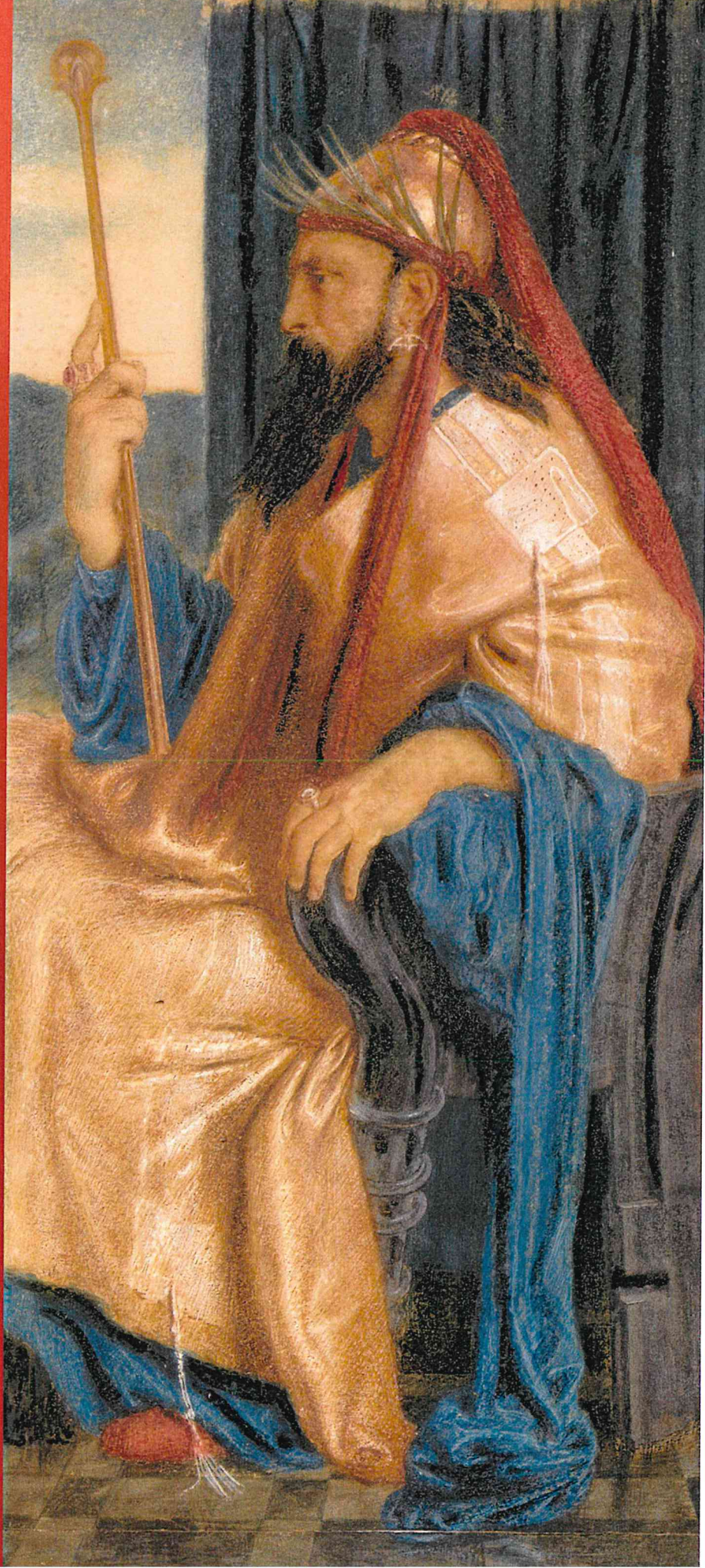


AUGUST 2021

FAITH TALKS

Worship 9:30 AM



ROSES

To everyone who helped with the Safe Space Cooling Center, and to other congregations of Chico who continue to host it.

To our new Director of Family Life, Dani Vogel, and to the Search Committee: Cindy Kampf, Susan Riggins, Andrew Lavin, Penny Melvin, Julian Randolph, and Sherrill Heinz.

To Kyle Groh for the auto repairs he made for Mercy House.

To those who proclaimed the inclusivity of God's love during Chico Pride and to those who helped with our booth.

To the folks who sent cards and made meals during Michael's recovery.

And to all of our worship leaders and musicians for adapting as we come back to live, in-person services and events.



