

# FAITH TALKS

FEBRUARY 2020



Worship Sundays at 9:30am

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### ROSES

**BOB BAY** for all of his hard work and dedication toward the repair of our organ as well as creating the seating diagram for our sanctuary

**ELISE GLADU, MIKE KRUSCHKE and JANINE RUSH** for their intrepid service toward Safe Space Winter Shelter; and to everyone who volunteered their time, or donated socks/supplies


**DON HEINZ** for hosting our F.A.C.E. classes

**SARAH ERICKSON** for her Mount Cross Presentation

**OUR JEDI CHAPERONES** Doug DeSoto, Andrew Lavin and Taron Zilch

**MARK KIMMELSHUE** for changing our hard-to-reach lightbulbs

**THE SEARCH COMMITTEE** for the hours and hours they poured into finding a Director of Worship and Music



**STAFF AWAY TIME:** Pastor Ben will be out of the office from February 10-13 at a continuing education workshop. Michael will be on vacation from February 3-6 in the beautiful, faraway land of Chico, CA. Please see Joel or Janine at the office that week.

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE



### ***NEW DIRECTOR of WORSHIP and MUSIC!***

It is my pleasure to announce that the council voted to accept the unanimous recommendation of the Search Team and offer the position of Director of Worship and Music to Luke Nicolay.

Luke holds two master's degrees from the University of Kansas, one in organ and one in choral conducting. Currently Luke serves as the Music Director at Peace Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Kansas City, Missouri. There he leads two worship services with music that ranges from Renaissance choral works and handbell choir to contemporary praise.

But Luke's greatest asset is not his resumé, it's his personality. The Search Team spent Monday through Friday with our two finalists, most days picking them up at 8am for breakfast and dropping them off after 8pm. In between we took the candidates to see everything in Chico from sitting down with guests at the Jesus Center, going on a hike in Upper Park, touring CSU, eating at Sierra Nevada, and of course, rehearsing with the musicians at Faith. We dedicated this time in part so that the candidates would get to know us and Chico, but also that we would see what it was like to spend large amounts of time with the candidates. What we discovered is that spending 12 hours a day with anyone is exhausting. But with Luke, even when we were dead-tired, we would find ourselves smiling. Luke has a joyful spirit combined with humility and an eagerness to learn. This spirit brought out a playfulness in both the Search Team and the choir.



Late into the night and early the next morning, the Search Team was excited to brainstorm and kick around possibilities with Luke about what we could create together in worship. Choir rehearsal was punctuated by laughter that disarmed the group and gave us both the confidence to sing out and the openness to receive Luke's direction. At the end of rehearsal not only did the choir sound really good, people left saying how much they enjoyed the experience.

Luke has accepted our job offer and will begin on February 24<sup>th</sup>, just in time for Ash Wednesday. It will take time for Luke to get the full feel for Faith Lutheran, figure out our various systems, and help us improve them. But from our time together and talking to his references, the Search Team feels confident that Luke will be a hard worker, a fast learner, and a joy to collaborate with. So please take time to get to know Luke, share with him the various ways you serve Christ here at Faith, and ask how you might support each other as we move into our next chapter of worshipping and praising God together.

In the meantime, please join me in sharing your gratitude for the incredible work that our Musical Transition Team of Margaret McMillan, Linda Zimbelman, Christine Buckstead, and Daun Weiss, have been doing.

And from the bottom of my heart, thank you to the Search Team of Janine Rush, Bill Kees, Raquel Krach, Ted Sandberg, Daun Weiss, and Margaret McMillan for their hard work, dedication, and prayerful discernment.

We are blessed to be surrounded by such good and faithful servants of the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Ben Colahan



## LETTER from the PRESIDENT



Every church council has its tasks set by the immediate demands and the long-term vision of its congregation. Councils pretty much have to deal with the cards they are dealt; time, energy, and financial resources have to go to needs and larger commitments to the mission of the church. Our previous Council worked largely on the challenges of professional staffing and physical plant—exploring our strengths and resources; hiring four new staff (some into newly created positions) and keeping our 30-40 year-old buildings supporting our mission. I know Raquel and the great people she worked with constantly miss those days!

