

FAITH TALKS

JULY 2021

***WORSHIP SUNDAYS 9:30 AM
IN PERSON OR ONLINE***



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Thank you to our Vacation Bible School Leaders: Linda Greer-Wegener, Margaret McMillan, Becky Rouse, Pastor Ben, Luke and Michelle Nicolay, Mary Schweder, Sarah Sautner, Taron Zilch, and the people of St. John's Episcopal.

To the Quilters for making Pride masks; Doug and Carmelita DeSoto, Becky Rouse, and Bonnie Pulliam for manning the booth at the Pride festival; Marge Troester for landing us a grant for a button maker, and Kathy Mahannah for her beautiful designs.

To our graduates, and to the Women's Ministry for administering scholarships put into place by our beloved Betty Whitmore.

To office substitutes Janine Rush, Joel Zimbelman, Bill Kees, Doug DeSoto, and Lynette Stensrud for taking over during Michael's sick leave; Joey Sarin for his hard work as office assistant.

Worship Sundays at 9:30 AM in person and online

Worship continues in the Sanctuary as an in person-online hybrid. RSVPs are not necessary. If you are vaccinated, you are no longer required to wear masks though you may certainly opt to do so as a safety precaution. We ask that folks who have yet to be vaccinated continue to wear their masks for the safety of children and others who cannot safely get the vaccine.



Staff Away Time

Luke will be on vacation from Friday, July 2nd to Friday, July 9th. Please contact Linda Zimbelman or Margaret McMillan for all music-related questions, and Molly Barnum for Communion questions.

Pastor Ben will be on vacation from Thursday, July 8th to Friday July 16th. For pastoral care during his vacation please call Bill Kees at (530) 966-1626. Shawna Burhans will preach on Sunday, July 11th.



Pastor's Article - Incarnational Relationships

I am writing this article just before the first Sunday in which masks are optional during worship for vaccinated individuals. I can only imagine what that experience will be like. But based on what I've seen from running errands around Chico now that the mask mandate is over, I'm guessing it will be a combination of joy and confusion. Joy at getting to see each other's smiles. Confusion about whether this is *really* safe. Joy at not having your glasses fog up and your nose itch. Confusion when we see some people still wearing a mask, whether because the person is unvaccinated and protecting children, or because the mask brings them comfort.

I write this letter imagining what that day will be like. But by the time you read this letter, you will know. Or you will have had the chance to watch what it was like online. What I do know, is that the end of the mask mandate is not the end of the pandemic or of us being intentional about caring for each other's health. Masks being optional is one step on our journey, not to "normal," but to connecting more intimately with one another.

This pandemic has reminded us all of what the first chapter of John's gospel proclaims: that incarnate relationships are a sacred blessing. God's Word became flesh in Jesus because letters, phone calls, and Zoom were not enough to communicate God's profound love for us. But incarnation relationships are about more than just physically being in the same room as someone. I can be in the same room as someone and be totally disconnected from them!

God's Word does more than just be on Earth with us in Jesus. In Jesus, God's Word breaks bread with us (Mark 14:22), sings with us (Mark 14:26), cries with us (John 11:35), washes our feet (13:5), and holds our hand (Mark 5:41). In Jesus, God teaches us that love is more than words, it is about sharing the fullness of life together. The end of the mask mandate is one more step towards us living out our faith in more incarnational relationships.



Our next step will be re-introducing coffee hour! **Starting Sunday, July 11th, we will once again have coffee hour.** For now, we'll hold coffee hour outside in the courtyard.

In July we will also re-start choir rehearsals! Whereas we do not check vaccination status for people attending worship, participation in choir will require proof of vaccination. This is because group singing has proven to be the most effective way to spread Covid-19. And whereas worshipping in community is something that we want to offer to all people, leadership roles within the church do have additional requirements and expectations. If you are interested in participating in choir, please contact our Director of Worship and Music, Luke Nicolay. I also want to make clear that the congregation as a whole still won't be singing together until Butte County reaches the metric for the "Yellow Tier" of Covid's presence in our community. Hopefully that will be soon.



