

Faith Talks

OCTOBER 2021
WORSHIP SCHEDULE TBD



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Roses

For the birth of Baby Sophia Ireta Marie Colahan, and for the good health of the family.

For Pastors Bill Kees and Carl Wilfrid for preaching in September.

For Doug DeSoto and his leadership skills which made *God's Work, Our Hands* possible; for Dave Barnum and the truck he used to haul garbage; and for all those who came out to help clean up the Chico Creek.

For the healthy return of Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship & Music.

For the Quilters for sending 12 quilts to survivors in Greenville; for holding their boutique whose money is used to purchase transit tickets to those who need transportation to church, as well as to fund student scholarships.

For Elizabeth Bogart and the Hunger Trolley Helpers Group, not just for feeding the hungry, but for taking astounding care of our kitchen and pantry.

COVER PHOTO BY BILL KEES



Cindy Kampf
Council President



**ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE:
A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

I returned on September 18th from a quick trip to New York City. Five Broadway shows and a day with my nephew's family in Queens at the zoo and botanical gardens were more magical than I expected. I was the first person in my extended family to meet my nephew's new baby boy. He was born last December and no one has seen him in person. Zoom was the only way we met him.

"Broadway's Back" echoed through Time Square. The atmosphere was electric on the streets and in the theatres. People were thrilled to be back to see shows in person with all attendees fully vaccinated.

You may have noticed that television has taken the place of live shows and concerts for the past 18 months. The same Broadway productions were brought to our living rooms. We watched by ourselves and we called a friend to make recommendations for new and magical episodes.

But, it was not the same. The experiences are best viewed when shared with a friend or an audience in person.

The church council met on September 21st to discuss the near future of Faith worship services. We know that things change as we know more COVID information. But we also know that we miss seeing each other, so the council has drafted plans to safely conduct in-person services. In early October, the staff and council will work together to see if this solution is viable. (See page 11 for more worship details.)

Worship is not just watching and listening. It is experienced with our Faith family. Communion is more than wine and bread. It is communing with each other and sharing our faith.

I hope that we are able to be together in the near future. We must be brave, but also smart. We must allow each other to worship in a safe and welcoming space. If that means sharing the video experience in the mean time, we will look forward to the day we can say, "Live Worship is Back!" and "Pastor Ben is Back!"



Luke Nicolay,
Dir. Worship & Music



A LETTER FROM LUKE
HAPPY FALL!

Greetings and happy Fall to everyone! What a joy it is to be back at church and to be back making music and immersing myself in the rich community that we have at Faith Lutheran. As many of you know at the end of August/beginning of September, I tested positive for COVID-19. Because of God's gift of medicine, the gentleness of this community, and the ability to rest—I was able to make a full return roughly 16 days after testing positive. During these times of COVID I learned what it meant to be a part of community, I learned what it meant to trust others wholly, and most importantly I learned to not worry about the “little things” that are completely out of our control. What a blessing this community is to me.

As we venture into Fall there are many things going on! Due to COVID and the risk of spreading the virus, we have decided to pause on meeting as a choir for the time being. With this said though, we will continue to work on virtual choir projects together. Our first one of the season will be happening for Reformation which falls on October 31st this year.

While the sanctuary choir may not be able to meet, our FLC Bell Choir is continuing to push forward with learning and gathering. We will continue throughout each week with proper distancing and precautions so that everyone will be kept healthy. We are planning to begin playing at the start of October. The bell choir has been hard at work with a lot of great music and is excited to share its progress and love for Christ with each of you via this way of making music. If you have any interest in joining the bell choir, please contact me via email at luke@chicofaithlutheran.org. We welcome all participants regardless of skill and ability.

The worship leader team is continuing to meet at each Thursday at 5:30 PM as we continue to lead worship through song. If this is something that anyone is interested in, please contact me and I'd be glad to work with you to help lead worship on Sundays!

As the season progresses on, we will be busy planning some exciting music and art! I want to extend my gratitude and thanks to all the musicians and the artists involved at Faith and for your dedication. Our mission to create a place at the table for everyone isn't possible without each one of you. I see the many blessings that God is raining down on each of us here at Faith and throughout the community.

