



Faith Talks

April 2021

SUNDAY 9:30AM WORSHIP

RSVP FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP OR JOIN US ONLINE

OUTDOOR EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT 7AM

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Staff Away Time

Pastor Ben will be on vacation from Monday, April 12 to Sunday, April 18.

Pastor Ben will be at a conference from Monday, April 26 to Wednesday, April 28.

Roses

To Annalisa's Pregnancy.

To the A/V team and the Worship Planning team.

To the Quilters for making dozens of hand-crafted pillow cases for the Jesus Center.

To everybody who came to our Spring Break youth events.

To our amazing FLC and Chico community vaccine clinic volunteers.

To all those who have ministered throughout the pandemic to maintain strong and meaningful connections with others.

Pastor's Article

RESURRECTION



Resurrection takes time. Jesus spent three days in the tomb before he came out again. Our resurrection as a society and a congregation will take time as well. With increasing numbers of people vaccinated in Butte County, the number of Covid cases is dropping rapidly. As I write this, Butte is in the "Red Tier" of California's Covid scale which means that the state believes we can reasonably hold in-door worship with 25% capacity.

For us that means 89 total people in the sanctuary. And while I am incredibly excited to see your faces and preach to a congregation instead of a camera, I also know that returning to in-person worship won't be a return to pre-pandemic worship, at least not right away. So long as we are in the Red Tier, we'll need people to RSVP for worship, check in at the door, have their temperature checked, and wear masks. Hopefully we'll soon get to Orange Tier and will no longer need to RSVP, but masking will still be necessary. Hardest of all, in both Red and Orange Tiers, we still won't be able to sing together, won't be able hug during the passing of the peace, and won't get to share food at coffee hour.

But there will come a day, I pray in the not-too-distant future, when the county tells us it is safe to take off our masks, to hug, share coffee, and sing together. When that day comes, it will be challenging in a whole new way.

Resurrection takes time. When the disciples learn that Jesus has defeated death, they initially continue to hide in a room with locked doors. And with good reason, outside those doors are the people who killed Jesus! We have spent over a year learning to be cautious. We have spent a year training our bodies not to come close, to always wear a mask, to avoid crowded areas.

And with good reason! We have been trying to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. As official restrictions ease, each of us will grow in comfort at a different pace. May we support each other in our varying degrees of comfort and caution.

Faith Lutheran will strive to minister to people across the spectrum of caution. Starting April 11th, we will have the

opportunity for people to worship in the sanctuary at 9:30am, but we will continue to broadcast that 9:30am service online indefinitely. We are starting to allow small groups to meet in our building, but we will continue to connect with folks quarantining at home via phone calls and deliveries.

I ask that you also love one another in your differences of Covid caution. Continue to do the hard but important work of talking to each other about what makes each person feel safe, so that when we are together, we can be fully present instead of distracted by discomfort. Defer to those who may need to be more cautious due to lack of vaccination, health conditions, or vulnerable family members.

The disciples spend 50 days after Easter waiting before the Holy Spirit drive them out into the world on the day of Pentecost. It may take us even longer to get to place where all of us feel confident going forth into the world and into our sanctuary all together. Resurrection takes time. May we use this time to grow in our trust of one another and live into our mission to be a *community reflecting God's love, with a place at the table for everyone*. Amen.

**Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan**

Please RSVP for worship at chicofaithlutheran.org/events
or by calling the office at (530) 895-3754

President's Note

ENDINGS



Paul's letter to the Philippians is one of my favorites. Paul sees all of his physical and spiritual efforts as part of the great work of redemption Christ has generously bestowed on him but not yet perfected: "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but **I press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it." (3:12-13a). Paul is a study in clear-eyed realism, but also action, commitment, and diligence. Like a cross-country runner, the Greek verb *Diōkō* suggests that a fast-paced chase is underway!

Faith Lutheran Church is in its own race to the finish these days. We're nearing the end of some significant trials and challenges as a community that is starting to turn the corner on the Covid pandemic. It's not been an easy time for anyone, and many of us have lost loved ones, cherished time with family, and perhaps our sense of freedom to move around at will. But signs of a spring opening are appearing (including outdoor sunrise worship on Easter). Vaccination rates are swelling. Sighs of relief can be heard across Zoom and when we occasionally get together for lunch or coffee with family and friends. We have just put the finishing touches on our new church audio-visual system with links to the grow room, nursery, and hearing assist devices. Our staff and musicians never looked and sounded so good.