As we head into the third decade of this century and the eighth decade of our church's founding, this Council is also working to prepare and equip us for the demanding ministries that will occupy us in the coming years. In the coming months we hope to explore emerging opportunities for ministry in Chico and beyond, and steward our church property as the hub of that service. As we read the Gospel of Matthew in the lectionary this year, we need to ask the question: "what does Jesus expect from us in our present situation in Chico?" What does it mean for our work on behalf of Christ to be the only ELCA Church in Chico, and one of only about a dozen congregations in the center of town? What sorts of mission opportunities are created by our changing membership, the neighborhood we live in, and the neighbors that live around us? Will the Camp Fire, increasing homelessness, the financial pressures on young families, and the changing makeup of Chico's population inform how we think about our mission to this community? Does our stable financial situation give us opportunities for ministry that might not be available to other struggling congregations? Based on our many rich conversations over the past few years—and in light of the "new normal" of life in Chico—the **Church Council is spending this year developing a new mission statement** for Faith. We will discuss this more in the Spring, but that statement will be important in helping us decide what to say "no" to (to the things that we won't take on and the type of church we won't be) so that we can say "yes" to an identity and an agenda that really expresses what it means to be God's people here and now.

I am hopeful that by the time you read this note we will be well on our way to filling the position of Director of Music vacated just a couple months ago by Kevin. I want to give my heartfelt thanks to the hard work that **Janine and the Music Director Call Committee** have put in to selecting finalists, conducting interviews, selling Chico, and revealing the rich spirit and beauty of our Faith Lutheran community. So many great talents have worked to fill the gap left by Kevin—including Daun, Christine, Margaret, Linda, and musicians and members of all stripes and specialties. Your efforts and commitment are on display every week, and we could not have made it through the past two months without your help!

Visitors who come to our church (including new families, those seeking assistance, delivery and service people, individuals attending classes, musical groups using our space) often struggle to figure out where to go for their meetings, classes, worship, and fellowship. It's surprisingly easy to get lost in the middle (or is it muddle) of our three buildings and three parking lots! We are about to **install a new signage system** for the church grounds; clear messages that will invite people into our familiar space rather than confusing them as they wander around trying to connect. And we will continue to work to upgrade the paint, lighting, furniture, and various spaces on our property for those who work, worship, and learn here.

The **Equipping Ministry Team** (who you will hear from in early March during a Sunday morning FACE class) have been working diligently on the design of welcoming and hospitality activities (they were the brains behind the Christmas Eve welcoming tent and the many cups of cider and coffee I consumed). They are also designing new member name tags to make it easier to get to know all those “strangers” who are part of our church. Those name tags--coupled with a new member directory and more active recruiting of members and guests into ministries where they want to serve--is one important part of keeping this church alive, relevant, and inviting. You can be sure that you'll be approached in the coming months by members of this ministry team to consider new ways to serve, connect, and grow.

Our **Columbarium Committee** (especially Bob and Susan) has spearheaded a revitalization of our columbarium and garden. New teak benches have been assembled and installed; a seating area established (with more tables and plants to come); exploration of an expansion of the number of columbarium niches is underway (we only have a very few left in the old structure); and landscaping and irrigation will undergo a refresh as we move into the coming year. This is one of our most important and supportive ministries at Faith--even though it is out of sight and out of mind for most of us. The gardens and space back there, however, are beautiful and can be used by anyone looking for some tranquil and reflective space on our busy campus.

Our sanctuary is brighter these days after **Mark Kimmelshue installed new LED bulbs** in the heritage shades in our sanctuary (for those of you who are new to Faith, these stained glass works of art came into the new sanctuary thirty years ago from our old sanctuary building). This lighting should help musicians and speakers read their musical and written notes, and we will have more control over the range of light that we can take advantage of in our worship space.

Our largest capital project this year will be **a new sound system for our sanctuary**. The existing system is now quite old, harder to service, and not as effective as it could be—for worship, but also for lectures, concerts, weddings, funerals, and other events. In the coming months we will begin rewiring the sanctuary, moving to more wireless mics, installing a new sound board (with a contract for diligently training technicians on its use), adding a speaker to the pulpit, piping speakers into the cry room and the nursery, and upgrading the wireless connections to all buildings.