With love,
Luke Nicolay
Director of Worship & Music

Written by the FLC Staff

With commentary from Daun Weiss, Gayle
Palys, and Bill Kees



SPIRITUAL GIFTS PART II: ARTISTRY

ADMINISTRATION * **ARTISTRY** * DISCERNMENT * EVANGELISM * EXHORTATION * FAITH * GIVING *
HOSPITALITY * INTERCESSION * KNOWLEDGE * LEADERSHIP * MERCY * MUSIC-VOCAL * MUSIC-INSTRUMENTAL
* PASTORING * SERVICE * SKILLED CRAFT * TEACHING * WISDOM * WRITING

As part of our exploration of the spiritual gifts that God instills in each of us, this month we focus on the gift of artistry. As followers of Christ, we have the distinct joy and pleasure to worship and praise the God of beauty and creation. We see throughout history, time, and through our daily lives the hand of God at work in artistry. We see the Great Artist's hand at work in the sunsets, the formation of mountains, the crashing of waves on the ocean, the rolling fields of grain, and so much else. God gives us all the ability to create art in our daily lives, both privately and publicly. At Faith Lutheran, we give thanks for the numerous parishioners who strive to create a more beautiful world to live in, and for their willingness to share their art with the congregation, especially in a way that invites us all to participate as creators after God's own heart.



“Have you ever thought about how miraculous our bodies are?” asks Daun Weiss, whose talent lies not only within the realm of music, but within the creation of sanctuary artistry. “I eat my eggs and toast each morning and somehow they energize my heart to beat and my feet to dance. God works through an artist that way too. I digest a bit of Thomas Merton with a side of Sundays and Seasons and in a very organic way ideas dance in my mind and rhythms of worship emerge. It’s both miraculous and completely ordinary. Thanks be to God.”

“I usually take notes on discussions of themes and meanings of scripture from worship leaders,” explains Gayle Palys, creator of our beloved charcoal-Jesus. “Then I spend a week or two thinking, visualizing how to express a particular theme. I often google images or look through books. Sometimes I think the Holy Spirit leads. When I did the Jesus drawing on Good Friday, I practiced a couple of times because I hadn’t drawn people in a long time. I had never done a drawing in front of people.

When I started drawing that evening, I was so nervous and fearful I thought I couldn't do it. I took a deep breath, stilled myself and asked the spirit to use me. I felt like the drawing came through me. I think that is why the drawing became so meaningful to people."

And while many would agree that worship is a garden in which art sprouts and blossoms, we must also mention our *actual* garden! Judy Struck has lovingly cared for our flowers on campus for years. The ministry of gardening in particular is one which we would like to invite others to participate in at this time; to lend a hand – or a green thumb, we should say – in order to nourish and maintain such an imperative part of Faith Lutheran art. You are encouraged to contact the office if your skills in artistry are inspired by all things petals, leaves, and soil.

Then there are our beloved Quilters, a handful of ladies (though anyone can come and quilt!) who apply their art not only because it's fun, but for the sake of serving in Jesus' name. Throughout the pandemic these incredible women have made countless masks – hundreds of masks – for firefighters, police officers, parishioners, you name it. In September they sold their wares at the Elk's Lodge, and as per tradition, money accrued will be put to purchasing transit tickets to folks who need help getting a ride to church, as well as to student scholarships. This ministry continues to be one of Faith's most active and engaging creative outlets.



Such outlets have been imperative in these times of lament; of climate change, wildfires, and of course the pandemic. And yet nature prevails, and we see God's majesty shine through. For photographer and pastor Bill Kees, the Holy Spirit takes the form of wings. "Taking bird pictures invites me to look at what is right in front of me. It is also true that right in front of me, beside me, below me, above me, behind me, is the very presence of God, even within all that God has created (Genesis 1). I am growing in noticing that there is no place where God isn't. It's good to look and pay attention and see God." We give credit to Bill for the beautiful *Faith Talks* cover, a photo which God moved him to capture.



From our Easter flower cross created by Kelly Tipton to the banners that liven the Sanctuary; to our Christmas and Easter festivities to button making for Chico Pride, there is always an outlet for you here at Faith be it digital, tactile, or something totally unique in its own way. Your skills are loved and wanted! The Holidays are approaching quickly, and we encourage you to reach out to Michael, Dani and Luke at the office at (530) 895-3754 to let us know that you want to play a role in the artistry of Faith Lutheran Church!