We're also coming to the end of our church fiscal year where we take stock of our financial status as a community. And we are nearing the end of the first third of our

\$400,000 Stewardship Campaign. Reports will be forthcoming on both of these at our Annual Meeting on May 23. We've had few serious financial challenges this past year; some good fortune in maintenance; and overwhelmingly we have been enriched by the generosity and consistency of your

financial support. We could not have held this community together without your prayers, presence, tithes, and gifts.

Luke finishes out his first year as kapellmeister. We're getting ready to say goodbye to our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud (who is heading back to parish ministry). And in a few weeks we will be turning the reins of leadership of the Church Council over to

some new officers—stay tuned for the details on this transition in the coming weeks.

We are also in the final weeks of Colter's ministry at Faith Lutheran (you will be sorely missed Colter!). As the council looks to fill Colter's shoes, our priority is in finding a youth director who can have a long tenure at Faith and be a consistent presence in the life of our children. As such, the council has approved multiple job descriptions in order to cast as wide a net as possible. When the search team finds the candidate they believe will be the best long-term fit for Faith, the council will adjust the job description to best fit the skills and passions of the candidate. Hopefully in May, families with children will have the chance to meet the top candidates and give their feedback.

Some endings are more bittersweet or harder than others. And endings always imply and animate new beginnings. Paul's old life, as he tells us, ended in death, but a new life was born of hope, optimism, grace, and thanksgiving. Though we are unlikely to be struck to the ground on the road to Damascus (or even Durham!), it is important that we embrace Paul's posture as we approach Holy Week and then prepare to start a new year with Pentecost and the months beyond. There are events to be commemorated; some things to be forgotten; much new work to be done; and new relationships to be built and nurtured. I pray that your future will hold joy, gratitude, and transformation beyond your wildest prayers.

Joel Zimbelman, Council President

The Trip Report

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JESUS CENTER FARM

One of my favorite times of year is right now, when everything is greening up and the growing season really takes off. On March 16th, our youth had a chance to get outside and enjoy a beautiful day at the Jesus Center farm.



The farm is leased to the Jesus Center by Faith members Mike and Elise, and is managed by Ali McMorrow. It's on Hegan Lane, right by the railroad tracks. They provide fresh vegetables to be used in the Jesus Center kitchen. Additionally, community members can participate in the farm's CSA (community supported agriculture). CSA participants receive a box of vegetables every week, depending on what is in season. This allows the program to have consistent income, and provides tasty, seasonal vegetables. The farm is also a place where Jesus Center clients can gain work experience.

Ali's approach to running the farm is based on sustainable agriculture practices. She doesn't till the soil at all, and instead regularly adds manure, compost, and mulch to her rows. In between rows, she picks and chooses which weeds to pull. Some weeds, like vetch and oat grass, add essential nutrients to the soil.

After an introduction to the farm from Ali, our youth got busy. Three rows needed a layer of compost added on top, which meant pulling drip irrigation lines to the side, hauling wheelbarrows of compost, and spreading with a shovel or rake. Once the compost was on, we put the drip lines back on top of the rows and staked them down again. Other youth

wandered through the rows harvesting veggies for the upcoming CSA boxes. They pulled radishes, pinched the ends off of pea plants, picked pansies, and cut broccoli.

As folks do while completing a task, conversation and laughter happened naturally. I enjoyed watching Kortney Stafford and her friend Gigi learn from Ali as she showed them which plants to harvest and which ones to watch out for. Levi Sautner and his friend Jackson got a little bored, so I sent them on a few footraces around the farm to burn off some steam. Jon Stafford, Ryan Day, and his wife Denise worked hard hauling wheelbarrows of compost and weeding the rows.

Sooner than it seemed, it was time for us to wrap up our tasks and gather together. We stood around our bins of harvested veggies with pride, looking at all we had done. It felt so good to be outside, caring for creation, and connecting with the things we eat. Certainly, metaphors relating gardening and our faith abound, but for me, it was enough to just smile and say "God is good!"

