



Faith Talks

June 2020

Worship Online at [Facebook.com/
Faithlutheranchico/live](https://www.facebook.com/Faithlutheranchico/live)

Annual Meeting Sun. June 28



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TOD KIMMELSHUE for painting our benches with a slick, new coat

LAURA MORAVEC, JOEL ZIMBELMAN, KARIN KAKSONEN and MARGE TROESTER for subbing for Michael while he was away on vacation

DENISE PARKIN and NAOMI LAZARUS for pouring their hearts into writing and sending cards to members of our congregation



ARLENE BUTTON, IVA BRYSON and RUTH COUTTS for having our last three consecutive *Faith Talks* delivered to their homes to be folded so that each of us may enjoy a handheld copy

KAI for lending a hand with our livestreaming tech support

GREG MASSA and RAQUEL KRACH for running Zoom on Sunday mornings

ETHAN and EMMA for painting rocks for our members

OUR COOKS for signing up to cook dinners for Raquel, Greg and the kids

AND ALL OF YOU for your grace in the midst of technical challenges

PASTOR'S ARTICLE: GENEROUS HEARTS



Dear People of Faith,

You are generous. It is easy to be generous in times of plenty when the future is certain. But in this time of economic turmoil and uncertainty, your generosity has become even more apparent. In a time when so many organizations are needing to furlough or lay-off employees, your giving has remained steady, and has allowed our staff to worry not about paying their bills, but about serving Christ.

Your generosity has allowed our Director of Worship and Music Luke to fully commit himself to finding ways to recruit individuals in our community to lead worship from the safety of their home, to lead socially distanced rehearsals for individuals sharing their musical gifts with us, and find ways to splice the footage of our many worship leaders into a seamless and beautiful worship experience broadcast live. Your generosity has allowed our Office Manager Michael to fully commit himself to keeping open the lines of communications, whether by updating our website, answering phone calls, burning CDs, or compiling this Faith Talks, so that you all can stay connected to your Faith family. Your generosity has allowed our Director of Youth and Service, Colter Murphy to fully commit himself to transforming our youth ministry for the digital world. Colter leads weekly Sunday School on Thursday morning, with stories, crafts, and show and tell. He leads a weekly Confirmation Class over Zoom, and a weekly Youth Group of online games and conversation. Colter organizes a weekly College Crew chat, and he of course makes adorable children's sermon videos. And that's only half his ministry! Because as Director of Service he's also been coordinating your generous desire to help others in this time of need.

You have formed teams to call and check on one another. You've formed teams to deliver food for those for whom it is not safe to leave the house. You've formed teams to handwrite letters of hope and encouragement. You've formed teams to make and give out masks.

And you've given generously to make sure that the people of Faith do not go lacking. To our Coronavirus Fund, established to give financial support to those most affected by the pandemic, you have given over \$6,000.

But you have gone beyond caring for the people you already know. For eight months, we have had a team of folks researching what it means to sponsor a family going through the federal government's asylum application process. This past month, that team felt ready to ask for your support to help a family become a part of America, by not only providing them a place to live as they go through the asylum process, but guiding them as they learn what it means to live, work, and be a part of our great nation's fabric. You once again responded with generosity! As I write this, you have given over \$5,000 to sponsor a family. Greg Massa and Raquel Krach have offered up a farmhouse for a potential family. Encouraged by your generosity, the Asylum Sponsorship Team presented our plan to the Chico Area Interfaith Council. Several other congregations have expressed interest in collaborating with us, and so we are in the process of setting up a joint account under the auspices of the North Valley Community Foundation, so that our act of hospitality might be truly a collaboration of the greater church in Chico.