Dani Vogel,
Director of Family Life
(Also pictured: Echo
McDermott Pappani)



FAITH FAMILY NEWS: FAITH FORMATION



It's been a busy month as we've brought back a number of our faith formation and fellowship programs here at the church. Our junior high and high school youth have gathered in our courtyard to have a meal, games, and Bible study together every other week this fall. We're having a blast getting to know each other, and of course, soaking the Director of Family Life in water from all the water balloons during our game of "Are You Smarter than a Youth Leader?" Turns out, yes, they're smarter, I know nothing about California history, Minecraft, or 1960's politics. They earned themselves root beer floats for one of our October youth meetings. We always welcome friends and new families to join in our activities.

Our young adult group is having in person fellowship again. We kicked off with the Fall Mini-Golf Classic at Fun-land, with prizes given out at random for feats of strength, intelligence, and capability of yeeting a golf ball over a river. Our winner John Dick will get the honor of wearing the coveted blue jacket until our next Mini-Golf classic. Game night and snacks wrapped up our month together. This group is for our over 18 crowd, and is capped at age 38 and $\frac{3}{4}$'s. Friends are always welcome to come along for our events and activities.

If you are looking for a way to help support our First Third of Life events and activities, we are looking for the following:

- Adults to help maintain proper decorum at our faith formation events, programs, and activities.
- Meals, snacks, and prize items for events. On Wednesday nights, we like to feed our group a full meal, as it's right after school events and activities are done for the day.
- Event hosts! If you'd like to offer up your yard for an event, just let us know. We are highly mobile.



The State of the State of Small Groups

We are working towards our plans of expanding small group ministries here at Faith Lutheran. It is our hope to have a wide variety of groups offered to meet various needs here at the church. We have purchased training materials for our small group leaders, and will be putting out some promotional materials soon. If you have a great idea for a small group you would like to see us offer, please email me! I can be reached at danifalthlutheran@gmail.com, or by calling the office at (530) 895-3754.

Kid's Call

We're continuing on this fall, and we'll be talking about how we love our neighbors and can serve in our community to show our love for our neighbors and creation! Join the fun at 3:30 PM on Sunday afternoons by sending your email address to Dani in advance (if you aren't already on the list!)



Faith Formation at Home!

Faith Formation At Home! Activities you can do from the comfort of your own living room! This month's faith formation activity is a movie Bible study on Disney's *"Tangled."* (Rated PG for mild cartoon violence, and singing marauders. But they have a DREAM!)

Question 1: What kinds of things does Rapunzel manage to do with another day of boredom in her tower?

Question 2: What is Rapunzel's dream?

Read Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:8

Question 3: How does Rapunzel keep a positive attitude, even when she continues to face struggles?

Question 4: What other characters have dreams that they want to accomplish?

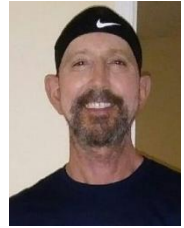
Read Scripture: James 1:12

Question 5: How do Rapunzel's parents remain steadfast in their search for her?

Question 6: How does Rapunzel eventually come to be reunited with her parents?

Prayer: "Dear God, give us the strength and fortitude to overcome our hurdles and create positivity out of dark situations. Amen."





HUNGER TROLLEY- MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

I started volunteering with the Hunger Trolley Helper's Group in the Spring of 2021, preparing meals for and feeding the homeless every Friday evening, after I heard that the Jesus Center, the last of the local “soup kitchens,” was closing its doors to the general public. I was so impressed with the Hunger Trolley’s mission of providing lifesaving meals and essential supplies to anyone in need that I asked the Social Ministry Team to formally support this ministry by allowing the group to use Faith’s kitchen, and through an on-going financial commitment.

Hunger Trolley was begun shortly after the Camp Fire in 2018 by Elizabeth Bogart, a longtime local Safe Space volunteer. Elizabeth said she watched online discussions of homelessness turn ugly and she saw people on Facebook claim people without homes were “taking our things.” So she and a small group of volunteers started putting meals together to take out into the community, such as at the homeless camp at Pine and Cypress Streets in Chico. There was only one question anyone needed to answer in order to be eligible for one of the Hunger Trolley’s meals, and that question was, “Are you hungry?”