In addition, we are going to install new AV, public address, and speaker systems in the Fellowship Hall and in our newly designated AV/Theatre viewing Room 6. All of these improvements will give us greater versatility with our spaces, improvements in listening experiences, and facilitate ease of use by preachers, lectors, musicians, teachers, and guests.

Blessings on all of you in the coming months. Our **Safe Space Ministry** in January has given us a wonderful start to our continuing mission of service to Chico; and I look forward to a busy and blessed year. Lots of great opportunities for fellowship and service are knit into the fabric of this community. Take some time to see what it has to offer, and join in the dance!

Joel Zimbelman, Council Chair



## MT. SHASTA SKI RETREAT – YOUTH EVENT

Friday, February 21 through Sunday, February 23, 3:30 departure

Enjoy a fun weekend in the mountains, complete with a whole day of skiing or snowboarding, plenty of time for games, delicious food, and amazing accommodation at the Francis family cabin in nearby Dunsuir. We'll have a small worship service together on Sunday morning before heading back to Chico. All levels of skiing/snowboarding experience are welcome! Please contact Colter Murphy for details at (530) 895-3754.

## SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

### February 2 – **SAFE SPACE**

- 9:30a HOLY COMMUNION
- 11:00a Coffee Hour
- FACE Class: *Christ in Crisis* with Don Heinz
- 1:00p Asylum Sponsorship Meeting

### February 9 – **Scouts will join us for worship!**

- 9:30a HOLY COMMUNION
- 11:00a Women's Ministry Bake Sale & Boutique
- FACE Class: *Christ in Crisis* with Don Heinz

### February 16

- 9:30a HOLY COMMUNION
- 11:00a Coffee Hour
- FACE Class: Gospel of Matthew

### February 23

- 9:30a HOLY COMMUNION
- 11:00a Coffee Hour
- FACE Class: Gospel of Matthew



### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY BAKE SALE on SUNDAY the 9th**

It's that time again-the annual Faith Valentine Bake Sale on Sunday, February 9.

Calling all bakers and kitchen creators to add your delicious pies, cakes, candies, etc. All are welcome and gratefully accepted. Also, Boutique items made by the quilters and crafters will be available for sale. Proceeds will be used for 2 scholarships for our graduating students and Paratransit bus tickets to help members to attend services. Be sure to purchase a sweet for your Valentine.

### **SCOUTS at CHURCH on SUNDAY the 9th**

On February 9th, the scouts that use our church to hold their meetings will join us for worship. They will assist with a variety of tasks before and during worship, and will hang out in the parish hall during coffee hour to chat and share more about all that they do. Please give them the classic Faith Lutheran welcome!

### **MINISTRY SCHEDULER PRO – PLEASE UPDATE!**

On February 17th, we will be commencing our next round of scheduling, which will begin on March 1st and continue through May 31st. If you plan on serving with the same ministries, please update your available dates in the scheduler. This is a great chance to try out a new ministry too! If you're interested, write your name on the sign up sheet in the parish hall. Also, if you've been considering taking a break from your current ministry, this is the time to do so. Contact Colter if you wish to be removed from, or put on momentary hiatus from a particular ministry.

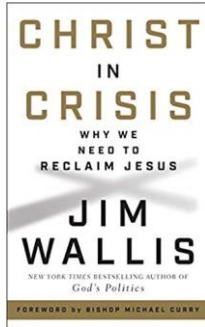
### **ASYLUM-SEEKER MEETING FEBRUARY 2nd at 1PM in the SANCTUARY**

Folks from Faith Lutheran, First Baptist, Trinity Methodist, and from our community have been gathering over the past few months to explore the possibility of sponsoring a person seeking asylum in the U.S. or an asylum seeking family. At the last meeting, it was determined that more information was needed about what this might look like for our community. Therefore, this meeting will include informative presentations to help us make the best decision possible. All are welcome to join the meeting.



