

FAITH TALKS

MAY 2020



Worship Online
chicofaithlutheran.org or
[Facebook.com/Faithlutheranchico](https://www.facebook.com/Faithlutheranchico)

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MOLLY & DAVE BARNUM and KARIN KAKSONEN for delivering CDs and Easter flowers

FRANKLIN QUINONES SCHOTT for delivering groceries

LINDA ZIMBELMAN, MARGARET MCMILLAN, TRICIA HOMESELY and CHRIS JONES for cleaning and reorganizing the sanctuary

CYNTHIA KAMPF for donating games to the Torres Shelter while they're under quarantine and for ordering name tags for our equipping ministry

RALPH GODWIN for hand-crafting a beautiful name tag kiosk

OUR PHONE MINISTERS for reaching out and calling our members during social distancing

BILL AUGROS for leading the daily COVID-19 prayer group

TODD, DAX and DUSTIN KIMMELSHUE for hauling away our fallen tree branch

TODD KIMMELSHUE, LAURA MORAVEC and JOEL ZIMBELMAN for cleaning windows and pressure-washing the building

JUDY STRUCK for tending to our lovely garden

DAN SOLOMON, ADELIO HAVENS, CYNTHIA KAMPF, and KIM SCHWEDER for stepping up and learning a new system to help us out with A/V



PASTOR'S ARTICLE: HOLY COMMUNION



Siblings in Christ, I have spent the past few weeks in prayerful consideration as to what my duties as a pastor require of me during this pandemic. Upon re-reading my Letter of Call, which states the ministry to which you have called me to serve at Faith, I feel I am fulfilling most of my duties. I give thanks that through modern technology I am able to continue to teach and preach the Word of God in accordance with the Lutheran Confessions, to lead worship, to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, to provide pastoral care, to speak for justice, and generally to equip the congregation for witness and service. However, there is one item in which I have been derelict in my duty: to administer Holy Communion.

I have not administered communion for our congregation since March 15th. That said, many in our congregation remember a time when communion was celebrated in Lutheran congregations only once a month or once a quarter. As such, though I have missed offering and receiving the promise of Christ's body and blood, I have felt it appropriate that we might forego communion for a time. However, it appears that restrictions for public gatherings of any size will continue for at least weeks, if not months.

For that reason, after prayerful reading of the scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and conversation with my colleagues, I offer the following plan and theological explanation by which our congregation might fulfill Christ's command to break bread in remembrance of him, and I might fulfill my call to administer Holy Communion.

First, why is it important that we celebrate communion? The simple answer is because Jesus says we should. "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me'" (Luke 22:19). The longer answer is because in communion we receive tangible promises of Christ. In communion we receive the promise that Jesus is fully present with us. To be clear, Jesus is always with us, but we are often distracted by worry and unable to see him (Luke 24:15-16). In the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup, we are given the promise that Jesus is with us in a way that doesn't depend on our wandering thoughts or our doubtful minds. It is a promise that is tasted with our tongue, felt with our lips, experienced on a visceral level, so that we might believe it on a visceral level. Luther says it best,

Although he is present in all creatures, and I might find him in stone, in fire, in water, or even in a rope, for he certainly is there, yet he does not wish that I seek him there apart from the Word, and cast myself into the fire or the water, or hang myself on the rope. He is present everywhere, but he does not wish that you grope for him everywhere. Grope rather where the Word is, and there you will lay hold of him in the right way...If Christ were not with me in dungeon, torture, and death, where would I be? He is present there through the Word, although not in the same way as here in the sacrament, where through the Word he binds his body and blood so that they are also received corporeally in the bread and wine.

– The Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ: Against the Fanatics

Because we receive Jesus in communion, through him we also receive forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation (*Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar*). Because we receive Jesus in communion, we

become a part of his body, and we are united with all the other saints in every time and place who have become a part of his body through communion. As Paul says to the Corinthians, “Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf” (1 Cor. 10:16-17).