- Colter Murphy, Dir. Youth & Service

Interested in spending time volunteering at the Jesus Center Farm? Farm manager Ali McMorrow is always looking for more folks to lend a hand. Email her at Ali@BCLocalFood.org

If you want to join Colter and the youth on their next adventure, or if you have an idea for a future trip, send Colter an email at colter@chicofaithlutheran.org



**BUILD TINY HOMES
FOR CAMP FIRE SURVIVORS
April 24 in Oroville from 9am-3pm**

Put your carpentry skills to use helping provide shelter to those who lost everything in the Camp Fire. Tools and safety equipment provided. Make sure to bring lunch, we'll work for most of the day! Please RSVP with Colter.

Luke's Letter

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! What joyful and renewing words to hear. I always enjoy spring and the promise of new life, rebirth, and renewal; and also, for the beauty that we see each and every day—from the flowing almond orchards to the waters of the creeks and rivers. It seems to be especially true during these pandemic times, that renewal is much needed. It's comforting to know, however, that we serve the true, risen Lord and that there is abundant love and renewal for all.

Lent and Easter were truly momentous for us this year. Last year, if you will recall, we were just starting pandemic, things were closing and there were a lot of unknowns. We came together online for Lent and Easter and participated in moving and creative services that featured art, music, cinematography, powerful messages, and ways for us to still take part in serving one-another, even during covid. This year we continued to create new ways to worship. We crafted a font that fed, nourished and watered the wilderness, we incorporated music, poetry, and art throughout Lent, we tried new things, and most importantly we were the church reflecting God's love with a place at the table for all. What a beautiful thing that is—to reflect God's love for each other and for our community and to be inviting of all people. I want to thank each and every musician, artist, and creative mind that helped with the planning and carrying-out of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. There's a lot that goes on behind-the-scenes and each of you make it possible. Not only is it possible, but it's a joy to be able to safely work with each of you, get to know you, and to share in the joys of praising our Great Creator together.



This month of April will be a wonderful one as we transition back to in-person worship on Sunday, April 11th (Second Sunday of Easter). As many of you have noticed we've got lots to do to prep for this return. I'm asking for your help with this—if you are able, please contact me (luke@chicofaithlutheran.org) to set up your Elvanto profile if you have not already or have any questions. About 3-4 weeks ago a message went out to you from Elvanto and there was also a notice in the e-blast with instructions on how to do this. Elvanto is the new program that we're using to assist with Sunday Morning worship team roles, management of the church website, and more. It's a great tool and a wonderful resource. If you have any questions, concerns, or just need some help, I'm here to help you out! My email is mentioned above, but my phone number is (316) 655-9364. I will be glad to assist or set up your profiles for you.

Blessings



RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

Live, indoor, in-person worship will return on Sunday, April 11th at 9:30 AM. Services will be RSVP only so that we can safely seat folks. This service will also be streamed online, so if you would like to continue to watch from home, we'll see you at the same time – same place! Masks and social-distancing are required for in-person services with no singing at this time.

RSVP at chicofaithlutheran.org/events or call (530) 895-3754.



HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Maundy Thursday Service

April 1 @ 7PM Online

Good Friday Service

April 2 @ 7PM Online

Easter Egg Hunt

Ages 10 and Under

April 3 @ 1 PM in the Courtyard

Easter Sunrise Service

April 4 @ 7 AM in the Courtyard

Dress Warmly and Please RSVP at chicofaithlutheran.org/events or call

(530) 895-3754.