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Ben Colahan,
Pastor



INTRODUCING DANI



It is my joy to announce that we have hired a new Director of Family Life! Her name is Danielle (Dani) Vogel, she'll be starting August 4th, and you can read her introduction on the next page. I also want to share with you how we selected Dani, what made her stand out as a candidate, and why, no matter your age, we hope you'll be excited to meet her in the coming weeks.

Our search team was composed of 7 people, Cindy Kampf, Susan Riggins, Andrew Lavin, Penny Melvin, Julian Randolph, Sherrill Heinz, and me. This team

was chosen both to represent a cross section of Faith Lutheran and to include educators/youth workers and parents. Other than Julian, our teen representative, and me, every member of our team was someone who both had children/grandchildren and also had experience in education or youth ministry.

Having posted the job, listing everyone from the ELCA's websites to indeed.com, and pulling in every connection and favor that we could think of to spread the word, we interviewed five top candidates via Zoom. Though each of these five candidates was well qualified on paper, it was clear that none of them would be a good fit for our congregation. With heavy hearts we decided to start the search again from scratch. Just when we had resigned ourselves to months more of searching, we received Dani's application.

Instantly Dani's application stood out. Dani attended a Lutheran college, got a degree in education, and then furthered her education with a certification in youth and family ministry. She has been doing youth and family ministry for over a decade and in her application she included sample curriculums for Sunday school and youth groups that were not only gospel-grounded, but funny, relevant, and well-planned.

When we interviewed Dani over Zoom, we were struck by her energy, her enthusiasm, and the ways in which she spoke our theological language, wanting everyone who participates in her ministries to know that they are "beloved children of God."

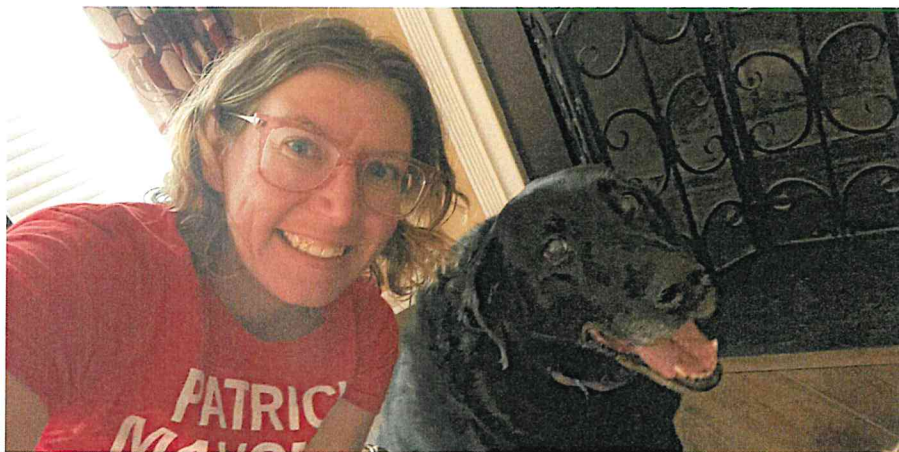


At the end of July, we flew Dani out from her current home in Summerville, South Carolina to spend three days in Chico. We did our best to show Dani why Chico is an amazing place to live, with a hike in Upper Park, picnic around Sycamore Pool, a tour of CSU, and dinner at Sierra Nevada. We also asked Dani to demonstrate her skills working with children, youth, and young adults.

Dani spent Thursday night at the downtown market with the young adults, and planned and led separate activities for the teens and young children. Our team was struck by how well prepared Dani came. Not only did Dani send us a detailed list of equipment that she would need, she packed a whole suitcase of supplies, and she reached out ahead of time to ask about any special needs among the children so that she could ensure every single child had a way to participate. In my five years as pastor here, I have never seen the youth (or their parents) more engaged than in the hour Dani spent with them. After Dani's Sunday school activity, I asked the children how Dani had made them feel during her lesson. One child said, "happy," another said, "safe."