In summary, we celebrate communion because Jesus tells us to, and in sharing the bread and the cup in remembrance of him we receive a promise that we can hold in our hand that Jesus is bodily with us and in us, and through him we have the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. And in communion the truth is revealed that because we are in union with Jesus, we are also in union with all people who are united to Christ. Now more than ever we need these promises from God.

How then should Holy Communion be administered? Article VII of the *Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord* states,

Indeed, the administration of the Holy Supper the Words of Institution are to be clearly and plainly spoken or sung publicly in the congregation, and in no case are they to be omitted....But this “blessing” or the recitation of the Words of Institution of Christ by itself does not make a valid sacrament if the entire action of the Supper, as Christ administered it, is not observed (as for example, when the consecrated bread is not distributed, received, and eaten but is instead locked up [in the tabernacle], made into a sacrifice, or carried around in a procession.) On the contrary, Christ’s command, “Do this,” must be observed without division or confusion. For it includes the entire action or administration of this sacrament: that in a Christian assembly bread and wine are taken, consecrated, distributed, received, eaten, and drunk, and that thereby the Lord’s death is proclaimed, as St. Paul presents the entire action of the breaking of the bread or its distribution and reception in 1 Cor. 10:16.

To summarize, Lutheran doctrine teaches that what makes communion more than eating bread and drinking wine, is four parts: 1) It is done in Christian assembly, 2) The Words of Institution, in which Jesus tells us that the bread is his body and the wine is his blood, are spoken, 3) the bread and the wine are given and received, 4) the bread is eaten and the wine is drunk.

I believe that we can in good faith fulfill these parameters, and furthermore, doing so will allow our congregation a deeper understanding of the sacrament. **Here is the plan: During livestreamed worship, I will say the Word of Institutions, and I invite you to say them with me over bread and wine/juice in your own home, and then to share the bread and wine/juice with whomever is in your home using the words, “this is the body of Christ given for you,” “this is the blood of Christ, shed for you.” If you have no one in your home with whom to share, open your door or your window, break the bread and raise your cup with those same words and then commune yourself.** Here is a detailed explanation of why I believe this fulfills the Church’s understanding of right administration of the sacraments.

1) It is done in Christian assembly. When we gather live on Facebook, we greet each other in the comments, we pass the peace, and we share our prayers. Honestly, you all talk more to each other during live worship on Facebook than you do in person. I truly believe our live worship services constitute a Christian assembly. That said, I will ask that you not celebrate communion by going back at a later time and watching the service. I say this because Luther wrote vehemently against private

communion, a common practice in his day in which priests would celebrate communion multiple times a day by themselves. Holy Communion is the proclamation of how we are united together in Christ; celebrating it by ourselves apart from the community is antithetical to the meaning of the sacrament. Paul writes, “So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together (1. Cor. 11:33). And Luther writes,

“Thus it is not right (even if everything else were otherwise in order) to use the common sacrament of the church for one’s own devotional life and to play with it according to one’s own pleasure apart from God’s Word and outside the church community”

(Smalcald Articles, Second Article, Part 5). I am aware that some people are unable to stream the service live. Starting April 26th, you will be able to call on your telephone to listen to the service live. Instructions are included at the end of this article. If you are still unable to get the technology to work in order to listen live, and you receive a recording of the service, I ask that you wait until Sunday morning to celebrate communion, so that you might do it together at the same time with the rest of the congregation.

2) Together we will speak the Words of Institution. As Lutherans, we teach that each believer is a priest through Christ (1 Peter 2:9), and each of us is therefore spiritually capable of administering the sacraments. For the sake of good, and so that incorrect teachings and misuse of the sacraments do not occur, Lutherans teach that only those with a proper call should administer the sacraments (Augsburg Confession, Article XIV: Concerning Church Government). This is not Christ’s teaching, it is an administrative teaching of the church, and in my office as a called administrator of the sacraments I will be overseeing you in distributing communion, much as I do with the lay Eucharistic Ministers who take communion to those who are sick and homebound.

