

Faith Talks

December 2021



Sunday Worship 9:30 AM

Living Nativity Christmas Eve 3-6 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 9 PM

Christmas Day Service 9:30 AM

Table of Contents

Worship and Advent Schedule.....	3
Pastor's Article.....	4
Letter from the President.....	6
Blue Bags.....	7
Letter from Luke.....	8
Spiritual Gifts: Evangelism.....	10
Holiday Sock Drive.....	11
Faith Family News.....	12
Faith Formation at Home.....	13
Comanche Creek: Voices from The Greenway.....	14
Maintaining Church Buildings.....	16
ELCA Giving Tree.....	17
Financial & Benevolence Reports.....	18
Council Minutes.....	19



Roses

The Women's Ministry for hosting their Bake Sale & Boutique, which raised over a thousand dollars for scholarships!

Judy Struck, Janine Rush, Joel Zimbelman, Cindy Kampf, Marge Troester, Doug De Soto, and Bill Kees for subbing for Michael during his vacation time.

The folks who continued to provide meals to Pastor Ben and Annalisa as Ben returned to work.

Those who donated food items to the Hunger Trolley, which Faith provided the meal for November 12th.

Stonewall Alliance Center for hosting Transgender Day of Remembrance; those who donated take-home comfort food; Kendall Stafford and Harrie Schaufel for offering their vocal talents.

Bill Kees for taking photos for our directory.

Jason and Tona at Comanche Creek for graciously contributing to Faith Talks.

Ethan Mellema for such a delightful and robust musical recital.

And the Arts & Environment masterminds behind our festive Sanctuary.

Worship and Advent

Sunday Worship takes place at 9:30 AM. As of December 1st, **gentle singing will be invited under masks**, which are still required for persons over the age of 2. Please continue to practice appropriate social distancing and hand-hygiene like washing and sanitizing. Booster shots are now available for all vaccinated individuals in California.

Wednesday Holden Worship – 1st, 7th, and 15th from 7-7:45 PM in the Sanctuary

Join us for our Advent Holden Worship services, featuring supplemental music, and teaching by Pastor Ben on women in Jesus's genealogy and the loving darkness of the womb.

Advent Workshop – Saturday, December 4th from 12-2 PM in the Courtyard

Join us for this Faith annual tradition of craft-making for people of all ages! From craft-making to Hanging of the Greens, this festive session is one you don't want to miss! For more info, please call the office at (530) 895-3754 or contact Dani Vogel at danifaithlutheran@gmail.com.

Advent Poinsettias are purchased for \$10 each, in memory of or in celebration of someone you love. These poinsettias are used to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas, and are returned to you after the service to keep or to give away. Flowers can be purchased from now until December 16th. Money can be dropped off at the office, and make sure to let Michael know who your flowers are dedicated to.

Living Nativity – Christmas Eve from 3-6 PM

Faith's courtyard will become the little town of Bethlehem with farm animals in pens, lights shining from every surface, and musicians dressed as angels singing hosanna from the literal rooftops. At its heart will be the Christ child, and each visitor will be asked to lay at the manger a can of food, baby food, or baby formula to donate to local food banks.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 9 PM

In person and online.

Christmas Day Service – 9:30 AM

In person and online.



**PASTOR'S ARTICLE:
LIGHT AND DARK**

Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). John's gospel uses the imagery of Jesus as light to explain the ways in which Christ helps us see God and ourselves truly. In this metaphor, darkness becomes negative because it represents where we try to hide from God. As a result, many Christians assume that darkness is inherently bad. But the Bible describes darkness beyond this metaphor in ways that reveal how darkness is also a part of God's good creation.

The first and greatest blessing of darkness comes in the opening lines of the Bible:

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. -- Genesis 1:1-5

All life begins in the loving darkness of the womb. This is true for humans, who spend our first 9 months in the loving darkness of our mother's womb. This is true for all animal life on earth, which both scripture and evolutionary science agree began in the sea (Genesis 1:20). And this is true on a cosmic scale: the initial explosion of light that marks the beginning of the universe is born out of formless void and darkness. The darkness of deep space is the womb from which God brought forth the cosmos.

It is the interplay between light and dark that God uses to order the universe, mark time, and give meaning to our days. The consequences of this truth are both social and personal.

On a social level, being able to celebrate the blessing of darkness is essential for proclaiming the gospel in this moment in history. When Europeans began settling the Americas and enslaved both indigenous and African peoples on a vast scale, part of the rhetoric Christians used to justify this slavery was by labeling Europeans as "light" and African and indigenous peoples as "dark." This type of labeling of people continues to this day.

But whereas 17th century Europeans insisted that “light = good,” and “dark = bad,” we know that in Christ all races and ethnicities are united as one holy people. So long as people are described as “light” or “dark,” Christ’s gospel requires us to affirm that both light and dark are good, holy, and a blessing.

Seeing the sacred in darkness is also essential on a personal level. As the days get shorter, seeing darkness as a negative becomes overwhelming when over half our day is darkness. But if we can learn to see the darkness as a blessing from God, suddenly these dark winter days can become for us a loving womb from which new life is waiting to be born.



Throughout Advent, we will be exploring the blessings of darkness in scripture and our lives. Though due to Covid, we will not be sharing soup suppers, the first three Wednesdays in December we hold Holden Evening Prayer services in-person at 7pm. Each of these services will focus on the theme of “the loving darkness of the womb” by examining the four women named in Jesus’ genealogy and how darkness was a blessing for each of them. Our sanctuary will also be decorated throughout Advent to help us see the

beauty in darkness and ponder how God might use darkness to birth new life into our lives. I encourage you to read our Worship and Music Director’s Article for more on those decorations.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, we will once again have our outdoor living nativity in the afternoon, but this year we will also return to our 9pm candlelight service live and in the sanctuary.