We are delighted to have Dani joining our ministry team. But Dani's role is not just to minister to young people. The Director of Family life ensures that people of every age have meaningful intentional community in which to be loved, learn, and use their unique spiritual gifts to serve others. In Christ, we are all part of God's family, the Director of Family Life connects people with their spiritual family at Faith. When Dani arrives, she'll be meeting not just with children and parents, but with you, to develop ways to support you in ensuring that you have a place at Faith's table and are empowered to reflect God's love.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan



Hi everyone! My name is Dani Vogel, and I am really excited to be joining you all at Faith Lutheran Church on staff as the Director of Family Life. I grew up in southern MN and attended Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. I received my certificate in Progressive Youth and Family Ministry in 2010 through United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. When I'm not at the church, you can probably find me in the movie theater, drinking coffee and reading a book somewhere, or camping and hiking with my dog Anna. I look forward to meeting and learning all about you all!

Join us for worship on August 8th, when we officially install Dani as our Director of Family Life!



ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE

When the pandemic hit Chico, we learned to do things differently. Our past president, Joel Zimbelman, and Equipping Ministry leaders, Kim and Mary Schweder had a vision that included a state-of-the-art audio/visual system that would allow members to access Sunday worship services from the comfort of their homes. Former members and friends across the country, including Pastor Ben's mother, have felt included in the work of Faith Lutheran. Patricia Colahan even bought a home in Chico to function as a home for unsheltered women, The Mercy House.



Kim and Mary also suggested the intentional use of permanent name tags. Just before the pandemic, we received 98 name tags for the members who ordered them at our last in person worship service. At many of the outdoor worship services and now at indoor services, we have added more name tags to the kiosk that Ralph Godwin built to make a total of 243 badges.

While watching many online worship services, I often put in the chat line – “Good morning Faith Family!” As a single (divorced) woman, I have grown to appreciate the family of friends I have made at Faith. I have been here for 29 years and have experienced different aspects of connection. My four daughters were confirmed here, and two grandchildren have been baptized at Faith. I served on the council twenty years ago and joined the current council two years ago. Each part of my life has been touched by you all.

Welcome Home! Every time I go to a Disney Resort, hotel employees say, “Welcome Home!” Do I live there? Some of you might think so. I do enjoy taking family and friends to Disney parks. The Disney Institute trains all “cast members” to be welcoming to returning guests. It is my hope that August and September will be a homecoming or family reunion for all members of the Faith family. If you have not been back for a long while, you just must hear Pastor Ben preach. You will be blown away by Luke Nicolay, our Director of Worship and Music. You might meet Michael, our Office Manager, and soon, you will meet Dani (Danielle Rae) Vogel, our Director of Family Life who begins her ministry on August 8th. And, thanks to many of you, the air conditioning works!!

If you have not ordered a name tag and would like one waiting for you when you return (for free), please email the following to ckampf@aol.com: **First and Last name / Type of name tag: magnet, pin attachment or clip.**

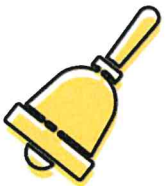


THANKFULNESS

Greetings fellow Faithers! I hope that your summer has been a restful and relaxing, yet safe and healthy one. Here we are, ending the month of July and quickly preparing for the month of August! These upcoming months are exciting for all of us here at Faith and for all of us involved in worship, music, and art creation (which, let's be honest, it's ALL of us, and how exciting is that??).

Psalm 9:1-2 says *"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High."* As we head into August and look toward the Fall there is one word that comes to mind right now. That is "thankfulness." Thankfulness for everyone here at Faith, thankfulness for our abilities to create a safe space at the table for which all are welcome, thankfulness for the ability to make music and art with talented and wonderful people, thankfulness to resume choir rehearsal, and thankfulness for so much more. These are just a few reasons that I can think of. How about you? What are you thankful for?

I can say with much gusto that I'm sure ready for choirs to resume and I'm thrilled that this outlet for so many people to express themselves will return. As we begin the return, it is important for us to talk about the ramifications of the return. Because COVID-19 is still very much a real aspect of our lives and because of the emerging variants it will be required that all members attending choir have completed the vaccination process. With the guidance of the CDC, Butte County Public Health, and our church council, we've decided this is the best course of action. These decisions were made because singing is still one of the most effective ways to spread the virus. We also made these decisions because we have many young members of the church who are not yet able to get vaccinated and we want to keep them as safe as possible. With this said, I welcome all members back to choir and look forward to, once again, creating beautiful music and to getting to know all of you even better. As we approach this upcoming season here's some important dates to remember for August-



Tuesday, August 3rd- Handbell Choir Resumes from 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM in the sanctuary. Please arrive at 3:45 to help set up and prepare the sanctuary for rehearsal. This is open to any who would like to come and make music with our bell choir. We will plan to work on music reading/note identification, counting, ringing in different positions, and several other music topics. If you have no experience or think "gosh, I don't know that I could ever do this!"—Not to worry! We are a team, and we help each other out! You'll learn and while you learn, you'll find yourself having fun and creating new friends and relationships.