3) Bread and wine/juice will be given and received. Those of you with family at home can give and receive communion from each other. For those of you alone, I trust that God will bring whatever entity to you that God requires. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus appears to the disciples who need him, even when they don’t recognize that he is Jesus (Luke 24:15-16). When Elijah was starving, God sent ravens to feed him (1 Kings 17:4-6). Jesus agrees that even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master’s table (Matt. 15:27). If you live alone, I ask that you be open to whatever entity God might bring to you to share the promise of Christ’s presence. One way to do this might be to open your window or your door, break bread and proclaim, “this is the body of Christ, given for you!” If your neighbor says, “Hey, is that communion? Can I have some?” share it. If the birds come and eat the crumbs, rejoice, for the Holy Spirit landing in bodily form as a dove on Jesus (Luke 3:22). Give yourself the bread and wine/juice confident that Christ gives them for you and to you.

4) Be sure to actually eat and drink. Just watching me on a screen is not communion. By definition a sacrament is the Word united with a physical sign (Apology to the Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV: The Mass). “Virtual Communion” is an oxymoron because communion is an expression of the incarnation, the Word becoming flesh. Your body needs to receive the good news just as much as your mind does. Feed your body with Christ.



It is entirely possible that the method of administering communion that I describe is not what Christ intended. Here I must rely on God's grace. I take comfort that the teaching of the church is that it is not our ritual that makes Christ present in communion but Jesus' own will (Epitome of the Formula of Concord, Article VII: Holy Supper). Luther writes, "Our conclusion is: Even though a scoundrel receives or administers the sacrament, it is the true sacrament (that is, Christ's body and blood), just as truly as when one uses it most worthily. For it is not founded on human holiness but on the Word of God. As no saint on earth, yes, no angel in heaven can make bread and wine into Christ's body and blood, so likewise can no one change or alter the sacrament, even through misuse" (Large Catechism, The Sacrament of the Altar).

This I truly believe: that as we seek to faithfully follow Christ's command, Jesus is and will be present with us in the way that we need, for this has always been the promise of Holy Communion, and God keeps God's promises. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

To access live worship via the telephone, at 9:30am on Sunday:

Dial 1-669-900-6833 (this is a San Jose area code, and long distance charges may apply)

You will hear a voice say "welcome to Zoom, please enter your meeting ID number"

Enter 530-895-3754# on your keypad (Faith Lutheran's phone number)

Enter the password: 667# (Faith Lutheran's address)

Stay on the line after worship, grab a mug, and have coffee hour over the phone!

THE TRIP REPORT: ONLINE YOUTH GROUP

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of The Trip Report, a monthly briefing on youth and intergenerational events. This month, I will share about Faith Lutheran's weekly online youth group gathering.

Things have certainly been interesting since the last time I sat down to write The Trip Report. The last event I covered in this column was a nature walk, during which our youth stayed 6 feet apart from each other. I have not seen any of the youth in-person for a youth event since then.

Amidst a slew of other cancellations both locally and nationally, **Faith Lutheran and St. John's cancelled our joint trip to Rancho Santa Marta in June.** While I think we made the right decision, and especially when I consider the risk of one of us bringing COVID-19 into the small community at Rancho Santa Marta, it was still a sad decision to make. Another thing our youth had been looking forward to, an important trip and milestone during their year, gone.



Also, the **planned ELCA Western States Youth Gathering, to be held at California Lutheran University in June, was cancelled.** I had looked forward to this trip because of the possibility for connections: our youth group would have travelled to the gathering with several other churches from our area, and would have met so many other Lutheran youth during the gathering. I know that we still have the national ELCA Gathering in the Twin Cities next summer to look forward to, but for the loss of another opportunity for our youth to find connection this year, I grieve.