## F.A.C.E. CLASSES this MONTH

### ***Christ in Crisis: Why we need to reclaim Jesus* – February 2 and 9**



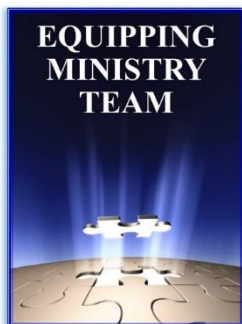
Join us for a study of Jim Wallace's new book *Christ in Crisis* led by Donald Heinz. Just off the press in September, Wallace argues that for far too long we've ceded the power and person of Jesus to political movements with no ambitions toward His radical love. As Lutherans and Christians, reclaiming Jesus is not only our responsibility, it is necessary now more than ever. Jim Wallis clearly lays out the questions we each must answer in order to tread the pathway toward His reclamation. This is a book for right now, for all God's people.

### **Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew – February 16 and 23**

One of the four Gospels, Matthew's story is one of the most beloved in the New Testament. Even if you have read it and heard it preached a hundred times, the text seems new and alive and fresh in each encounter. Join us for a short and fast moving interactive and reflective study of this gospel, which is also the lectionary reading of the Church for this coming year (we will be reading Matthew each Sunday during 2020)!



### **HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR EQUIPPING MINISTRY?**



Your EQUIPPING MINISTRY TEAM will be conducting two Sunday morning FACE classes after worship on **March 1<sup>st</sup>** and **March 8<sup>th</sup>**. March 1<sup>st</sup> will give you an overview by team members about the goals and direction the team will be headed over the next 6 months to 3 years. 16 people have generously agreed to give of their time to make this area of ministry both exciting and fun! Please plan on attending (and there is always room for more to join the fun!) On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be diving in a little deeper talking about the art of invitation, importance of vocabulary as it relates to culture, and the reasons the Equipping Team is undertaking what it is. Questions? Please contact Pastor Ben, Colter, or Kim and Mary Schweder (714) 803-4060 or email at: [kim.schweder@thejoyfactor.net](mailto:kim.schweder@thejoyfactor.net)

Future 2020 FACE Classes: Lenten New Members' Classes, "The Equipping Church" equipping ministry events, study of *A New Ancient Harmony: A Celtic Vision for the Journey into Wholeness* by John Phillip Newell, Rise Against Hunger, and May's annual meeting.

# WORSHIP MINISTRY SCHEDULE

*Please check the online Ministry Scheduler for the most up-to-date schedule.  
If you need assistance accessing the online schedule, contact Colter at (530) 895-3754.*

	FEBRUARY 2	FEBRUARY 9
ASSISTING MIN	Meridith Woods	Sherrill Heinz
AUDIO/VISUAL	Phil Rowberg	Dan Solomon
COFFEE HOUR	Dax and Karen Kimmelshue	Kelsey Cacace, Dawn Stafford
CHILD CARE	Kelsey Cacace	
COMMUNION	Sherrill Heinz, Tricia Homesley, Vickie James, Char Miller, Dorothy Nelson, Caryl Quinones, Kit Robinson, Bob and Cindy Stewart, Marge Troester	Molly Barnum, Leanne and Mark Chrisman, Janice Heckerson, Vickie James, Penny Melvin, Denise Parkin, Kit Robinson, Becky Rouse, Dianna Snyder
GREETERS	Tricia Homesley, Evelyn Knight	Kim and Mary Schweder
HEALING PRAYER	Jackie Roessel	Bill Kees
LECTOR	Franklin Quinones-Schott	Oscar Sample
SACRISTAN	Leanne Chrisman	Sherri Kimmelshue
USHERS	Travis Johnson, Susan Kimball	Carol Grandy, Tina Solomon
	FEBRUARY 16	FEBRUARY 23
ASSISTING MIN	Janine Rush	Raquel Krach
AUDIO/VISUAL	Leo Weiss	Greg Massa
COFFEE HOUR	Jill and Rick Bentler	Elise Gladu, Michael Kruschke
CHILD CARE	Kelsey Cacace	Kelsey Cacace, Becky Rouse
COMMUNION	Beth Bradley, Gen and Robert Brink-Capriola, Becky Dyck, Lisa Emmerich, Carl and Faye Johnson, Caryl Quinones, Dianna Snyder, Taron Zilch	Carol Gates, Elaine Lund, Grace Mahannah, Kyle Martin, Char Miller, Cyla Nelson, Dorothy Nelson, Denise Parkin, Sharon Prindle, Judy Struck
GREETERS	Dave Barnum, Betty Whitmore	Iva Bryson, Evelyn Knight
HEALING PRAYER	Carolyn Kees	Sky Sample
LECTOR	David Rush	Marny Jolliffe
SACRISTAN	Molly Barnum	Sherri Kimmelshue
USHERS	Howard and Lynette Stensrud	Rob and Sophia Randolph