Thursday, August 5th- Sanctuary Choir Resumes from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM in the sanctuary. HOWEVER- because it's been so long since we've all been together, plan to meet at 6:00 PM on Thursday, August 5th so that we might come together and talk and share in each other's company to catch up and fellowship together. Please come and join us as we resume the sanctuary choir! We all have a voice and it'd be fabulous to have everyone come and join. We are amid planning some exciting music and are ready to have some fun. If you can sing, think you can sing but don't know, or just enjoy singing in the shower, come and join us!

We will work with you to teach all that we know. This is a low-stress and safe environment that you can attend to explore your voice!

I'm so excited that this season is fast upon us! As always, if you have any questions or just want to chat about music and the arts at Faith and where you might be able to participate send me an email at luke@chicofaithlutheran.org. I welcome all conversation and look forward to seeing how we can create together. With great joy and gratitude, Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship & Music.

SUNDAYS & WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday Worship In Person & Online 9:30am



COFFEE HOUR is back to being in-person! Stick around each Sunday after worship for fellowship, conversation, and caffeine.

ELVANTO TRAINING SESSIONS will be happening as-needed throughout the month of August. If you want a crash course from Mike and Luke on how to log in, update profiles, accept/decline worship roles, and all that fun stuff, then please contact the office at (530) 895-3754 or email office@chicofaithlutheran.org.

BACKPACK STUFFING takes place Thursday, August 5th in the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM. Thank each and every one of you for your generous donations. We were able to supply backpacks and items to grade-schoolers, middle-schoolers, and high-schoolers!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS takes place Sunday, August 8th during worship.

THE INSTALLATION OF DANI VOGEL, Director of Family life, happens on Sunday, August 8th.

SENDING OF BECKY ROUSE on August 8th. Becky is heading to Baltimore to do a year of service through Lutheran Volunteer Core. Becky has been an important contributor to Faith's Social Ministry team. We will bless her as she continues to do God's work on the other side of the country.

Doug DeSoto,
Social Ministry Chair



BLUE BAGS: MAKING MEALS HAPPEN

The Chico Food Project (Blue Bags) was started in 2011 by local residents Wendy Smith, Elena Carman, and Fran Kenkel who were inspired to start the food collection program after reading an article about *The Simple Gesture Program* run out of Paradise, CA. The Chico Food Project started small but now has over 1000 households donating blue bags filled with non-perishables six times a year (every other month). The program collects over 66,000 lbs. of food annually. The staples collected go to local area food banks to distribute to needy families.



Faith Lutheran Church's connection with the Blue Bag Project started in 2017 with **Margaret McMillan** and **Molly Barnum** asking Faith Lutheran Church members to share food with the hungry in our community. Members leave blue bags filled with non-perishable food items in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Parish Hall or in the office no later than the Friday before the scheduled pick-up day. Margaret and Molly pick up the bags along with blue bags from approximately twenty-eight area homes and deliver them to St. John's Episcopal Church where they are then transported to six local food banks for distribution.

The Social Ministry Team thanks Margaret and Molly for their stalwart service to the needy in our community and for adhering to the words in Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry, and you gave me food..."

Currently in Butte County, one in five households are at or below poverty level. That means there are a lot of Chico families who are hungry. Seventy-five percent of single moms and their children live in poverty. Food pantries have been overwhelmed by the demand and are in desperate need of a continual supply.

If you would like to become part of the Blue Bag Project, please contact Margaret or Molly. Margaret stated that on each blue bag there is a list of the pick-up dates for the year and a list of those non-perishable food items most needed. The next pick-up date is August 14th. If you do not have a blue bag and would still like to donate, you can leave the food items in a regular grocery bag in the office or hallway no later than August 13th. Pick-up days for the remainder of this year are October 9th and December 11th.