Holding space for grief and lament during the COVID-19 pandemic has been essential, not just for me but for our youth. They are grieving the lack of social interaction in their daily life, the chance to hang out with their friends who they care about. They are grieving the normalcy of a daily schedule

at school. They are grieving the loss of face-to-face communication, and struggling to understand how to communicate without non-verbal, non-written language to guide them. I know this because we have been meeting together, every week, for online youth group.

This time to gather as a group has been so valuable. We have the chance to check in with each other, and talk honestly about our struggles and our laments. We have the chance to voice prayer concerns, and then pray for those concerns and for one another. And, we have the chance to play some silly online games, which is a way for all of us to spend time together without any high-stakes decisions or questions being raised.

It warms my heart to think of some of the ways our youth are responding to each other, and to their communities, during this crisis. They are caring, kind, thoughtful, and steadfast. They have offered their gifts of time, and some of them have gone out of their way to be part of our phone call ministry. They are growing by the day in their emotional intelligence and in their faith. I am very proud of all of them.

Thank you for continuing to support our youth of all ages! Just as our youth have been doing, I invite you to consider the ways you find yourself grieving or lamenting during this time. And, make sure you share those things with folks in your life who care about you. Take care of each other. Peace be with you.

Have an adventure-worthy idea for an upcoming youth/intergenerational event? Interested in becoming involved with Faith Lutheran's youth? Colter would love to hear from you! colter.g.murphy@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

The Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting has been postponed until June 28th. For questions, please call the office at (530) 895-3754.

ALLELUJAH! CHRIST is RISEN!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is risen! What a joyful time Easter is. I can say we've now successfully made it through Easter Sunday and what a treat it's been. This Easter, however, has been very different from Easters past. Due to the COVID-19 services went from "in-person" with the full choir, praise team, and instrumentalists to live-streamed and to only a couple of musicians and others. Despite the struggle with this virus, it was still a meaningful time packed full of fantastic sermons, videos, messages, music, and visual art.

It was such a blessing to me to have so many people who were willing to volunteer for each of the services. I appreciated and will continue to appreciate the efforts of the numerous choir members, praise team members, instrumentalists, A/V specialists, and so many others who were so willing to volunteer their time to come and share their gifts.

There were many great highlights throughout Holy week, many including:

1. Personal stories and connection to biblical readings by new members
2. Powerful sermons that incorporated numerous media
3. Powerful music from Palm Sunday all the way to Easter Sunday that included many gifted vocalists and instrumentalists
4. Beautiful floral arrangements for Good Friday, Easter Vigil. and Easter Sunday
5. Meditative videos for the Easter proclamation

This barely even begins to scrape the surface of the highlights from a meaningful and meditative week of worship for our Risen Lord!

Thank you again to all who made Holy Week possible. A BIG thank you, also, to everyone who has made my transition to director of worship and music so smooth and enjoyable. I look forward to when we will all be back together again and I am so excited to get to know each of you better in the coming time.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship and Music



NEWS from the OFFICE: A FRESH, NEW LOOK!

Greetings, FLC family! Starting with some basics - - the office's phone hours are still Monday-Thursday from 10am-3:30pm, so if you have questions about anything in Faith Talks, please give me a call! We are still delivering groceries and CDs so if you're in need of either, email Colter at colter.g.murphy@gmail.com. Now, the staff does a lot of collaborating to host services, put announcements together, keep an up to date calendar, etc. We were using five different programs:

- Icon – for finances, giving, and contact information
- Mailchimp – for our weekly E-blasts
- Google – for our public calendar
- Squarespace – for our website
- Ministry Scheduler Pro – to schedule worship volunteers



This month, we will be switching to one, single program that does all of the above called **Tithe.ly**.