Elizabeth said, “We wanted to make meals like your mom would give you,” and the team has a tradition of adding homemade cookies with every meal. The name of the food outreach program comes from the small wagon they use to bring food to people, “Like Neighborhood Trolley from ‘Mister Roger’s Neighborhood,’” Elizabeth said. Free meals had been made once a month, but this changed when the COVID-19 pandemic came to Chico. Elizabeth’s

volunteer team started doing weekly to-go bagged meals and distributed them out of cars to people around the city. Elizabeth said she learned in late 2020, early 2021 that Safe Space had secured Casey’s Place to shelter the medically vulnerable and unhoused community in three different churches in Chico. “They needed people to help with food on Casey’s Place, and I knew it was in our wheelhouse.” As a result, the Hunger Trolley began delivering free dinners and breakfast bags every Friday to Casey’s Place.

In June 2021, the Hunger Trolley began operating out of the kitchen at Faith Lutheran Church. Elizabeth stated, "From the bottom of our hearts, thank you (Faith Lutheran Church) for your ongoing support of the Hunger Trolleys Helper's Group. Your extremely generous donation has ensured that 72 meals get delivered to hungry members of our community once a week. Your commitment to our mission is crucial to the work that we do. Your contribution helps make the world a better place, one person at a time."

DIRECTORY REGISTRATION – LAST CALL!



Hey folks! If you're reading this, then odds are you've gotten a form in the mail asking you to register for the 2022-2023 Faith Lutheran Church Directory. Remember, reservations for a spot are due on Monday, October 11th! We're approaching the deadline, so if you still need to register, you can either go online to <https://forms.gle/xkhwoN68Vo2vYuG16> or come into the office to fill out a form. Please do not call to have me fill one out over the phone -- I'm hard of hearing and I want to make sure your info is accurate!

If you're sending in a photo, make sure it's square (or that I can fit the people in the picture into a square frame, like all of the pictures seen here). Send your pics to office@chicofaithlutheran.org. If you're having your photo taken on campus, I'll reach out to you directly once we have set dates for photo ops. They will likely take place in late October to early November.

I've already gotten a ton of responses, and from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU! –Manager Mike

BLUE BAGS DROP-OFF LAST DAY: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8



The Chico Food Project picks up "Blue Bags" filled with non-perishable goods from all around Chico...including Faith Lutheran Church! If you have non-perishables you'd like to donate, bring them on by and fill up a blue bag. Bags are picked up once every-other-month. You can drop off food items any time up until October 8th.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 3rd – Blessing of the Animals – Pr. Ben preaching

October 10th – Pr. Ben preaching

October 17th – Pr. Carl Wilfrid preaching

October 24th – Dani Vogel preaching, Pr. Bill Kees presiding

October 31st – Reformation Sunday – Pr. Carl Wilfrid preaching. Wear red!

Pastor Ben returns from paternity leave on November 1st



Reformation Sunday 2019, sendoff of Kevin Anderson

SERVICE TYPE TO BE DETERMINED

The council and staff are working together to bring worship to you in a way that is meaningful, accessible, and safe, considering the elements of COVID-19 and weather as they fluctuate. This makes timely decisions and consistent scheduling a challenging achievement, and we thank you for your continued patience.

Please continue to communicate your needs to us, and we will communicate to you as early as we are able the way we will conduct October worship. The best way to stay up to date about worship is through our weekly email blast, *This Week at Faith*, which you can register for on our website or by calling the office directly. It gets sent out every Tuesday. If you don't use the computer and need more direct updates, give Michael a call at the office and he'll personally make sure you're kept in the loop.



FINANCIAL REPORT

**Faith Lutheran Church
General Fund Finances as of 08/31/2021**

| | Budget | Actual | Percent |
|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | To Date | To Date | Of Budget |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$68,029.10 | \$54,003.94 | 79.38% |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$80,599.12 | \$64,419.53 | 79.93% |
| NET INCOME/(LOSS) | (\$12,570.02) | (\$10,415.59) | |
| Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/21 | | \$66,838.39 | |
| Capital Expense | | (\$27,138.56) | |
| Net Revenue through 07/31/2021 | | (\$10,415.59) | |
| Ending General Fund Balance | | <u>\$29,284.24</u> | |

In an effort to be transparent and keep the Faith Lutheran Community up to speed and in touch with the finances of the Church, this report will be posted in Faith Talks on a monthly basis.