Even our facility, though closed to the public, is doing its part to give back to the community. Our kitchen is daily being used as a staging ground for the meals served as part of Project Roomkey. Project Roomkey is a state program during the pandemic that is aimed at housing our community's most vulnerable homeless, those who are 65 years old and/or those who have chronic medical conditions. We are blessed to have within our congregation the person overseeing that project in the Chico Area, Matt Reed. If you are looking for other ways to give back right now, Project Roomkey could use notes/cards of encouragement for its guests, face masks, and help preparing and delivering food. You can contact Matt Reed at matthewj.reed@outlook.com. And if you'd like to be a part of any of the other ways that Faith is living out Christ's call to love our neighbor, give the office a call. Thanks to you, our staff is ready to connect you.

Times of crises reveal our true colors. As in the fire last year, and the flood the year before that, in this crisis, you have shown yourselves to be people of generosity, hospitality, and Jesus.

I do not know what the next month will hold for our congregation or our nation, but I am so grateful that I walk into that future with you, united in Christ.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

YOUTH EVENT: GRAD CARAVAN!

Saturday, June 6 at 6pm

Enjoy a nice evening drive and celebrate Faith Lutheran's graduates! On Saturday, June 6th, you're invited to bring signs of congratulations and your decorated vehicle as we form a small convoy to drive by the homes of our graduates and let them know how proud we are of them. We'll kick things off at 6pm at the Massa farm south of Hamilton City and make our way to 4 other homes on our grand tour! Plan on having an empty bladder and a full tank of gas, because our route will take about an hour.



For your car-decorating and sign-making purposes, here are our 2020 graduates in order of scheduled stops: Mason Massa (being promoted from 8th grade), Lily Massa (8th grade), Sebastian Riggins (completing kindergarten), Kendall Stafford (8th grade), Alex Van Dusen (kindergarten), and Julian Randolph (8th grade).

During this event we will take all necessary precautions for each other's safety. All participants on the drive must wear a mask if they plan on having their windows rolled down to speak/yell words of encouragement. Please, no getting out of your vehicle at any of the stops. If you would like an itinerary or a map of the route in advance, please contact Colter. Otherwise, you can just follow the lead car. Thank you in advance for helping us celebrate our graduates!

A LETTER from LUKE: INSTRUMENTAL ENQUIRIES



Here we are in the midst of May! I can't believe how fast time flies.

As we begin to think about what life might look after the COVID-19 and we begin to think about coming to worship together again, there are a number of factors to consider. These factors affect nearly everything that we will do, especially when it comes to choral and congregational singing. On Tuesday, May 5th, the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association), NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing), a group of scientists and numerous other choral/vocal organizations held a large webinar and the basic takeaways were that singing is a high-risk activity. This is due to the distance the droplets and aerosols can travel when we sing/hum. The

question for us- how do we continue to make music even though singing is not recommended? The Lutheran faith is rich in music, especially in choral and congregational singing. Luther himself proclaimed "next to the word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to [us] so that [we] may proclaim the Word of God through music." So how do we do this in a way that we can continue to proclaim the word of God? A small group met to discuss and brainstorm ways that we might continue to make music together as a community. There were many wonderful ideas and lots of great suggestions. Below are just a few of the suggestions that were discussed:

- Utilization of the Orff instruments
- Drum Circles
 - This will include African drumming patterns and some dance and movement
- Revitalization of the handbell choir
 - Includes having anthems by the handbell choir AND the congregation joining in with the handbells at different parts of the service
- Use of different instruments to imitate sounds throughout service to give new ways to connect
 - Rushing water
- Continuation of pre-recorded music to reduce risk of spreading germs
 - This includes anthems, offerings, and any other sung pieces
- The use of movement
 - Liturgical dance

While we aren't entirely sure what the future holds for us in terms of our music and singing, there are so many exciting opportunities to continue to connect with each other; ways that go beyond music to many more of the arts and extend our abilities to praise our wonderful and beautiful Creator.

Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship & Music

A NOTE from your CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT



When Linda, our two young daughters, and I joined Faith Lutheran Church thirty-two years ago, the congregation was in the process of committing to a new vision for their ministry that required, at its core, a new church building. With the determined support of Pastor Carl Wilfrid and a feisty Church Council, down came the tiny old chapel and up went a fellowship hall (that served as our worship space for a year); then a new sanctuary; and finally a new education building. It was an exciting step in faith but also expensive, a risk, an “all hands on deck” building project, and one which, once launched, sailed forward with everyone on board.