Finally, our goal coming out of this pandemic is not to return to the level of incarnational relationships that we used to have, but to develop deeper and more intentional relationships within the congregation. This is the primary focus of the new staff position that we are seeking to fill: Director of Family Life. The Director of Family Life will not only oversee age-specific ministries for children, teens, and young adults, but also oversee small group ministries for adults. The Director of Family life ensures that people of every age have a 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.

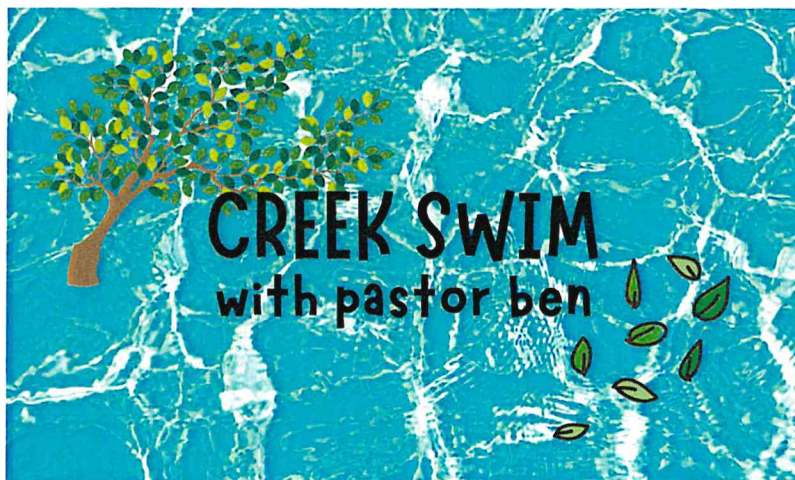


In the coming months, the council and staff will be sharing how we plan to live out these goals for more intentional incarnate relationships for every age. In the meantime, we are excited to be bringing in a candidate for a final in-person interview and we'll need your help!

Do you have teens in your family? Please contact me to have them meet the new candidate and have them experience the candidate lead a youth activity on the afternoon of June 30th. Do you have young children in your family? Please contact me to have them meet the new candidate and have them experience the candidate lead a Sunday school activity on the morning of July 1st.

We are embarking on a new phase of ministry at Faith Lutheran, one that builds on our strong tradition of living out Christ's love. I can't wait to see what the Holy Spirit has in-store as we intentionally strengthen our incarnational relationships.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan



Saturday, July 24 at 1 PM

Follow Pastor Ben to one of his favorite swimming holes! Bring sunscreen, a towel, water, snacks, and shoes suitable for climbing over wet rocks. Must be able to drive your own vehicle to and from the event. RSVP by calling the office, 530-895-3754.

News from the Office: Meet Joey

A few months ago, our congregation was fortunate enough to meet Heather, Dan, and Joey Sarin, who moved to California from Washington and started attending Faith Lutheran. Around this time, I began picking up bookkeeping and Social Ministry work on top of my usual day-to-day stuff. As many of you know, this includes burning sermon CDs for those without access to in-person worship. Converting video and audio files, burning CDs, and uploading sermons takes a good chunk of time out of my workweek. Then in May, Joey started interning for me. I started him off with simple audio conversion, but within the span of a few



weeks, he has taken on all office-related audio endeavors. This includes personally designing *beautiful* CD art - - the template of which is his very own! Joey came out to the church and took a photograph of the steeple, whose silhouette can be seen behind the service date (left). Our congregation recently started exploring our spiritual gifts, and it's a joy to have an assistant with technological, photographic, and artistic gifts. Joey currently works Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. If you're ever in the office during those hours, feel free to stop by and say hello!