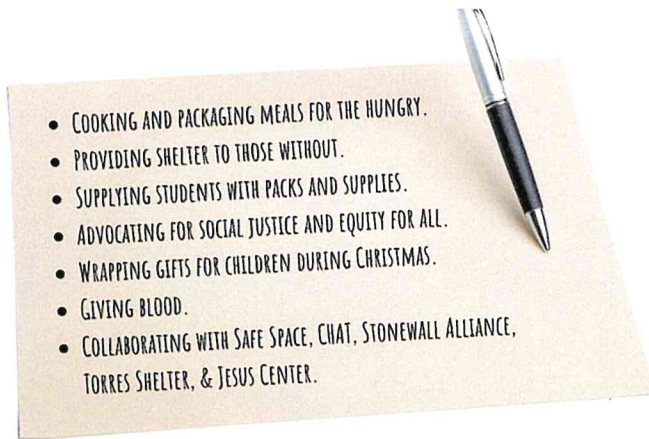
**DONATING FOOD? PLEASE BRING YOUR ITEMS TO THE OFFICE BY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 by 4:00 PM.**

Michael Nicholson,
Manager



JOIN US IN MINISTRY!

You are called to minister in Christ's name in your own, unique way. And at Faith, you're encouraged to join any ministry, any time if you have an interest in it! But this month, I want to put four specific ministries in the spotlight, because yes - - they are recruiting.



Social Ministry is one of justice and action, of human kindness and compassion. This ministry meets on the 4th Sunday of each month at 11am in the Conference Room (that's part of the main office!). It is at these meetings that we brainstorm and discuss plans of community action. This meeting is open to all who wish to attend! Some events take place annually (like gift-wrapping), while others take place monthly like Torres Shelter dinners. We would love to see some fresh faces at our meetings – no RSVP necessary, just pop on by! – or you can reach Doug (chair) at (530) 895-3754.

Fellowship Ministry has been around for ages all but in name. When you ask? When we do a Meal Train; when we host a potluck; when we send out birthday cards or deliver CDs or give flowers to one another. But starting in August, Susan Kimball is putting a name to a face, and she would like you to consider joining this ministry. As it stands there are no formal meetings, just a list of persons interested in using the gifts Christ gave them to lift up the spirits of others. If you're interested in sharing your gifts, please call Susan at (530) 713-5088.

Property Committee is a collection of folks interested in maintaining our campus. We invite handy people, gardeners, electricians, plumbers, landscapers, and those with tactical and organizational skills to keep track of what needs fixing and brainstorm ideas to make life at Faith beautiful. If you are interested, please contact Joel Zimbelman at (530) 520-9608.

Worship Leaders are needed! Any role you see on Sunday, be it ushers, assisting ministers, A/V people, communion servers, etc., would like you to consider joining up. Training will be offered, and there are roles for everyone with different tech, mobility, and social levels. Please contact Luke at (530) 895-3754 or luke@chicofaithlutheran.org.

In the back of the sanctuary, we will have a *God's Work, Your Hands Tree* starting August 15th, whose leaves will be tangible opportunities to serve at and through the church. We invite you to browse the selection and consider 'picking' one of the leaves. Each leaf will have a description of the way to serve, an estimated time commitment, and who to contact to get started.

FAITH LUTHERAN MICRO SHELTERS



Imagine a way to reduce the amount of litter that is left around Faith's campus. Imagine a way to make Faith's campus safer. And now image that both goals could be accomplished by following Jesus' call to love and serve our neighbors most in need. Faith Lutheran's council is exploring a proposal to do just that through hosting tiny houses in our back parking lot.

The Social Ministry Team is teaming up with North State Shelter Team (NSST) and Caring Choices to create a plan to establish a micro shelter on Faith Lutheran Church (FLC) grounds. Micro shelters are Conestoga Huts measuring 6 feet by 16 feet. Each hut comes equipped with a smoke detector, light, fan, and a swamp cooler. Huts are typically placed on established church parking lots. The site would include the following facilities: a portapotty, hand-washing station, and have access to waste disposal. The space occupied by the hut and facilities would be surrounded by a six-foot garden style fence topped by one-foot framed lattice panels and incorporate a locked gate. The NSST Green Shower Trailer would drive up on set times each week to allow opportunities for showering.

We envision the huts being occupied by homeless, elderly, single women who are currently receiving a fixed income. Supportive services and case management would be provided by Caring Choices, an organization with nearly 30 years of experience caring for vulnerable populations in northern California. The goal of case management would be to give the women consistent and regular support so that they can transition from homelessness to either transitional housing and/or permanent housing within 10 to 12 months. These tiny houses would be a dignified hand up to help women transition off the streets and into a healthy life.