For almost a third of a century that project has provided Faith Lutheran with a home for worship, education, spiritual development, and community outreach. It has hosted weddings, funerals, the boy scouts, interments, served as a social venue for all ages, given us a kitchen that has prepared meals for thousands and thousands, and a whole lot more!

But just like homes, cars, and bodies, buildings get old. They become more frail, slow down, and find it hard to keep up with the changes that come to a community. But they rarely get a nap. They don't make visits to the doctor, but they still need check-ups, sustaining medications, and sometimes significant surgery.

That's the present state of FLC's buildings right now. They are in need of a range of different levels of support. Some needs are crucial, like a new roof on some of the structures that we hope will take care of several damaging leaks. It's time to replace our barely functioning sound and AV systems in the sanctuary and fellowship hall and offices; and upgrade our networking for Sunday morning broadcasts and classes. Bathrooms need crucial repairs and reconfiguration given how our church is used and the special needs of many of our parishoners (folks in wheelchairs, babies who need diaper changing tables, etc). Sewer and irrigation pipes are breaking, pillars are rotting, stucco siding needs repair and painting, and our classrooms and offices are in need of the same TLC we give our own homes periodically. New signage should be up around campus in a few weeks so new folks arriving at our facility will know where to go to get to the office, to the sanctuary, and other locations. The list goes on with a dozen smaller needs. But you get the idea.

Over these past decades, we've been blessed with a congregation of generous supporters and church councils stacked with savvy money managers and strategic thinkers. We're in an enviable position in many ways right now: A growing and balanced budget, adequate resources to pay our professional staff, faithful giving through the past three tumultuous months, no outstanding debt, gifts that have reduced even our utility bills, and hundreds of hours of volunteer work each year that save us thousands and thousands of dollars. At the same time, we need to address the above structural needs in the very near future, and that will present us with a significant financial challenge. How we accomplish this in a responsible way has been the focus of the Church Council's recent meetings.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 28—and though I am hopeful that we'll all be together in the sanctuary for that event, a Zoom gathering may be in the cards. Either way, your Church Council will be meeting presenting our Annual Report, roll out a new FLC Mission Statement (after nine months of discussion and debate), present the upcoming slate of nominations to the Council, and submit for your approval a budget for the coming year. And we will use this time as well to introduce and launch a three year capital campaign to address the church building needs mentioned above. We know that the funds we will seek are truly needed; and we have faith that our members can step up to help us reinvigorate our home for the

mission that we're called to in the coming decades. There's no getting around the fact that we are going to need several hundred thousand dollars *beyond our regular budget* to address these issues. As we move into the next month of preparation, I hope that you'll pray for our Council and staff leadership as they grapple with formulating a plan for the fundraising and work that lies ahead.

