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm at FLC

On Friday, Oct 2nd at 7pm we will do a family drive-in movie night! On the side of the church, we'll project *The Sandlot*, a comedy about a summer of friendship and adventure during which one boy becomes part of a team. Nine boys become best friends and their leader becomes a legend by confronting the terrifying mystery beyond the left field fence. The event will be free and open to the public. So bring your car, your snacks, and invite your friends!

## WEEKLY KIDS CALL

Sundays at 3pm starting October 4<sup>th</sup>

After taking a brief pause, our weekly call for young kids is back! We'll meet on Sunday afternoons at 3:30pm, beginning Sunday, October 4th. If you're interested in joining the call, contact Colter at [colter.g.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:colter.g.murphy@gmail.com) and he can send you details on how to access the call.



### BLUE BAGS

Drop off by Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> (pickup on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>)

If you have non-perishables for the Blue Bags project, please drop them off at the office by Thursday at 3:00pm. If you have a facilities key, you may also drop them off Friday and leave them on the table behind Michael's desk.

### FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

Join Colter on Sunday, October 11th at 5:30pm for fun, family-friendly games. This is an RSVP only event, so if you're interested, contact Colter at [colter.g.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:colter.g.murphy@gmail.com)

### ANNUAL STEVE TROESTER MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> noon-6pm

And Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm

Faith Lutheran's annual blood drive in memory of the late Steve Troester is happening once again. This year, donors will be asked to go to the Vitalant donation center at 555 Rio Lindo Ave instead of donating at Faith Lutheran. For more information, or with any questions, please contact Marge Troester at [mmtroester@gmail.com](mailto:mmtroester@gmail.com) at [colter.g.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:colter.g.murphy@gmail.com).



## TRANSFER OF ASYLUM FUNDS TO NORCAL RESIST

The Asylum Team met on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The asylum project would require a large network of volunteers to work in close proximity with asylum seekers to meet their physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual needs. After much discussion, thought, and prayer, the Team agreed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, we would be unable to provide this level of support on an on-going basis. The Asylum Team unanimously moved to designate the balance of the Asylum Fund as a donation to NorCal Resist. NorCal Resist is an organization that has had their feet on the ground in Northern California for quite some time and is well-equipped to provide such support during this crisis. In fact, along with a number of other successful programs, they are currently sponsoring and providing housing, support, and legal resources for two asylum seeking families in the Sacramento area.

The Team is confident that its goal of providing for and supporting asylum seekers and migrants in a new land will be carried out by NorCal Resist. We see God's hand in this. Although it is not the outcome we had envisioned, it does represent a different manifestation of the Team's values being carried out by one of its trusted partners.

The Team would like to encourage those interested in supporting asylum seekers and undocumented adults on an ongoing basis to consider donating one time or regularly to NorCal Resist ([norcalresist.org/donate](http://norcalresist.org/donate)). It would also like to thank the many folks who gave time or financial resources towards this cause.

The Asylum team requested church council approval to release the balance of the Asylum Fund to NorCal Resist and it was approved by the council on Sept. 8, 2020.

*Respectfully Submitted, The Asylum Team*

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM

The [Social Ministry Team](#) seeks to connect Faith Lutheran to our broader community, locally, regionally, and globally, through acts of service and solidarity. The team meets once monthly and is still meeting during the COVID19 pandemic via zoom instead of in-person. Members of the Social Ministry Team participate in monthly meetings, assist with and organize fundraisers, participate in service opportunities identified by the Social Ministry Team, and seek out new ways the Team can engage in service to our community.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed some of the ways the Social Ministry Team has historically served the community, it's still helpful to identify past projects to give a sense of the range and nature of projects it has taken on: collecting backpacks and school supplies for local children in need, disaster response both locally and nationally, annual blood drives, providing Thanksgiving dinner for CHAT residents, and God's Work Our Hands Sunday. Participants in these past events have said they experience satisfaction having "put their Lutheran faith in action." These truly are

opportunities to do God's Work with Our Hands.

The Social Ministry Team is always looking to grow its membership. If you are interested, you may attend a monthly meeting, which take place the 4th Sunday of each month at 1pm on Zoom. You may contact Colter Murphy for access to the zoom link ([colter.g.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:colter.g.murphy@gmail.com)). While active membership is important to the group, the Social Ministry Team also acknowledges those from our Faith Lutheran community who carry out their own forms of Social Ministry but aren't officially affiliated with the Team. If you know of opportunities for the Social Ministry Team, but aren't quite ready to become a member, we are always open to new ways of serving our community. Don't hesitate to contact Colter.





# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

## GENERAL FUND FINANCES AS OF 8/31/2020

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$54,879.02	\$59,893.81	109.14%
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$74,063.17</u>	<u>\$72,639.69</u>	98.08%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$19,184.15)	(\$12,745.88)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/20		\$33,560.21	
Net Revenue through 08/31/2020		<u>(\$12,745.88)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u><u>\$20,814.33</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.

Shown above are the General Fund financial results for the first 2 months of the new fiscal year. The report shows income that was higher than budgeted and expenses that were lower than budgeted. This resulted in the budgeted net loss being less than originally anticipated. A net loss during the summer months is not unusual as it will be made up during the fall and winter months.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

[kimmelshue@armcorice.com](mailto:kimmelshue@armcorice.com)

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 6:15PM ZOOM

Present: Pr. Ben Colahan, Joel Zimbelman, Sky Sample, Mark Kimmelshue, Sherrill Heinz, Diane Knight, Tricia Homesley, Cynthia Kampf, Meridith Woods, Penny Melvin, Doug DeSoto, Matt Reed, Bonnie Pulliam. Absent: Susan Kimball.