-Manager Mike

Our Outgoing Council - A Thank You



In the wake of our Annual Meeting, we are thrilled to swear in new members. We welcome Cindy Kampf onto the council as president, and Kyle Groh as our newest council member. We also recognize existing council members Susan Kimball for taking on the role of vice president, and Sherrill Heinz for becoming secretary. But we would also like to take the time to recognize the members of our council who will be taking a step back; who have so graciously served over the last year-to-several-years. Thank you to **Diane Knight (secretary)**, **Matt Reed (council member)**, and **Tricia Homesley (council member)**. And as we welcome Lynette Stensrud into the role of financial secretary, we offer a special thank you to **Judy Struck** for her many years of hard work. Get to know our current staff and council by visiting <https://www.chicofaithlutheran.org/about/our-team> .

Torres Shelter: Serving One Meal at a Time

The Torres Shelter is a nonprofit emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness. Volunteers do an amazing amount of work at the shelter. One of the more important volunteer programs includes preparing, cooking, and serving the evening meal at 6 p.m. Volunteers from Faith Lutheran Church under the banner of the Social Ministry Team have been part of this program since the Torres Shelter first opened its doors in 2003. There are currently five teams who serve meals at the shelter the first Tuesday of every month.



Karen Avis has been serving meals for as long as the Torres Shelter has existed. For the past three years her colleagues from Chico Performances – Dir. Stephen, wife Sunday Cummins, and daughter Anna; office manager, Barb LaRue; and manager of NSPR, Phil Wilke – have volunteered alongside Karen.” It has been a lot of fun to do this with them.... They are a great team!”

Elise Gladu and Mike Kruschke has been cooking for the Torres Shelter since its inception. “Steve Troester got me and my kids, David and Michelle, involved years ago. I’ve loved it ever since!!” FLC youth held a penny drive when the shelter was being built. “Back then they only had a warming kitchen, our youth earned enough to buy a small industrial refrigerator for it!! Such good memories.” Mike Kruschke started helping David and Elise when Michelle started college. “Currently Mike and I usually do it ourselves, but we would welcome some help!”



Grace and Kathy Mahannah started volunteering in 2013. In the beginning it was just Grace and Kathy. “They used to have a tiny alcove/pantry with a hot plate and microwave, and the first time we brought dinner their hot plate wasn’t even working! Fortunately, we had brought one of our own.” As the kitchen expanded, the team composition grew to include Linda Fischer and Rita Bova, Susan and Shari Kimball, and Margaret McMillan. The current team is comprised of Grace, Kathy, Linda, and Margaret. “It’s always been a great experience serving at the Torres

Shelter both because the guests appreciate our efforts and because we have an awesome team to work with. The one type of support we could really use is an additional team member or two. No experience is necessary, of course!”

Paul and Jana Gosselin began serving meals approximately 7 years ago along with their 3 children. Currently they serve alongside a “rotating crew” that changes from year to year. “The families are so grateful for these meals; it is the least that we can do.” The Gosselins typically prepare and serve the meal at the Torres Shelter on the first Tuesday in August. Jana stated, “Interesting fact: It has sprinkled more often than not over the last 7 years while we were outside grilling hot dogs or hamburgers for the guest.” The Gosselins encourage anyone interested in serving to join one of the teams to just observe. “Volunteering at the Torres Shelter is not as intimidating as people might think; it’s fun and rewarding!”





Oscar and Sky Sample along with their son, Darby, and his girlfriend, Blanca, have been volunteering at the Torres Shelter for over ten plus years. "The serving of the meal is the best time of the day. The guests are always incredibly grateful. As we serve, we joke and talk to the guests. I am glad our family has been exposed to this population who are often marginalized and ignored." Oscar and Sky also set the annual FLC team schedules each December. Additionally, they oversee scheduling to make sure the shelter has dinner from FLC on the first Tuesday of every month.

On behalf of the Social Ministry Team and the congregation at large, we thank each and every one of you for your many years of quiet and dedicated service. If you are interested in volunteering to be part of one of the above teams or would like to just observe prior to making a commitment, please contact team leaders individually; contact information can be found in the church directory.