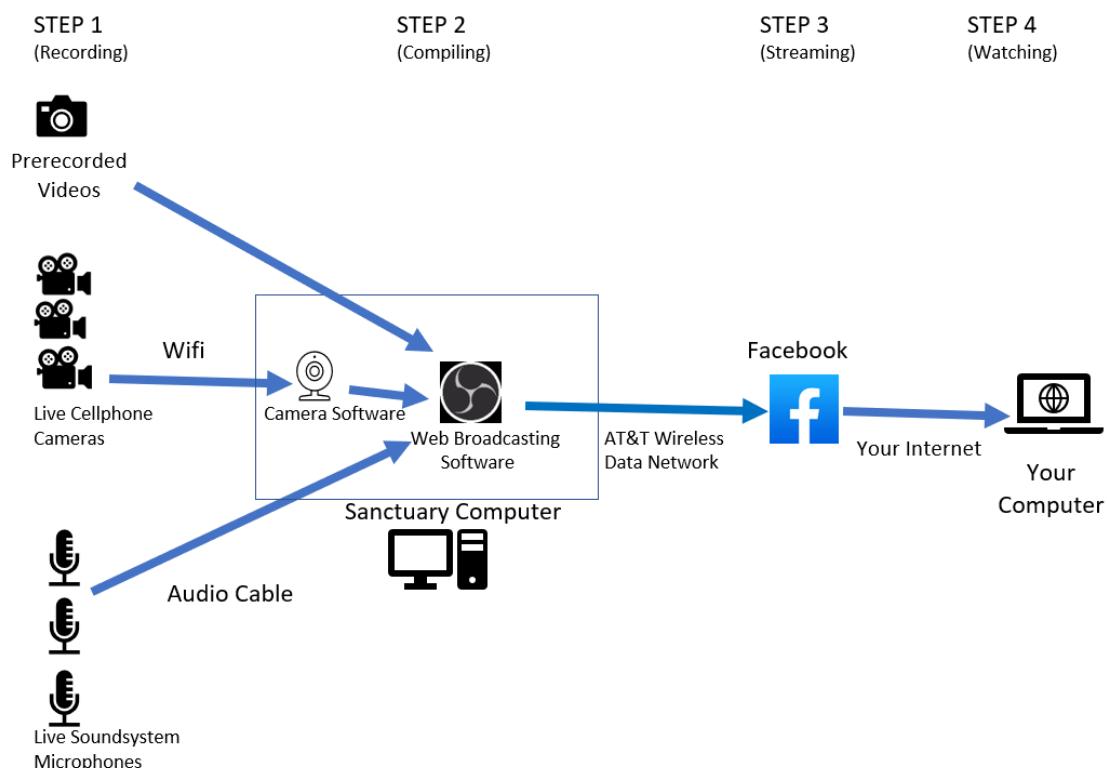
God bless you in the coming months as you live through the challenges of this pandemic; and as you reflect on your ability to assist our church with its acute financial needs. It is an honor and blessing to serve FLC this year on the Council and I thank God daily for the great leadership team that he has blessed us with. See you all in about a month, if not sooner!

Joel Zimbelman, Council President

NEWS from the OFFICE: LET'S GET TECHNICAL

Hello everyone! Just some updates from the office: firstly, we are still in the process of shifting to our new website and newsletter format. We intended to be fully operational at this point with a published website and shiny, new newsletter, but alas. You know the story of David and Goliath? Well, the staff is David, and technical issues are our Goliath. So thank you for your patience!

You may have noticed some odd things happening with our online services, like how sometimes there is lag, or how one time the video disappeared altogether. We suspected the latency issues had to do with slow internet, so we contacted AT&T and installed something quicker. This did nothing. We are in the process of switching to a different service provider, which entails physically digging in the dirt to install better wiring. We believe we have isolated the source of the recent choppy livestream and the cameras going down two weeks ago; we have switched web broadcasting software which we hope will fix the problem. Our staff is doing everything we can to see all of these issues fixed. In the meantime, Pastor Ben would like to share the following chart which explains how our video streaming works.



Live services can't return until the governor has issued Stage 3 Clearance for Butte County, and we do not know when this will be, however, we do have some idea of what services may look like (though please understand it is all subject to change.) Seating will be substantially spaced out and our ushers will help folks to their seats to ensure safe social distancing. We will not be providing coffee hour or other food/drinks to start with. We are entertaining the idea of hosting multiple services so that everyone at Faith gets a chance to safely be included in live worship. At the moment, these are all ideas, but that is where we stand. Hang in there. We will see each other in person soon, and in the meantime you can always call me at the office if you need to ask questions or just want to chat!