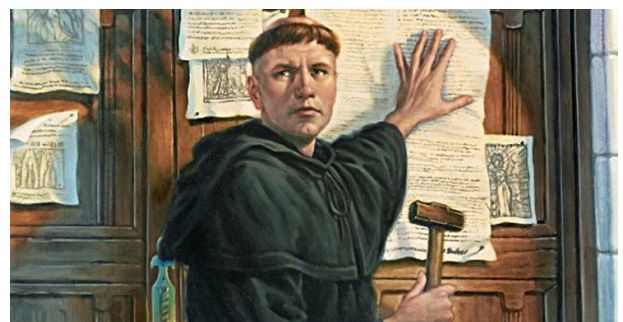
VACCINE ELIGIBILITY FOR FOLKS 50+

If you're 50 or older, you're eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine! The Chico Community Vaccination Clinic encourages you to sign up at www.MyTurn.ca.gov or to call the state's scheduling hotline at (833) 422-4255.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member of Faith Lutheran? Are you curious about where the Lutheran tradition comes from and what it teaches? Then sign up for the New Members Class with Pastor Ben starting Sunday, April 11th! Class will be after worship (11am-noon) either online or in the parish hall depending on Butte County's Covid status and the comfort of the people participating. The class will last five weeks and at the end, if you decide you'd like to officially join, we'll have a celebration to introduce you on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. If you're interested, email Pastor Ben at colahanb@gmail.com.





REGISTER to be a WORSHIP TEAM LEADER!

Howdy folks! Our county has officially been bumped down to red tier, and it's looking better and better by the day! Since we're transitioning back to in-person worship, scheduling worship team members like ushers, greeters, etc. is a priority. Many of you should have received an email from Elvanto, our church ministry scheduling software, prompting you to log in and access your profiles. If you have not received this email, it may be because:

1. The email we have on file is a "family email," one email that applies to you, your spouse, etc. We need the emails of individual worship team members in order to add you to the roster.
2. There is no email on file.
3. The email we do have on file is outdated.

Give the office a call and let me know what your email is so I can sign you up. What you'll do once you have an Elvanto profile is (A) edit your profile like your name, current address and phone number, email address, and even birthdays and anniversaries so we can send you cards! And (B) set your scheduling preferences, like which ministries you would like to serve in, and what times do and don't work for you.

See you all in-person soon!

-Michael

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!

If you're a ministry leader and you have been contacted by Michael, then please have your annual reports in no later than Friday, April 30th.



CHURCH WORK DAY APRIL 24th at 8AM

As we prepare to get back to normal worship and activities at Faith Lutheran Church, we need your help on a Saturday morning moving some furniture, sprucing up rooms, cleaning windows, and dropping items off at Goodwill. There are plenty of jobs for every age group and level of skill. We'll meet at 8 a.m. for coffee, pastries, and a prayer, and then get to work. We finish up with Pizza and salad lunch around noon. Sign up for activities on the Church web page after Easter, but we will need movers (5), window cleaners (6), leaf rakers and baggers (4), room vacuumers and dusters (4), lunch monitors (2), and a couple of folks with pickup trucks. Bring gloves. Everything you need to get the job done will be supplied. Help us get the Lord's House back in shape for the coming year, and enjoy some socially distanced fellowship with your friends for a few hours. Please RSVP with Joel Zimbelman or call the office at (530) 895-3754.





CA COVID-19 RENT RELIEF

Rent Past Due?

Renters and landlords have enough things to worry about. Past due rent shouldn't be one of them.

If you're an income eligible renter who has experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19 and have past due rent, or you're a landlord who has experienced a loss in income because of unpaid rent, you may be eligible to get financial assistance now through the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program.



Who Can Apply?

Landlords who have income-eligible renters experiencing a financial hardship due to COVID-19 with past due rent.

Renters who have experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19, have past due rent or utilities, and have a household income that is not more than 80% of the area median income.

How Much Rent Relief Will I Get?

Landlords can get reimbursed for 80% of past due rent accrued between **April 1, 2020**, and **March 31, 2021**, if they agree to waive the remaining 20% of unpaid rent.

Eligible renters whose landlords choose not to participate may still apply on their own and receive 25% of unpaid rent accrued between **April 1, 2020**, and **March 31, 2021** through a direct payment to their landlord. If a landlord refuses direct payment, the 25% can be paid to the renter to pay missed rent to their landlord by June 30, 2021. Paying 25% of past due rent by June 30, 2021 can help keep renters in their homes under the extended eviction protections provided in SB91.

Eligible renters can also receive help paying future rent, equal to 25% of their monthly amount to help them stay in their homes, and 100% of up to 12 months of unpaid or future utility bills.

How do I Apply?

To check eligibility requirements, apply or find a Local Partner Network organization who can assist you further, visit HousingIsKey.com or call **833-430-2122**, toll free.