Submitted by Doug De Soto, Chair, Social Ministry Team

Blessing of the Backpacks

This year's backpack and school supply drive will be from June 27th through August 2nd, culminating with the "Blessing of the Backpacks" during worship on August 8th. The drive is the collection and distribution of backpacks and supplies for school students.

This year's drive will benefit the homeless youth of Butte County. All youth should have the opportunity for educational success, no matter what their housing or family situation may be. Backpacks and supplies will be delivered to the Butte County Office of Education School Ties Program who will issue them to homeless youth the week prior to school starting. Supplies may be dropped off in the Church foyer prior to worship in the marked bins or dropped off at the office Monday -Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Supplies needed are:

15" and 17" backpacks
Pencil boxes, #2 pencils, thick pencils,
sharpeners, and pink school erasers
Glue sticks, safety scissors, and index cards
Folders, binders, and pocket folders with prongs
Crayons and other drawing utensils
Spiral notebooks, composition notebooks,
college ruled notebooks and paper
Highlighters, blue/black/red ink pens, sharpies,
mechanical pencils
Protractors and rulers



To get involved with Torres Shelter Dinners or Blessings of the Backpacks
please contact Doug De Soto at 530-354-1453 or ddesoto5@yahoo.com

Council Minutes

Tuesday June 15, 2021, 6:15 p.m. Conference Room FLC

Present: Colahan, Zimbelman, Sample, Heinz, Knight, Kimball, Kampf, DeSoto, Pulliam.

Absent: Kimmelshue, Homesley, Woods, Melvin.

Upcoming Meetings: All in person unless otherwise noted.

1. Opening Prayer – Pr. Ben
2. Covenant – read by all
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting (attached) Sky 1st, Susan 2nd and minutes were approved.
4. Announcements
 - a. Report on Vacation Bible School. St John's hosted with assistance from FLC and the event was held outdoors. Total 17 children participated; ages were 1st through 5th grade. Five of the children in attendance were associated with FLC.
 - b. Report on facilities use by music group. The Music Teacher's Association of CA are using the campus most of the day. One of our members is running the AV board.
 - c. State of the Call for Director for Family Life. Cindy received an email from an applicant residing in South Carolina. She was a high school teacher and is currently the youth and family director for another Lutheran Church. Cindy reports that she has lots of energy and will be coming to Chico on June 29th for a three-day meeting, in person interview and a tour of Chico. The meeting with the applicant will conclude on July 2nd. If the search committee reaches a decision, they want to call an emergency meeting with council for Saturday morning July 3rd @ 9:00.
 - d. Pr. Ben's planned paternity leave. Due date is Sept. 8th so the plan is to begin paternity leave on September 7th. Pr. Ben will be taking 6 weeks total and will be divided into 2 three weeks segments. Dates for leave will be Sept. 7th to 26th, returning Sept. 27th thru Oct. 10th, second segment will begin Oct. 11th through Oct. 31st.
 - e. Signatures on checks: On: Kampf, Kimball, Kimmelshue, Heinz. Off: Zimbelman, Sample, Knight.
 - f. Plant Operations team. Zimbelman is in the process of contacting several folks to join this team for the purpose of managing the campus, overseeing contract work, taking care of emergencies, and making recommendations to the Council. Membership will consist of Homesley, Zimbelman, and perhaps 3-4 other individuals (being contacted now).
 - g. [Adult Christian Education] for Summer: if you have a special topic or short series you would like to do in [an Adult Christian Education] class format after church on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall, please contact Joel for scheduling.
5. Plant operations: Air conditioning—Pr Ben. See attachments from Royal Air (this week) and Alternative Heating (2020).
 - a. Susan made the motion to replace all three units with the caveat that the duct work, insulation and electrical also be inspected. Doug seconded the motion. Motion carried. Will research additional quotes as quickly as possible to get an order placed.
 - b. Doug will contact Climate Energy Solutions for the third quote.

6. Masking and Meeting Policy—Pr. Ben. Discuss next steps for FLC. Three sets of guidelines exist and the situation in flux:

- CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>)
- State of California (<https://covid19.ca.gov/masks-and-ppe/>)
- Butte County (<http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth/buttereopens>).