What does this mean for you? The first thing you'll notice is how different our E-blasts and website look (once we get them up and running that is!) Our "new" website (same domain) will provide better staff and council information, a more hands-on worship page with audio of our choir and musicians, a sharper, cleaner look in general, and more information on ministries and classes. We are also adding News and Events. Our **News** section will include articles from *Faith Talks* and more. So if you haven't received your *Faith Talks* in the mail yet, you'll be able to refer to our website to read the articles. Think of it as "early access." **Events** are, well, just events! But with Tithe.ly, the events/calendar page is cleaner and more accessible. When we switch to our new E-blast format through Tithe.ly, you'll see that we have included weekly News and Events. And Events on the calendar can be added straight to your own Google calendar!

What does this mean for the staff? Fewer headaches and better organization/collaboration. The fact that the same program that hosts our E-blasts also hosts our calendar, news, events, sermons, and worship scheduling means that we can literally drag and drop all relevant information into our weekly newsletter. It. Is. Awesome.

How can you help us?

As is the case with learning any new software or program, we're sure we'll make mistakes. Please point them out to us. Let us know what you would like us to include in our E-blasts. If we could be presenting something in a more helpful or legible manner, let us know!



PRIDE MINISTRY UPDATE

This year the pride festival will be online only and will take place in September. That means that there will be no downtown festival. We fully intend to collaborate with and sponsor Stonewall as we do every other year. This just means we need to get creative! We may be able to raffle a quilt still, present them with music from our choir, and do some kind of collaborative video or audio projects. Stay tuned!

ZOOM and FACEBOOK SCHEDULES

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 ~ ~ ~

MONDAYS

Colter's Office Time 10am (Zoom)

TUESDAYS

Colter's Office Time 10am (Zoom)

Centering Prayer 4pm (Zoom)

Bible Study 5pm (Zoom)

WEDNESDAYS

Colter's Office Time 10am (Zoom)

THURSDAYS

Colter's Office Time 10am (Zoom)

Luke's Office Time 4pm (Zoom)

SUNDAYS

Worship 9:30am (Facebook Live)

Coffee Hour 10:30am (Zoom)

New Members Class 11am (Zoom)

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.

STAFF HOURS

Colter's Office Time

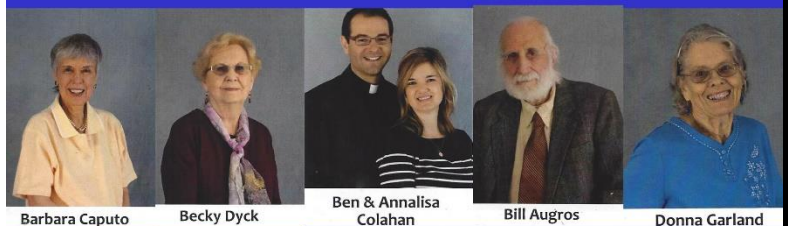
If you have questions about Social Ministry, youth, or outreach, please Zoom with Colter or email colter.g.murphy@gmail.com

Pastor Ben's Office Time

For your pastoral needs, Zoom with the pastor or email colahanb@gmail.com

Luke's Office Time

For worship or music questions or chat, Zoom with Luke or email lukenicolay1@gmail.com



2020 COVID-19 PRAYER GROUP



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.)