## TABLES for EIGHT SIGN UPS!

**Sign-ups have begun**, and first-time gatherings will begin in mid to late February. Tables for 8 are groups of eight individuals, both couples and singles, who meet in homes to become better acquainted with one another and to share fun, food and fellowship. If you are new to Faith Lutheran or if you simply enjoy being with those who share common Christian beliefs, take a moment and sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, contact Lynette Stensrud at 530-896-0616 or 530-966-7004 (text only) or by email at [lynettes0815@gmail.com](mailto:lynettes0815@gmail.com). We look forward to having you join us!



## ASH WEDNESDAY



Kick off Lent in style with us on Wednesday, February 26! Brief morning service at 7am. At 4pm, come and enjoy our Carnival, with games, music, crafts, and a BOUNCY CASTLE!!! The scouts that use our church to hold their meetings will cook pancakes for dinner as a fundraiser for their pack. Service to follow at 7pm.

### FEBRUARY 26

ASSISTING MIN  
AUDIO/VISUAL  
COMMUNION

Meridith Woods  
Leo Weiss  
Molly Barnum, Deanne Blankenship, Becky Dyck, Janice Heckerson, Vickie James, Michelle Marrs, Bonnie Pulliam, Bob and Cindy Stewart, Marge Troester  
Susan Kimball, Barb Torgerson  
Jamie Holmes  
Bill Augros  
Travis Johnson, Matt Reed

GREETERS  
LECTOR  
SACRISTAN  
USHERS

## MINISTRY of the MONTH

You may be wondering why we have seen several videos about Stephen Ministry at the end of announcements. The Equipping Ministry team has noticed that new members (and sometimes those of us who have been around a little longer) don't always know what all of our Ministry Teams do or even what those Teams are. As a way to invite all of us to use the gifts that God has so graciously given us, we have started "Ministry/ministries of the month." This is one way to describe some of the ways we practice our gifts. This a way to recognize and show all these ministers how much we appreciate their hard work. Listen to the prayers and pray with us for all those many children of God who are doing his work, and if you feel like that work is something you might like to do then please join us. (Cont.)

## ***Stephen Ministry – December/January***



Did you noticed that in December and January we learned what Stephen Ministry was about, saw some great videos, prayed for our Stephen Ministers, and introduced them to our congregation? “Tell me again, ‘What do Stephen Ministers do?’” We all need someone who is objective and non-judgmental to talk to when we are going through difficult times. Stephen Ministers are those people who give their time and listen to your feelings; they care for you and show you how much God loves you by offering prayer, support and encouragement. When you see our Stephen Ministers around, be sure to thank them for their commitment to this ministry. If you are going through troubled times or if you would like to serve as a Stephen Minister, please contact Jamie Holmes or Pastor Ben.

## ***Safe Space Winter Shelter - January***

*I was hungry and you gave me something to eat  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink  
I was a stranger and you invited me in  
Matt 25:35*

These last two weeks, we have housed approximately 50 people who had no place to sleep in this cold, wet weather thanks to Safe Space. Another thank you to approximately 70 members of Faith who opened their doors and housed, fed, and served these strangers with love.



## ***Torres Shelter - February***

Our family has been serving at Torres Shelter for many years. It has been part of our family's life to serve. As our two boys grew up I feel it has been good for their "life understanding" to serve there. They saw that the homeless people are just people who have fallen on difficult times. It has been good for our family to see that the people who reside at the Torres Shelter are very appreciative of the warm meal, the roof over their heads, showers, support and even comradery with others in the same situation. They are not alone. It is a true warm fuzzy to be appreciated for doing something that is so easy to do.