You will notice that the General Fund Balance has decreased substantially since the beginning of the fiscal year. To explain this, the beginning balance as of 7/1/21 of \$66,838.39, included funds that had been transfer to the General Fund account from other funds to pay for the Capital Expense to upgrade the HVAC system in the Sanctuary. Those expenses have been paid for which brings the General Fund Balance to a more normal level for this time of year.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmselshue
530-520-8228
kimmelsue@armcorice.com

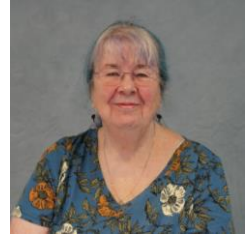


BENEVOLENCE REPORT

Lynette Stensrud
Financial Secretary



In February, 2021, Faith gifted Paradise Lutheran Church \$1,435.93 for fire relief. Paradise Lutheran reports that \$400 was given forward to repair the car of one of their tenants in transitional housing, while the remainder heavily contributed to their new Projected Worship system. The Hunger Trolley Helpers Group sends its thanks for our monthly contribution of \$100, and reports that they are able to deliver 72 meals to the hungry every week. CHAT, to whom we contribute \$100 monthly, was given full approval to carry out the “Everhart Village” project, where tiny houses and a laundry/kitchen/shower facility is being built. In late August, we were able to pay \$1,350 from the Disaster Relief Fund to secure first month’s rent and the deposit for a family who lost their home in the Camp Fire, struggled to find housing, and acquired a home near Greenville which burned down shortly after in the Dixie Fire. Our gift helped them to move into an apartment and out of their car, for which they express their thanks. The Faith Lutheran Endowment Fund received \$2,500 for the Capital Campaign, to which we say thank you for your incredible generosity.



COUNCIL MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEP. 21, 2021 @ 6:15 PM

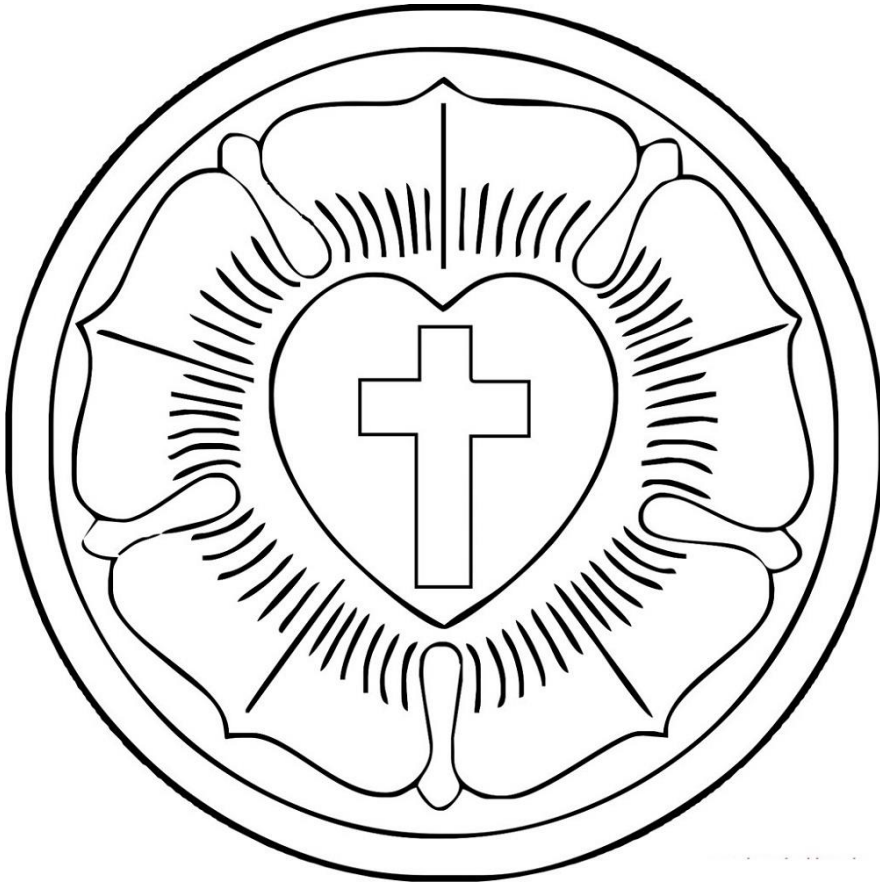
Present: Kampf, Kimball, Kimmelshue, Heinz, Desoto, Melvin, Pulliam, Sample, Zimbelman