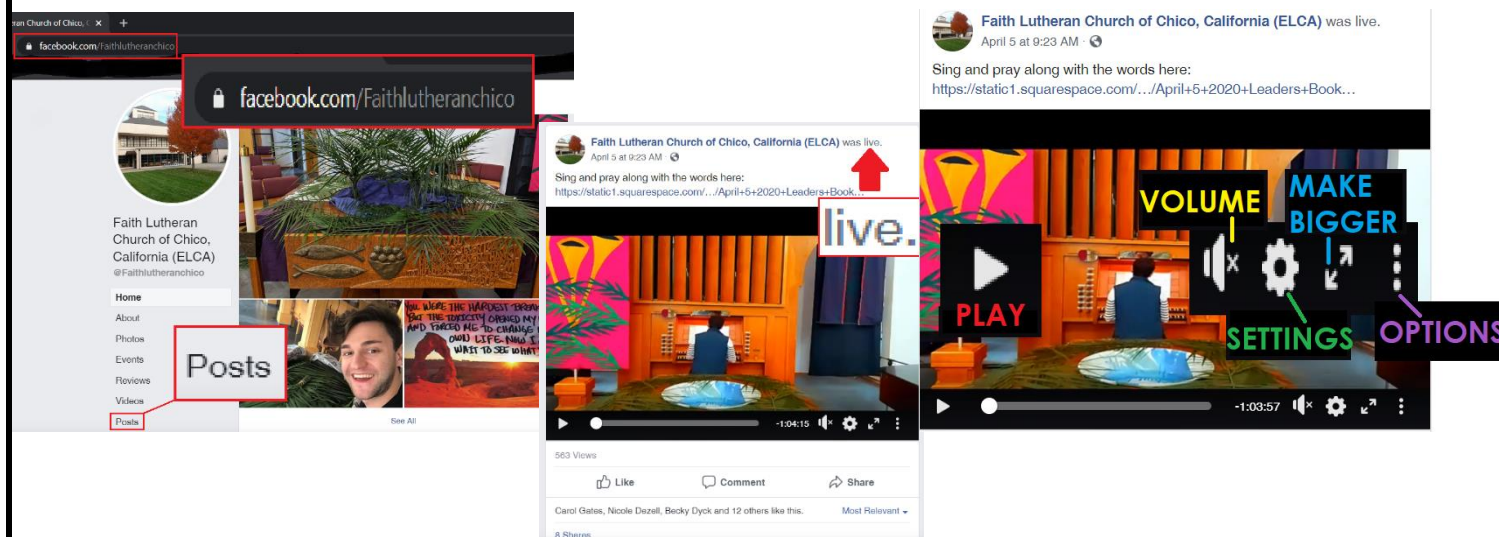
TUESDAY 5PM BIBLE STUDY - Each week Pastor Ben leads a Bible study on the passages of scripture that he'll be preaching on the following Sunday. This week he'll do it online, so now's a perfect time to check it out! To speak, you'll need a microphone on your computer, but you can also just listen. Go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

NEW MEMBERS CLASS 11:00AM - Our new members class continues, but in cyberspace! This week, we'll discuss the structure of the ELCA. 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

Go to [Facebook.com/Faithlutheranchico](https://www.facebook.com/Faithlutheranchico). Go to "Posts" (or to "Videos"). At 9:30am on Sunday, you will see our video LIVE! Make sure you click "Play" and make sure the speaker icon in the lower right-hand corner is turned on to hear the service (if it is off, it will have an X on it). The options on the lower right-hand corner let you adjust the volume, make the video larger, and more! We will figure this out together!!!



MINISTRY of the MONTH: HOSPITALITY

What is hospitality? Hospitality means welcoming other people into our homes... including our church! Hospitality is the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, and generous way, which is an important practice of life. Welcoming friends and family into our home is one of our favorite things to do, and providing a comfortable, enjoyable environment is much more important than feeling pressure to have a “perfect home.” We are perfectly imperfect, and simply enjoy spending time with the people we care about! If hospitality is one of your gifts, talk to Colter Murphy at colter.g.murphy@gmail.com and ask about joining one of the following ministry teams:

Welcome Table Team

What impresses you most when you visit a new church? Is it the music? A good sermon? The facilities? How about the people and the welcoming spirit of its members? The Equipping team is working on making this spirit a reality. An excellent example is our Welcome Table Team. Whether you are a guest or a member, we want you to know that we are glad you came; we’re available to answer your questions, offer a friendly handshake, and provide a hot cup of coffee that you can take with you into service. (Well, when our services meet in person!) We want to take the time to get to know you and find out ways in which you feel a meaningful connection to the Faith Lutheran family.



If you have a passion to meet people and be a part of God’s plan, growing and connecting people to the life of the church, we invite you to join our Welcome Table Team. This team serves before and after (our regular, non-quarantine) church services on Sundays. Once we resume face-to-face services, we will be distributing name tags to our members which will be located on our new kiosk, hand-crafted by our very own Ralph Godwin!