Michael

MINISTRY of the MONTH

The Equipping Team is always busy. As part of the Equipping Ministry Team, the "Recognition Sub-Team" has been taking 1 Peter 2:5 seriously. Faith sees each of us as part of the priesthood of believers. We all use our God given gifts to be disciples/ministers wherever we may be, both within the church as well as outside in the world; in other words, to be the people that God specifically designed us to be. We have gathered those who enjoy doing similar tasks and have written articles to describe what each ministry team does so that those of us who have these gifts and skills can join that Team. We hope to personally thank those teams and encourage them for the great work that they do as Partners in Ministry at Faith and we have just begun. We have an active and loving family! We will continue this coming Church year to highlight the many ministries that we are engaged in here at Faith. Since June is the end of the fiscal Church year we wish to highlight our Staff and Church Council. We celebrate their vision, their ministries and all the great work they do. We celebrate who they are as compassionate, energetic, creative people of God. We pray for them to continue leading us to be the servants/disciples that walk joyfully and gratefully with Jesus. We also want to provide opportunities and encourage you to say a word of "thank you" to our awesome staff and hard-working Church Council!

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

EQUIPPING TEAM STILL ALIVE and WELL



The Equipping Team wants to set aside any concerns that we have sailed into the sunset during this new experience of navigating Covid-19. We are still meeting. I do not know about you but sometimes I look at where we are in this pandemic and on certain days see chaos. Fortunately, at most times, and amidst so much suffering, I see energizing opportunity for the Church to take a look at itself and seek out new and exciting ways to do ministry. I think Faith is doing just that! While we are not worshiping together in the manner in which we are accustomed, we are everyday seeing new tasks and new opportunities which for many of us, a new set of gifts is required or our giftedness is to be used in different ways.

I am happy to report that new nametags are engraved and, in our possession, and hopefully most of you have seen pictures of the new nametag display rack that looks more like a beautiful piece of furniture! As we figure out the “when” and the “how” the future needs for us to again gather for worship, we want to be sensitive to the governing authorities requests for safety concern and look forward to using the badges to build up our community at the earliest practical time.

Most of you may or may not know that Faith is now operating with a new database “Tithly”. Names have been loaded and your Equipping Team will be looking at different ways this new tool can be used to effectively build our community at Faith.

Mostly, your Equipping Team is discussing ways in which we can support other ministries as we begin to adopt a new sense of normal. This is both challenging and exciting! Look to hear more from the team soon!

NEWS from KAGITUMBA

#GumaMaRugo – The Rwandan government has had restrictions of movement in place since Sunday, March 21st. At that time, only around 10 cases [of Coronavirus] were confirmed in the country, but the nation decided to be extremely proactive. To date, only 207 cases have been confirmed over the past six weeks as the whole country has been ordered to stay at home. Farming (often done household by household), banking, receiving or providing healthcare, retrieving or providing food, and some transportation work is considered essential, but police are quick to stop anyone to ask their intentions for travelling by vehicle or on foot. While vulnerable communities are at risk of hunger and starvation, the government and local leaders have been quick to organize food drops to the most vulnerable households. The Lutheran Church of Rwanda has also been able to provide funds to the most vulnerable families within congregations throughout the country using Mobile Money (a money sending service similar to Venmo or PayPal that is commonly used without the need of a smartphone).



A Letter from Pr. Mukama Eddy Santos of Kagitumba Parish

Dear Friends

I send greetings from Kagitumba congregation, all we are fine, and I hope that everyone is safe in Faith Lutheran Church. Dear friends thank you so much for your support we received on April God bless you so much. Dear friends here in Rwanda we are allowed by the government to do construction of church since one week ago so we continue construction of the Church. Dear Friends continue to pray for Kagitumba congregation.