Our hope is for the women participating in this program to become a part of Faith's community, regardless of where they are on their faith journey. The women participating in this program would be given responsibility to help care for and maintain Faith's campus. They would be welcomed to participate in Faith's ministries to the extent that they feel comfortable. We want not four tenants, but four partners in caring for this corner of Chico.

Our initial vision is that up to four huts and facilities would be placed in the FLC parking lot for a trial period of 30 days. A site of this size would require the use of approximately five parking slots. The initial duration of the site would be for twelve-months subject to FLC renewal. While the site will take up several parking slots, we anticipate no disruptions to the day-to-day operations of FLC.

Other churches have reported that benefits to permitting the establishment of a micro shelter on church property include but are not limited to the following: reduction in trash and vandalism due to having a 24-hour presence on campus, being able to put compassion into action, and witnessing lives transformed by the power of God's grace.

This is a bold and innovative plan to answer Christ's call to serve our neighbors, there are many details to work out, and we cannot do it alone. Over the next several weeks Faith will be reaching out to neighboring businesses to present and request feedback on this plan and would like feedback from members of the congregation. An informational meeting on the topic will be held Sunday, August 15, 2021, at 11:00 am. Please bring your questions, your concerns, and your courage.

A LETTER FROM REV. NGABONZIZA JOHN KAGORORA OF OUR SISTER PARISH IN KAGITUMBA

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our savior. Thank you [Marge Troester] for your emailed message of 20 July, it is well received. Me too, I was planning to text you as well. Generally, I am not fine. Last week, I went to the hospital for a health check; unfortunately I was attacked by covid-19. Now, I am alone in my own room as I am distancing myself from others to prevent this pandemic. But good hope is that I am getting well as the days go by. If I get well, I will let you know.



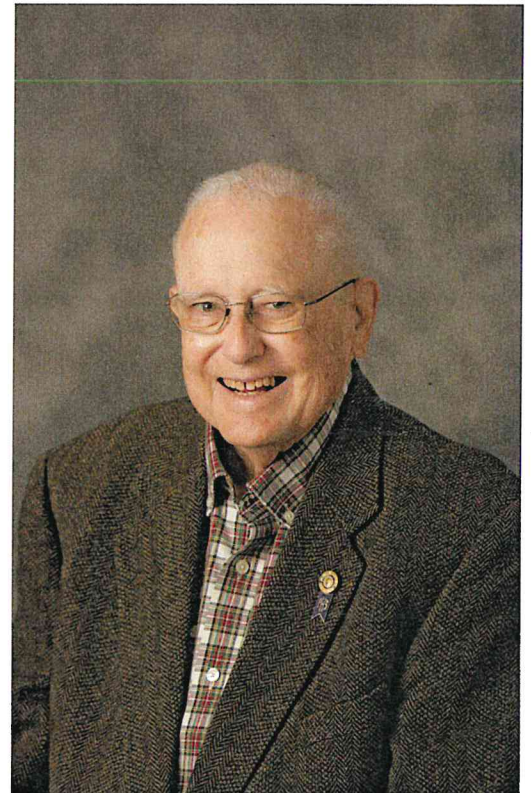
Kagitumba parish is fine; the congregation is doing well in general. They greet you so much. Concerning money you had sent, I requested (LCR-H/Office Kigali) to add some amount of money so that we may progress with church construction. Recently, the top staff told me that they are planning the budget and after, they could come to continue the process. But because of covid-19, some locations in Rwanda are in lockdown now.

Please, be patient. But they will fix this issue of building the church in a few days to come. Afterward, we shall send you a report about the funds you sent and the way we used it for construction. Humbly, we are grateful for your heart of love and generosity in terms of financial support and prayers, they are precious to us. God bless you a lot. Yours faithfully, Rev NGABONZIZA John Kagorora

James Harvey Kirks Jr. Memorial Service Saturday, August 28th at 2pm Faith Lutheran Church

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. -Psalm 23

**Join us in the sanctuary on August 28th
for the memorial service of Jim Kirks,
with refreshments and fellowship to
follow in the fellowship hall.**



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 6/30/2021

	BUDGET TO DATE	ACTUAL TO DATE	PERCENT OF BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	\$444,379.00	\$425,154.83	95.67%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$444,379.00	\$418,124.70	94.09%
NET INCOME / LOSS	\$0.00	\$7,030.13	

Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/20

\$59,808.46

Net Revenue through 6/30/21

\$7,030.13

Ending General Fund Balance

\$66,838.59

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.