Issues that were addressed: Choir singing, congregational singing, drinking out of common cup & coffee hour. Everyone in attendance agreed on the following recommendations:

- Choir members must be vaccinated to participate.
- Coffee hour to begin [July 11th] outdoors.
- Common cup, will table for now until everyone is comfortable and stay with individual cups.
- Congregational singing – we wait until Butte County is in the yellow tier.

7. Capital Campaign: next steps—Zimbelman will send a letter in July or early August to all members that phase one is complete with an opportunity to everyone to participate in phase two.
8. Thanks for a great two years and we can all look forward to the new year and new leadership.
9. Other
- Doug wanted to know if we are thinking about going back to two services. Right now, the Sunday attendance isn't great enough to consider this option. As attendance continues to pick up, this will be reconsidered.
 - Diane wanted everyone to be aware that if we use the Thrivent & refinance fund for the A/C updates, that the emergency cash reserve will be wiped out. Discussed options if this becomes necessary.
 - Kampf is inviting everyone on council including outgoing members as well as spouses to her home for dinner on July 23rd. July 24th all council members will again meet at Kampf's home for a planning morning and that afternoon will be a fun activity.
10. Closing Prayer
11. Adjourn at 7:44 pm

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No regular Council Meeting scheduled for July• Special Council Meeting tentatively scheduled for Saturday July 3rd at 9:00 am to approve call of Director of Family Life• Meeting at Kampf's home July 23rd for dinner (including spouses)• Meeting at Kampf's home July 24th for council planning meeting (all day) |
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**Respectfully submitted,
Diane Knight**

General Fund Finances as of 5 / 31 / 2021

	BUDGET TO DATE	ACTUAL TO DATE	PERCENT OF BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	\$406,533.35	\$390,834.55	96.14%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$407,347.42	\$387,784.83	95.20%
NET INCOME / LOSS	(\$814.07)	\$3,049.72	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/20		\$33,560.21	
Net Revenue through 4/30/21		\$3,049.72	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$36,609.93	

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 11 months, both income and expenses are tracking slightly below budget. This has resulted in net revenue so far this fiscal year of \$3,049.72.

Thank you all for your continued support.
If you have questions, please feel free to contact:
Mark Kimmelshue
(530) 520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com