*God bless you so much and your family,
Pastor Mukama Eddy Santos*

ZOOM and FACEBOOK EVENTS

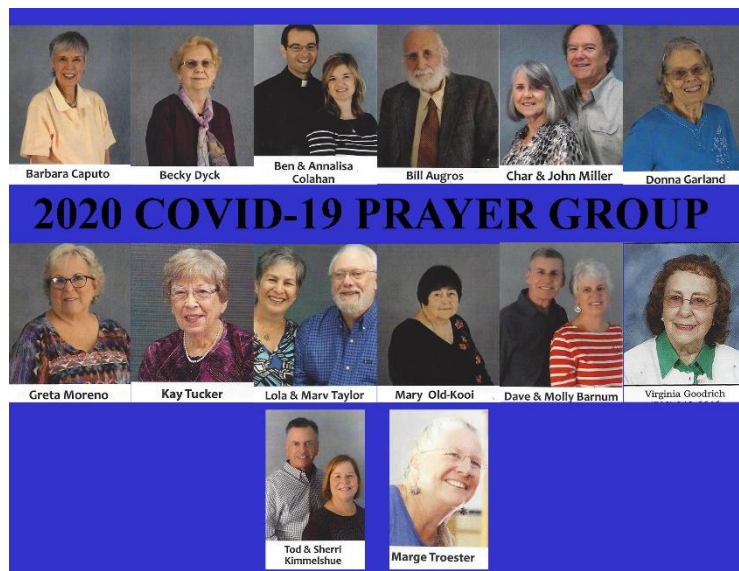
Our schedule is subject to change on a week by week basis due to the turbulent nature of quarantine. Make sure you're connected through our E-blasts to receive the most up-to-date information on scheduling.

Below is a tentative schedule for Zoom and Facebook.

~ ~ ~ ZOOM PASSWORD IS 667 ~ ~ ~

COVID-19 PRAYER GROUP DAILY 1pm

Join us if you can with Bill Augros as our host. Please call between 1:00-1:05pm. Dial 1-669-900-9128 (a San Jose number) and enter the meeting ID 884 029 41 999# (make sure to enter # at the end.) Enter the password 229 181# (make sure to enter # at the end.) You will hear Bach radio. State your first name. Please be silent in meditation until the music stops at about 1:05pm. If you can't get in, please call Becky (897-0699) or Barbara (592-7367). When the host reads your name, you can say or read a poem, state a concern about COVID-19, ask for a prayer for yourself or someone else, or pass (just listen.) We will start over and continue until everyone passes. If you call in late, that's okay, just interrupt us and state your first name. If you have any questions, please call Bill Augros at (530) 895-9229 or email him at billaugros@gmail.com.



SUNDAY WORSHIP - Once again we will worship **online only** until further notice. Sunday at 9:30am go to [Facebook.com/Faithlutheranchico](https://www.facebook.com/Faithlutheranchico) or visit our website at chicofaithlutheran.org and watch Pastor Ben and Luke lead you in prayer and song. You can visit those same sites to see a recording of last Sunday's service.

TUESDAY 4PM CENTERING PRAYER - Could you use some time to center yourself and connect to God in prayer? Centering prayer consists of a brief spiritual reading, followed by a 20 minutes of contemplative silence, followed by a reading of the gospel and a voluntary naming of what stood out to each listener. There is instruction available for newcomers. This week we are doing it online, so if you've never had a chance to join before, this is a great time to check it out! 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.)

TUESDAY 5PM BIBLE STUDY - Each week Pastor Ben leads a Bible study on the passages of scripture that he'll be preaching on the following Sunday. This week he'll do it online, so now's a perfect time to check it out! To speak, you'll need a microphone on your computer, but you can also just listen. 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.)

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUPPORT FOR FAITH LUTHERAN - We aren't able to pass the offering plate right now, but we continue to serve Christ in Chico and beyond, and our expenses continue as well. Please mail checks to the church office at 667 E. 1 st Ave, Chico, CA 95926. We also accept online giving at chicofaithlutheran.org/give.

Logging on to Facebook



First go to
[Facebook.com/Faithlutheranchico](https://www.facebook.com/Faithlutheranchico)

Select "Posts" from the side bar

At 9:30am on Sundays you will see that there is a LIVE video. Click on the video and watch our service in real time



Settings are at the bottom of the video. Make sure that there is not an X through the speaker icon (AKA the volume button) or you will not receive sound

Live service videos are saved to Facebook and can be watched later

CHICO PRIDE: CELEBRATING from QUARANTINE

As many of you know, National Pride Month is in June. In the past, Stonewall Alliance has hosted Pride in August. This year, their goal was to switch to June to celebrate Pride during its national month. For those of you who haven't heard, many (if not all) 2020 Pride parades and festivals across the U.S. have been cancelled, or online arrangements have been made in lieu of in-person events. Chico Pride is no exception.