However, to take it in another direction, it is a day-long commitment. The menu has to be decided upon, call the shelter to see how many folks will be eating that night to determine how much food to purchase then purchase the food, prepare the food, set up the serving area, and lastly, the actual serving. None of these tasks are hard to do, but they all must be done. The shelter has a cleanup crew so we no longer have to do cleanup. We have been doing this approximately four times a year.

We would like to invite folks/families to join us in this ministry. As you all know we are a church that likes to serve and this is an excellent way to do so. We experience such a feeling of joy and compassion to serve these children of God by helping at the Torres Shelter.

If you feel drawn to this ministry it would be easy to get a taste of the process by just helping to serve with one of the groups. FLC is responsible for the first Tuesday of each month. FLC provides the funding by giving us access to the Cash and Carry card. It would be wonderful to have you join and share in this ministry.

Sky Sample

## ***Jesus Center - February***

My husband and myself are long time Lutherans and feel that we are called to minister and serve our community. One of those opportunities has been serving breakfast at the Jesus Center here in Chico. We served early on a Saturday morning and found that the staff at the center were very organized and we were able to fill in and help serve as the clients came through the line. We greeted them and gave them a hot meal which they were very appreciative. I especially liked that other clients worked alongside us, and we always felt welcomed. As we left, we both discussed when we could sign up again because we had such a good experience and felt we received more from the clients than we gave.



Mary Schweder

## LETTER from KAGITUMBA

Dear Friends, greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and savior and I pray that May the Spirit of the new year shine upon of you and your families.

After that, I am writing to inform you that Rev. Mukama Eddy Santos is the new parish pastor of Kagitumba parish. And Pastor Robert Mukundane who was Parish pastor of Kagitumba was blessed to get full scholarship to study theology at Iringa University for 4 years.

Therefore Rev Mukama Eddy Santos will be responsible in all responsibilities regarding pastoral work, communication and social activities as well. He will be working hand in hand with LCR head office and Kagitumba Parish sisters faithfully. His email address is ([mukamaeddy@gmail.com](mailto:mukamaeddy@gmail.com))

May God bless you all,

Bishop Mugabo

## PSALM CHICO 2019

On Christmas Day, the people of Faith Lutheran gave thanks for the ways in which Christ had been born in our community in 2019 by writing a psalm together based on the structure and themes of Psalm 98.

Sing to the Lord a new song  
For he has done marvelous things;  
God has shown himself in Chico

Let us pray in thanksgiving  
Proclaim the good news of what God  
has done

God has fed the hungry  
Full and empty have shared a meal

Share the blessings, O Chico  
Multiply the gifts, Butte County

Through the flames the Lord has carried his  
people  
Building new communities from the  
ashes

The leaves have fallen, laying down their  
beauty before the Lord  
Their multitude is but a fraction of  
God's gifts.

The shepherd has gathered his scattered  
flock.  
Those who were once separated  
celebrate under a shared roof

God will walk with us  
And be our ever-present help.

God revealed his generosity and love  
Through the gifts sent by the nations.  
The hardest heart burst forth with  
giving

Amen





## CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Faith Lutheran Church

General Fund Finances as of 12/31/19

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$219,803.43	\$219,281.57	99.76%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	\$213,602.00	\$197,360.25	92.40%
<b>NET INCOME/(LOSS)</b>	\$6,201.43	\$21,921.32	

Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/19

\$29,053.92

Net Revenue through 12/31/19

\$21,921.32

Ending General Fund Balance

\$50,975.24

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.

As is usually the case, December was a very good month with income to date being right at projections and expensed being less than projected. This leaves us with a good cushion as we move into the second half of the fiscal year.

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](mailto:kimmelshue@armcorice.com)

Council minutes from January will be available in next month's edition of Faith Talks.

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
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**Council Members:** Sherrill Heinz, Meredith Woods, Susan Kimball,  
Tricia Nickerson, Cynthia Kampf

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

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