Guest: Schweder

Absent: Colahan, Groh, Woods

- 1) Welcome and celebrations
- 2) Prayer and covenant
- 3) Devotions and Equipping Ministry: Kim Schweder, discussed job descriptions/expectations
- 4) Approval of minutes/August 17, 2021: Kimmelshue/Desoto/approved
- 5) Financial Report: (see attached) Motion to approve - Kimball/Melvin/approved
- 6) Social Ministry Environmental Report on drought/water shortage, and discussion. Motion made to appoint a subcommittee (Zimbelman, DeSoto, and Melvin) to further look into some ways for the congregation to practice our environmental stewardship:
Kimmelshue/Pulliam/approved
- 7) Capital improvement update: Zimbelman, will give report to congregation at next open (inside) worship (Oct 3)
- 8) Fire Marshall Report: Plan is to have any corrections taken care of within next few weeks and have a 30 min safety in-service for all appropriate members
- 9) Worship: discussion-Motion made to come back inside/as well as streaming online on Oct 3 with CDC and ELCA provisions - Kimmelshue/DeSoto/approved (*ADDENDUM: COUNCIL HAS REVISITED THIS OPTION, MOTION PENDING*)
- 10) Request from manager to add “pay at least 1 week prior to use” on Facility Use Agreements.
Kimmelshue/Pulliam/approved
- 11) Closing Prayer and adjournment

THE LUTHER ROSE – COLORING PAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART



The Luther Rose is a seal that was designed way, way back in the 1500s for Martin Luther. Martin Luther picked a black cross on a red heart to remind him that “it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us.” The heart is in a white rose, “to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace”. The rose is in a sky-blue field, symbolizing joy and faith. And finally, the ring on the outside is gold to reflect the eternal blessedness of heaven. You can color the Luther Rose any colors you want! Which colors will you choose and why? Send in your copy and let us know!



GET INVOLVED WITH FIRST THIRD OF LIFE MINISTRIES!

What is “First Third of Life?” First Third includes the kids, youth, young adult, and intergenerational ministries at Faith Lutheran Church. Here are our current groups:



YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group consists of middle and high schoolers. We do everything from hiking to swimming to rock climbing to scavenger hunts to snowshoeing at Lassen to venturing through haunted corn mazes. We're currently looking for grown-ups who can help chaperone and/or cook for youth events.

Currently meets on the 1st Wednesday evening of the month and the 3rd Sunday afternoon of the month.

YOUNG ADULTS

Our young adults group ranges from ages 18 to late thirties. From board games to mini-golf, we are a group that enjoys food, relaxing conversation, and the occasional friendly competition. On October 10th, we will dress as Super Mario Bros. characters and go to the Country Pumpkins corn maze! If you're interested in attending, RSVP with Dani!

Currently meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in the late afternoons/early evenings.



To participate in any First Third ministry or event, contact Director of Family Life Dani Vogel at danifaithlutheran@gmail.com or by calling the office at (530) 895-3754.

667 East 1st Ave.
Chico, CA. 95926

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



RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Name
Address
State City Zip

Faith Lutheran Church Council

President
Cynthia Kampf

Vice President
Susan Kimball

Treasurer
Mark Kimmelshue

Secretary
Sherrill Heinz

Council Members

Joel Zimbelman
Bonnie Pulliam

Meridith Woods
Penny Melvin

Sky Sample

Doug DeSoto
Kyle Groh

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

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-4:30pm

Phone: (530) 895-3754

Email: office@chicofaithlutheran.org

Website: www.chicofaithlutheran.org

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