As it tentatively stands, the Chico Pride Festival is set for September 2020 and events are online-only. (You can read more at stonewallchicopride.com). Last year, Faith Lutheran had such a blast the entire month leading up to the festival making arts and crafts, quilting, baking, raising money, and just getting together to hang out. Our

booth was incredible; so many people commented on the love and compassion we poured into celebrating Pride. The bad news is that we can't meet in person, we can't have bake sales, we can't make bracelets and post cards, and we can't have a booth this year. But the good news is that Faith fully intends to celebrate!

Firstly, Reconciling Works has put out some tools for churches to use during the month of June including weekly prayers of intercession which Pastor Ben will be incorporating into his services. (You can read more about it at reconcilingworks.org/events/pride2020).

Second, we're going to put together a video! The staff is still hashing out the details, but essentially, we would like you to submit clips of yourself, your partner, your kids, and your pets (rainbow swag optional/encouraged) with a positive message for our LGBTQ+ siblings, that they are loved, accepted, and celebrated here. We will have more information and instructions for video clips in the coming weeks and intend to release the video toward the end of June.

If you would like to be in our video, please contact Michael (or any of the staff) at (530) 895-3754 or at faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting, where we vote on the yearly budget and welcome new council members, will take place on June 28th at 11am (the last Sunday in June.) We have yet to determine whether or not this will be a live or online meeting, but it will most likely be on Zoom. Please stay in touch via our E-blasts (weekly email newsletters) for the most current information, and please call the office any time if you have questions. Thank you!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 04/30/2020

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$356,197.32	\$346,286.00	97.22%
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$356,003.33</u>	<u>\$351,157.43</u>	98.64%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$193.99	(\$4,871.43)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/19		\$29,053.42	
Net Revenue through 04/30/2020		<u>(\$4,871.43)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u><u>\$24,181.99</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.

Expenses exceeded income for April and the year to date, primarily due to a number of necessary upgrades and repairs made to the buildings at the church. The church's financial position remains strong. However, during this time of uncertainty your continued financial support is needed now more than ever. You can mail your checks to 667 East 1st Avenue, Chico, CA 95926 or give on line using your debit or credit card at - chicofaithlutheran.org/give.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