1. Called to order by Joel at 6:15 pm. Devotion was done by Penny Melvin.
2. Opening Prayer—Pr. Ben
3. FLC Council Covenant - Read by all. Joel suggested that council revisit after January 1st to renew the covenant.
4. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Mark approve minutes as presented, Cindy seconded, minutes approved.
5. Announcements and calendar events

**Stewardship and Capital Campaign** is going well. We continue to receive some sizeable contributions in the early months of the campaign; and many members are stepping up with contributions (from \$5 to \$20,000) and some pledge forms that commit to long-term contributions. We have received approximately \$90,000 in gifts and about \$40,000 in future pledges. All pledges and gifts are being tracked. Bonnie requested that the tithe.ly button be updated to include contributions specifically to the Stewardship campaign.

**Council position descriptions** Sherrill suggested to add, "Planning for the mission and to maintain the vision of our Faith Lutheran church community". Joel requested that members of council forward ideas and thoughts to him as soon as possible. Goal is to finalize in early 2021.

### **Maintenance and grounds**

- Roof cleaning and some minor repair will proceed in the next week or two.
- Signage should be done shortly.
- Internet and WIFI are up and running from Comcast and phones will port soon.
- Significant challenges with the HVAC system for the sanctuary are being remedied with compressor repair and some work on the electrical main.
- We are seeking to address some continuing homeless challenges on the campus and in the columbarium area, but these do not involve any issues of damage, burglary, etc.

**Defibrillator has been installed** at the back of the church and Sherill Heinz will be implementing the training and orientation to members.

**Use of our facilities by outside groups.** The MTANC (music teachers association of Northern California) wants to use our courtyard for some instrument instruction, and that has been approved subject to an MOU with some important restrictions and language included. Sky requested that if someone tests positive for COVID-19 after the event, the organizer is responsible for tracing the origin.

**LGBT memorial event** in the courtyard on Wednesday 23 September is approved, subject to the usual COVID restrictions.

6. **Financial Report**-Mark Kimmelshue. Income is above budget; however, benevolence was paid in full as well as equipment purchases and repairs and maintenance were greater than the prorated budget. These extra repair and maintenance expenses can be reimbursed by the capital fund if needed. Sky made a motion to approve, Sherrill seconded. Motion passes.



7. **Request to reschedule Council meetings** from second to third Tuesday of each month. An extra week gives our bookkeeper time to close monthly books and for Mark to get the report out to council.

Motion made to make the change by Cindy and seconded by Sherrill. Motion passes.

8. **Worship issues:** Pr. Ben raises issues regarding future worship of our in-person services; however, a drive in service is possible. The concern is the weather and air quality which will mean that there will be a need to run the engine and worsen the air quality. Changes seem to be hourly. Motion made, seconded and passes to go to on line only through October 4th and then further services TBD.

9. **Asylum Committee:** Due to COVID-19 this has become difficult to get off the ground. Recommendation is to donate all funds raised to support the mission of the Asylum committee to NorCal Resist. This non-profit provides legal, financial and emotional support for people seeking asylum in the Sacramento region. If agreed to, the Asylum Committee will stop fundraising. An Eblast, Faith Talks article and the Information will be posted to the website notifying donors of the details.

Motion made to approve transfer of funds raised to NorCal Resist in Sacramento and to put funds to work that is consistent with the Asylum Committee mission. Cindy approved; Bonnie seconded. Motion carried.

10. **Sound, AV, networking of three buildings--update.** A meeting with Staff and members (Colahan, Nickolay, Zimbelman, Tod Kimmelshue, Kim Schweder) was held on 9-8-20 to review the proposal and timeline.

- Original estimates from several months ago were:  
Sound: \$76,789 plus Video Streaming: \$35,000 = Total: \$111,789
- Due to our wiring system aging and unable to support various activities, we have had to add a networking component. New updated estimate of costs (including taxes):  
Sound: and Video Streaming: \$115,766.03 + Networking: \$26,987 = Total: \$142,744
- Ongoing monthly fees will be \$150, but it will reduce the monthly billing from Comcast.

Our sound system might work without the networking addition, but our video streaming can't go forward without this. This will include the fellowship hall, church offices, room six for video, general wireless on campus that can handle groups. We are very close to having the funds and commitments to cover this; and it will most likely take two or three months before the system can be installed and running.

Motion made to approve the contract at \$142,744 with an addendum for an additional 5 years of training at no additional charge by Joel. Motion seconded by Sky. Motion passed.

11. Signage out front of the church. Reviewed the request to consider new signage out front of church. Council decided to research options and place into the list of capital improvements.
12. Discussion regarding life in the community during the lockdown, and how to strengthen it. Keeping folks connected. Will be tabled until next meeting.
13. Closing Prayer
14. Adjourn @ 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Knight

- Next Executive Meeting: Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Zoom. Pr. Ben will send a link to that meeting on his account.
- Next Council Meeting Tuesday, October 20 at 6:15 p.m. Zoom. Link will be sent by Pr. Ben.
- Following Council Meeting Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. via Zoom. Link will be sent by Pr. Ben.

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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  
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**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 8:30AM OCT. 11, 18, 25**

**ONLINE WORSHIP 9:30AM OCT. 4 ~ 11AM OCT. 11, 18, 25**

**OFFICE: (530) 895-3754**

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

**EMAIL: [faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com)**

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