HousingIsKey.com

Financial Report

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Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 2/28/2021

	BUDGET TO DATE	ACTUAL TO DATE	PERCENT OF BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	\$294,274.69	\$297,053.09	100.94%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$296,252.67	\$278,976.39	94.17%
NET INCOME / LOSS	(\$1,977.98)	\$18,076.70	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/20		\$33,560.21	
Net Revenue through 1/31/21		\$18,076.70	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$51,636.91	

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.

At the end of eight months, income is tracking right at budget with expenses being below budget. This has resulted in net revenue so far this fiscal year of \$18,076.70.

Thank you all for your continued support.
If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue
(530) 520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com



Council Minutes

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March 16, 2021, 6:15 p.m. Zoom

Present: Colahan, Zimbelman, Kimmelshue, Heinz, Knight, Kimball, Kampf, Woods, Melvin, DeSoto. Absent: Homesley, Reed, Pulliam, Sample.

1. Joel opened the meeting at 6:15 pm
2. Devotion- by Doug DeSoto by Mellie O'Brian "Walk Don't Run"
3. Opening Prayer—Pr. Ben
4. Covenant—was read by everyone
5. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Susan moved and Meridith seconded. Motion passed.
6. Financial Report was presented by Mark Kimmelshue. Diane made the motion to approve the financial reports as they stand and Penny seconded. Motion approved
7. Announcements and calendar events
 - (1) Council Membership for next year
 - (a) Anyone on council that wishes to step down from their particular offices please notify Pastor Ben or Joel. (June 1 2021 - May 31 2022)
 - (b) Stewardship and Capital Campaign (Joel Z)
 - (i) We are 9 months into a three-year stewardship capital campaign of \$400,000. To date we have received about \$168,000 in pledges; \$128,000 in contributions, with about \$40,000 outstanding on pledges (these will come in over the coming 18 months). The Stewardship Committee (Tod Kimmelshue, Joel Zimbelman, Susan Kimball) will be meeting soon to plan next steps. The goal is to seek commitments for new pledges of about \$125,000
 - (c) With the completion of the roofing repair and the sound system and networking projects, it will be up to the Council to decide on next steps for capital improvements and updates. An updated list of projects originally developed over a year ago was reviewed
8. Guidelines for Reopening Discussion - Pr. Ben and Joel Z
 - i. Easter outdoor sunrise service will be held April 4th at 7:00 am and will be followed by a Zoom Easter service a 9:30 am
 - ii. The following Sunday, April 11th we will move to holding service indoors or outdoors (weather permitting). The following restrictions will be enforced:
 1. RSVP required (Maximum 357 x 25% capacity = 89)
 2. Take temperatures
 3. Masks must be worn
 4. Seats 6' apart
 5. There will be a need for in service assistants
9. Recommendations for Faith Staff Restructuring — Pr. Ben discussion. Three options were presented and it was decided to search for two of the positions as the final choice will greatly depend on the applicants
 - 1) Option 2: Expand Michael's responsibilities to include administration, organization & communication in preparation for service projects and hire a full-time director for Youth and Families
 - 2) Option 3: Hire a part time youth director with the plans of expanding to full time over the next one to two years and expand Michael's hours to full timeMark made the motion to deputize Pr. Ben to put together the job description and begin advertisement. Sherrill seconded. Motion passed
10. Closing Prayer- Pr. Ben
11. Meeting adjourned at 7:59

Respectfully submitted, Diane Knight

Next Executive Meeting: Thursday April 8, 8:30 a.m. Zoom
Tentative and as needed — confirmation sent out after Easter

Next Council Meeting Tuesday, April 20 at 6:15 p.m. Zoom

667 East First Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 345
Chico, CA

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Faith Lutheran Church Council
council@chicofaithlutheran.org

Predisent

Joel Zimbelman

Vice President

Sky Sample

Treasurer

Mark Kimmelshue

Secretary

Diane Knight

Members

Tricia Homesley, Sherrill Heinz, Meridith Woods, Susan Kimball, Cynthia Kampf, Doug DeSoto, Bonnie Pulliam, Penny Melvin, Matt Reed

Online Worship Sundays at 9:30 AM

Office: (530) 895-3754

Hours: Monday – Friday, 10AM-3:30PM

Email: office@chicofaithlutheran.org

Website: chicofaithlutheran.org