The Fiscal Year for Faith Lutheran Church ended on 6/30/2021. As shown above the Net Revenue for the year was a positive \$7,030.13. This added to the beginning balance on 7/1/2020 gives an ending balance in the General Fund of \$66,838.59 which will provide a good cash flow buffer as we start the 2021/2022 year. Thank you all for your continued support. If you have questions, please feel free to contact:



Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer
(530) 520-8228
kimmelshue@armcorice.com

Lynette Stenrud,
Financial Secretary



BENEVOLENCE REPORT

This July, we donated \$100 to Chico Housing Action Team and to the Hunger Trolley Helpers Group, both of which we will continue to give to each month. \$75 was paid to Abe's Yard Cleanup; Abe is a local yard-maintenance worker who is taking care of the yard at Mercy House. We will pay him monthly in exchange for his services, and are grateful for the opportunity to support a local business. Thanks to all of your generosity, 110 fully supplies backpacks will go to students. A Thrivent grant was used to purchase supplies needed to make sure all backpacks have a variety of supplies, and spare money from the grant will go toward procuring more packs, as is the most requested supply by the schools.



COUNCIL MINUTES SUBMITTED 7/3/2021

Present: Colahan, Kampf, Kimball, Heinz, Kimmelshue, De Soto, Groh, Melvin, Pulliam, Sample, Zimbelman.
Absent: Woods.

- 1) Welcome and devotion: Cynthia Kampf
Welcome to the new council 2020-2021 and to new member, Kyle Groh
- 2) Opening Prayer: Pr. Ben Colahan
- 3) Covenant: read by all
- 4) Micro Shelters: Presentation by NSST (North State Shelter Team)
A discussion was held with the 2 guest speakers (Charles and Lauri) from NSST with questions and answers. Motion made by De Soto to set up a committee to enter a planning-stage and enter a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the NSST and Caring choices to establish a micro shelter on Faith Lutheran Grounds. Seconded and approved unanimously.
- 5) Director of Family Life: after 3 days of interviews with the candidate, Danielle (Dani) Vogel, the search team unanimously voted to recommend Dani for the position. After discussion, a motion was made by Kimball to call Danielle Vogel as Director of Family Life. Seconded and approved unanimously.
- 6) Endowment Committee: met on 30 June 21 and submits for approval to use \$2500 for partial payment for new AC units. M/S/A
- 7) Cooling Center: with temperatures regularly over 100, Safe Space has reached out to use Faith's parish hall as a cooling center. After discussion, the motion was made by Pullium to start Wed 7/6/21 for 11 days from 3-7 PM, max 35 people, covid masks required, and once a person left the premises they would not be allowed back. M/S/A (Note: By mutual agreement, hours were extended from 2 to 8 p.m. on Friday, July 8th.)
- 8) Social Ministry Team (SMT) feels that Faith Lutheran has a responsibility to publicly address the inadequate shelter installed by the City of Chico off Hicks Lane. After discussion, a motion was made by Kimball to authorize Pastor Ben Colahan to draft a letter, to be approved by the council, and sent to the newspaper.
- 9) Up-coming dates:
 - a. 7/23/21 Council and Dinner 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 - b. 7/24/21 Council Advance/Retreat 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. water event with Pr. Ben
 - c. 8/17/21 Council Meeting
- 10) Closing Prayer and Adjourn

KING SOLOMON, SON OF DAVID

Send your picture in and see it hung up in the Fellowship Hall!





667 East 1st Ave.
Chico, CA. 95926

Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 354
Chico, CA.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

Faith Lutheran Church Council
council@chicofaithlutheran.org

President
Cynthia Kampf

Secretary
Sherrill Heinz

Council Member
Doug DeSoto

Council Member
Sky Sample

Vice President
Susan Kimball

Council Member
Joel Zimbelman

Council Member
Bonnie Pulliam

Treasurer
Mark Kimmelshue

Council Member
Meridith Woods

Council Member
Penny Melvin

Council Member
Kyle Groh



A community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone!