Coffee hour

Does the Welcome Table sound like a little too much hustle and bustle? Do you prefer to operate from behind the scenes? Then think about the joy you feel when you are in the kitchen making delicious snacks and coffee for your friends or newcomers! There is something so heartwarming about being able to talk with friends or getting to know visitors better over a cup of coffee. Join this ministry team if you like to see smiling faces and people enjoying their connection with others over a hot drink!

To see our other ministries, visit chicofaithlutheran.org

FINANCIAL REPORT

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 03/31/2020

	<u>Budget To Date</u>	<u>Actual To Date</u>	<u>Percent Of Budget</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$321,842.98	\$306,850.06	95.34%
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$320,403.00</u>	<u>\$298,253.36</u>	93.09%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$1,439.98	\$8,596.70	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/19		\$29,053.92	
Net Revenue through 03/31/2020		<u>\$8,596.70</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u><u>\$37,650.62</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.

Financially, things are looking good. Thank you for your sustained giving during this time of uncertainty and sequestration. 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. Keep it up.

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

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 31, 2020

(Virtually) Present: Colahan, Zimbelman, Sample, Kimmelshue, Heinz, Kimball. Absent: Diane Knight, Tricia Homesley, Cynthia Kampf, Meridith Woods.

1. Devotion-Led by Joel Zimbelman
2. Opening Prayer—Led by Pr. Ben
3. Approval of minutes from last meetings (both regular on 2-18 and special on 3-14. Attached)—Seconded and unanimously approved.
4. Financial Update-Mark Kimmelshue. No formal financial report for March since we are still in the month; but a full report will be presented in a couple of weeks at the Exec meeting and at the next Council meeting.
5. Scheduling of services and activities going forward, including a report of online attendance so far—Pr. Ben discussed the first two online services and plans for web page access and facebook access to future services through the end of the month of April, including all Holy Week services. Also discussed were other activities at FLC that have gone online/Zoom, and their effectiveness. Sunday services in particular have brought out
6. Proposed budget—an update from Mark Kimmelshue in the form of a spreadsheet was shared, and discussion of what else is needed to put a recommended budget together. The line item budget was circulated, and Kimmelshue invited comments now and in the coming weeks on the budget.
7. Selection of person(s) for nominating committee—Raquel Krach is unable to fulfill this role because of medical reasons, and so the Exec Committee agreed to take on the role of Nominating Committee.
8. Updates: Security patrol update—Zimbelman will be discussing start to security services later this week with Mike Hahn of Elite Universal Security (note: EUS began the contract on April 2, and is giving us incident reports as they occur) Office remodel update-completion of the walls, electrical, carpet, and incidentals will be completed this week. Invoices are arriving and will be paid as agreed. Signage update—hope to have final approval given for work later this week, and signs up in April, though the current isolation order is slowing things down a bit. But Zimbelman will stay in contact with sign folks. Office Software Update—approved new software for office management per Pr. Ben's recommendation, and buy-in from office folks. Additional audio-visual equipment for the sanctuary—discussion of possible cameras for future ongoing broadcast of worship and other events, to be integrated into the new sound system. Zimbelman will discuss with Tri-Path when work resumes on this after our annual meeting pending approval.
9. Recommendation regarding voluntary designation of US treasury refunds—Pr. Ben suggested that we ask congregants who feel that they don't need their treasury stipends to donate them to the church where they will be reallocated to individuals that might need additional funds. General approval for the concept, and we will let Pr. Ben gauge presentation to the congregation.
10. Future dates/meetings were approved as follows, with face-to-face or online status to be determined based on shelter in place orders and health recommendations.
11. No other business. Closing Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Joel Zimbelman