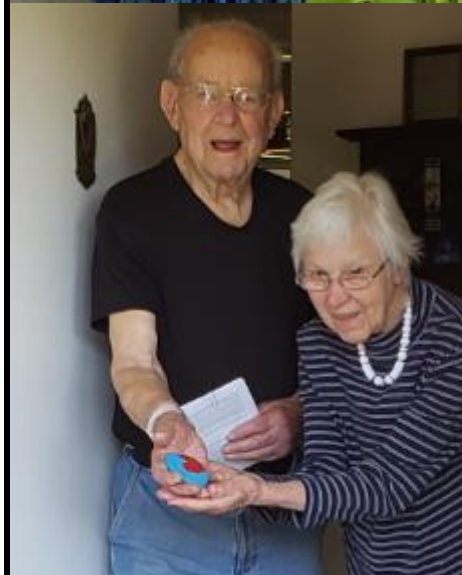
Mark Kimmelshue

(530) 520-8228

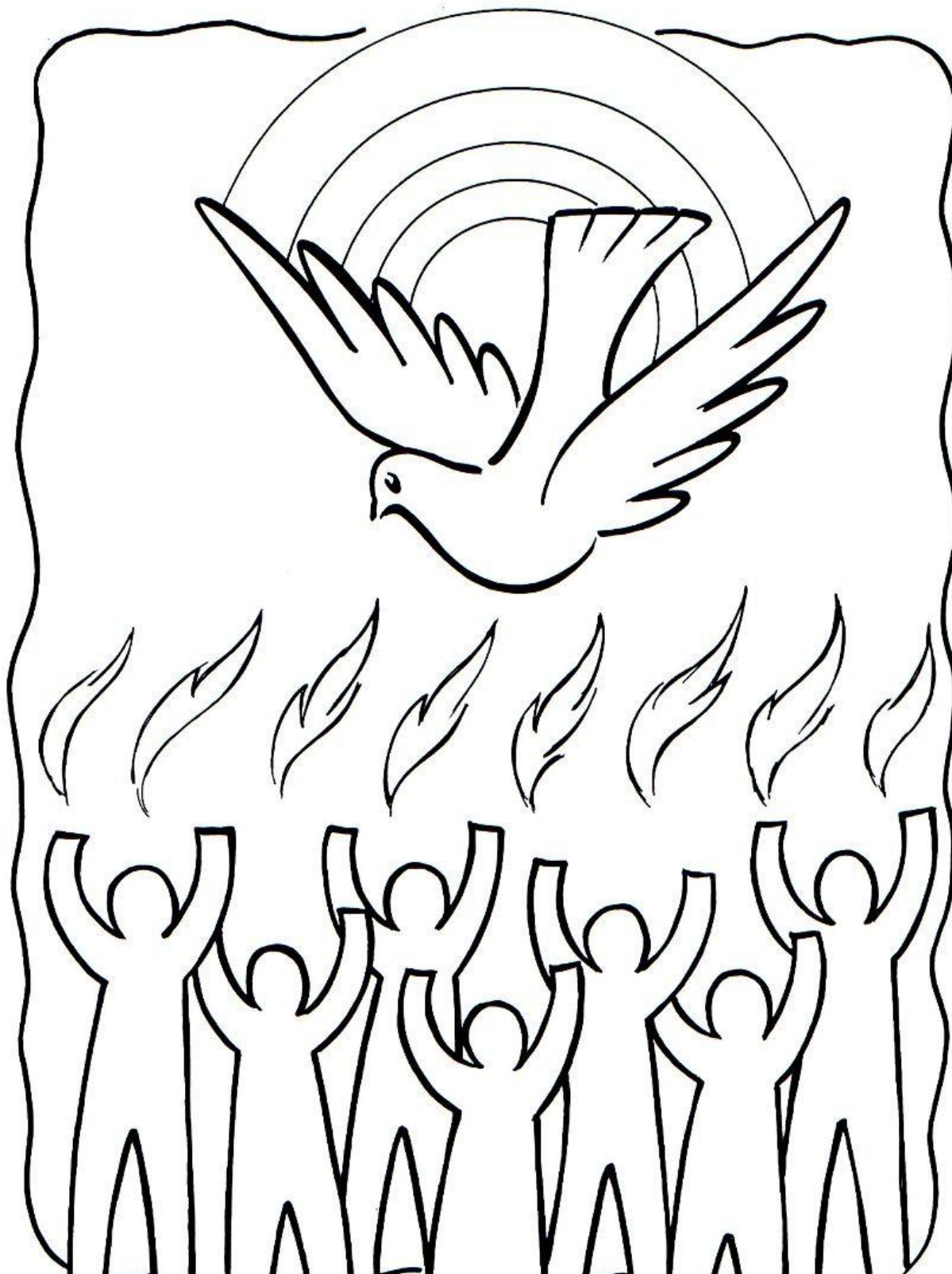
kimmelshue@armcorice.com

We can now accept online giving at chicofaithlutheran.org/give

The council minutes for May were not available in time for printing. We apologize for the inconvenience.



COLORING PAGE FOR KIDS!*



***and adults in quarantine (you know you want to!) Mail your coloring page in to have it featured in our E-blast!**

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Secretary: Diane Knight

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Council Members: Sherrill Heinz, Meredith Woods, Susan Kimball,
Tricia Homesley, Cynthia Kampf

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



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