Benevolence Report



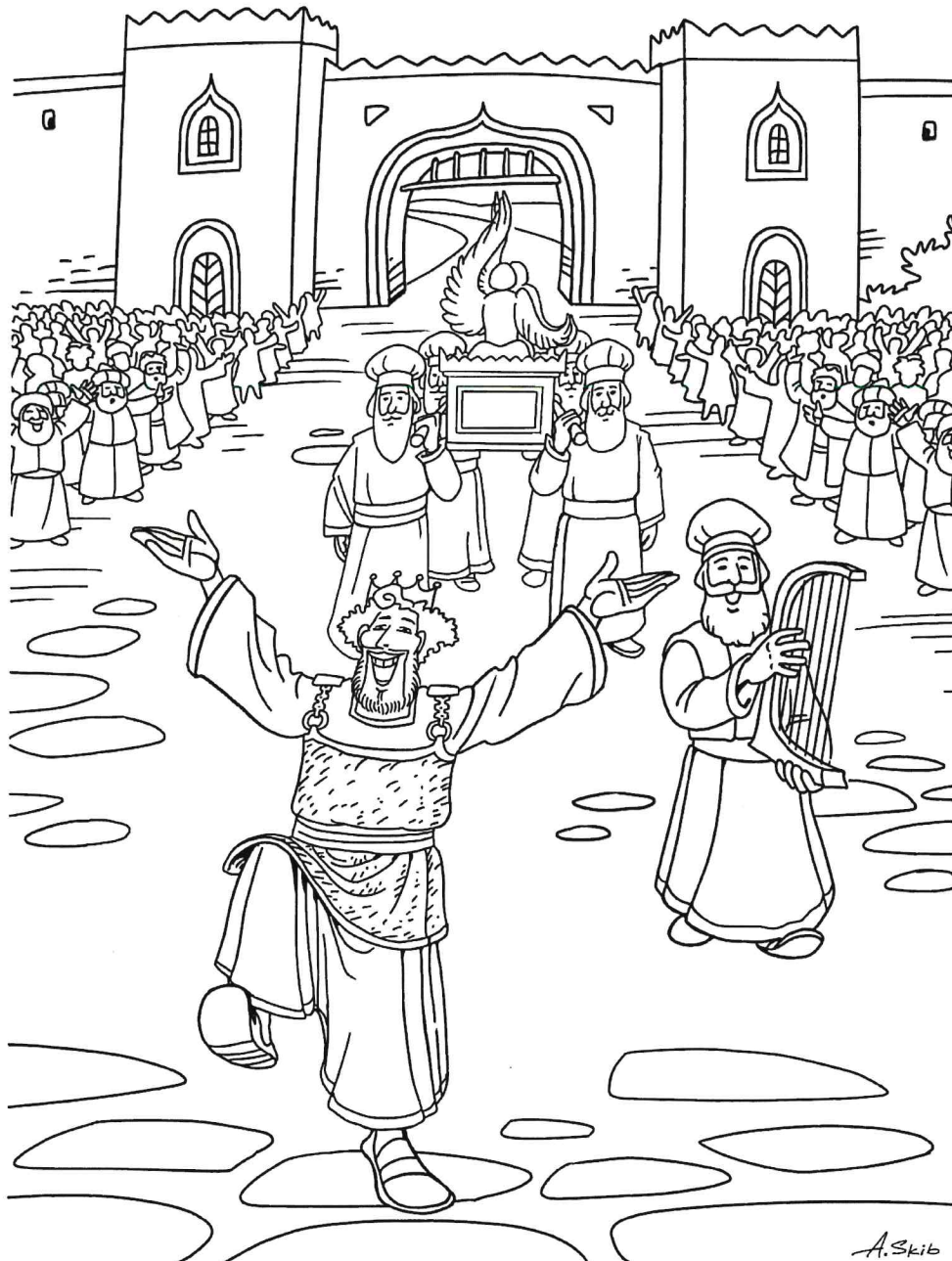
Welcome to July's Benevolence Report, brought to you by Financial Secretary Lynette Stensrud, Manager Mike, and Pastor Ben. As of July 1st, we've begun our new fiscal church year. As a reminder, we have one Disaster Relief Fund. This fund is meant to serve folks impacted by whatever disaster has currently befallen them. At this time, it is COVID-19. Thanks to the Contra Costa Food Bank of Solano County who provides free food from our parking lot twice a month, we have been able to deliver free groceries to those financially impacted by the pandemic. That said, there are others still negatively impacted in other ways, and it is the Disaster Relief Fund that allows us to assist them as needed. So if you would like to donate money to COVID-19 relief, the Disaster Relief Fund is where to donate to. In June, \$200 was given from the Disaster Relief Fund. \$2000 was given to Faith Lutheran students per the Betty Whitmore Scholarship Fund at the administration of the Women's Ministry.

–Lynette & Michael

The Story of King David Continues!

We continue the story of King David! In July, David becomes king and establishes his capital in Jerusalem, a shining city on a hill. We won't be able to read all the twists and turns of David's journey, so I invite you to read along each week to get the rest of the story!

Sunday, July 4: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10, Week of July 5-10: 2 Samuel 5:11 - 25
Sunday, July 11: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19, Week of July 12-17: 2 Samuel 6: 20-23
Sunday, July 18th: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Week of July 19-24: 2 Samuel 7:18 - 10:19
Sunday, July 25: 2 Samuel 11:1-15, Week of July 26 - July 31: 2 Samuel 11:16-25
Sunday, August 1: 2 Samuel 11:26--12:13a



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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!