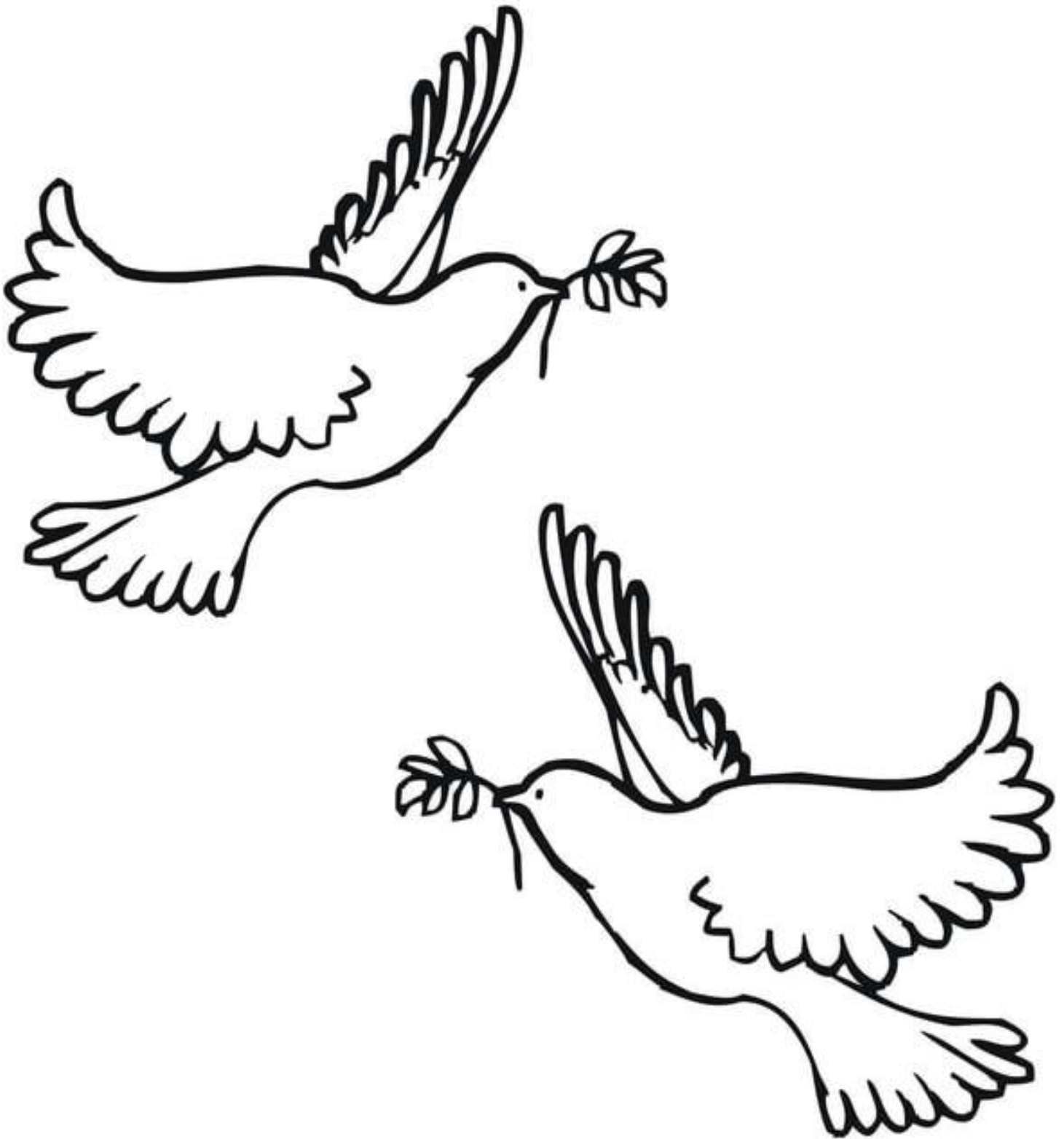
DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Committee Meetings: April 9, April 23, May 9

Council Meeting: May 12

Annual Congregation Meeting: ~~May 17~~ Rescheduled for June 28

COLORING PAGE FOR KIDS!*



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

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