Advent is a time to ponder, like Mary, what it means to be pregnant with Christ, what it means to wait and prepare to give birth to Jesus. May the darkness this Advent be for you a blessing, an invitation to slow down, curl up, and feel God hold you close in the loving darkness of the womb.

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

Cynthia Kampf
Council President



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



I am continually amazed at the energy and talent of our Faith family. Every Sunday brings a morning of worship and service. The worship service is just a means of bringing us all together – either in person or online.

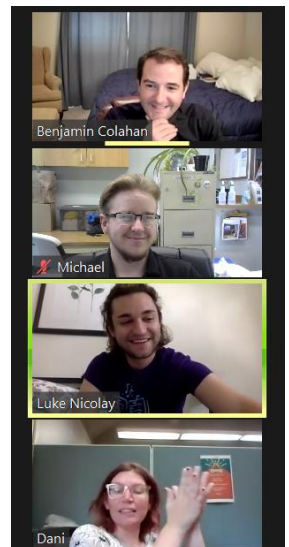
Our faithful musicians and vocalists, led by Luke Nicolay, bring us closer to receiving the Holy Spirit through the language of music. It is almost impossible to stay still when they lead us in some of the most beautiful hymns and spiritual songs.

Our Social Ministry leader, Doug De Soto, seems to be everywhere at church and in the community. Many of you have followed him into bringing the gift of time, listening, and serving to those most in need in our wider community.

Our new Director of Family Life, Dani Vogel, has made a big impact on the youth and young adults among us. She will soon help to lead the creation of small groups along with the experienced small group leaders in our midst. I look forward to the connections that will be made at Faith and with others in the community.

It goes without saying that the return of Pastor Ben Colahan to full time service is a blessing to all of us. It was also a blessing that he was able to be present with Annalisa in bonding with their new baby girl, Sophia, during his paternity leave.

Thank you to our office manager, Michael Nicholson, for keeping things running in Pastor Ben's absence. You also made it easy for everyone to do their part in the life of our Faith family.





I think that Joel Zimbelman spends more time in his new roles than he did as President of the Church Council. We appreciate his enthusiasm and energy in keeping the facilities running and planning for the future of Faith Lutheran.

In this time of Thanksgiving, we have much for which to be thankful. I am thankful for you, the faithful members of Faith Lutheran Church. If you are like me and have spent any time away from Faith, you will find that there truly is a welcoming place at the table for everyone. Sometimes we get too busy and don't pay close attention. Let us know how we can make Faith more welcoming to you.

(If you don't have a name tag, email ckampf@aol.com with your first and last name as you wish to have it spelled. Indicate magnet, pin attachment or clip-on type.)



Blue Bags Drop-Off

Blue Bag Drop-Offs are due by Friday, December 10th this month. 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 by Margaret McMillan once every-other-month. For more info, please call the office at (530) 895-3754.

Luke Nicolay,
Dir. Worship & Music



A LETTER FROM LUKE
THE ADVENT-URE BEGINS!

Greetings and blessings as we venture into Advent my friends! Isn't it hard to believe that Advent and the holidays are now here? How time flies! It seems like just yesterday I was preparing my article for Thanksgiving and letting everyone know what we'd be up to for the holidays. The month of November has now come and gone. It seems as though each month is creative and exciting in a new way.



As we head into Advent we prepare for the birth of Christ and what a joyous time that is! However, this season I want us to think of Advent in a different way. The story of Christ's birth is one, at its core, that brings great joy to all. The story, however, is a tough one and a journey with many trials and tribulations. Firstly, we see Mary being shunned by many because of the circumstances of her pregnancy, there is then no room for them at the inn and the baby is birthed in a barn, and to top it all off, they must flee from the king who is

trying to kill all the young babies to prevent an "overthrow." Pr. Ben's article speaks directly to the circumstances of the time and how we are demonstrating this in our worship.

You'll notice each week that the sanctuary will transform little by little. We'll be coloring out the windows in the narthex, there'll be art covering many of the panels, projections on the ceilings and walls and more. We will be transforming this space because we want to think about the darkness. What does it mean? Is it a bad thing? How can we embrace it? When it comes to darkness what do you think of? Perhaps space and the stars? Or maybe even the womb where all life begins.

Darkness can be warm, it can be inviting, it can be great and powerful. There are so many ways that we can embrace it and welcome it without being afraid or worrying.

In addition to the transformation of our space, you'll also notice the music has changed a bit. We will be contemplating simplicity throughout this season and exploring sound. The sounds of the womb, the ocean, and many other aspects of this creation that provides comfort and strength. We'll also be re-visiting some favorite Advent hymns along with some new hymns from the supplement "All Creation Sings" and contemporary music as well.

By Christmas Eve we will begin to journey together, starting with one voice crying out in the wilderness and then two voices until we are joined together in song. This will be the celebration of the birth of Christ. We will also witness, throughout the season of Advent, the construction of a creche of recycled materials. When Christmas Eve arrives, we will see one of our beloved church members place the Christ child in the creche as we begin the journey of the Christ child.

Blessings to each of you as we prepare for the coming of Jesus and for the grace he brings with him. This is always a joyful time of the year, but I invite us to be contemplative, to think of the circumstances with which our Christ came to this world. How can we embrace and feel comfort in the darkness?

Blessings to each of you.
Luke Nicolay, *Director of Worship and Music*



Written by Pr. Ben Colahan
With commentary from long-time
Adult Education teacher Joel Zimbelman



SPIRITUAL GIFTS PART IV: EVANGELISM

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

The word "evangelism" comes from two Greek words, *eu* (meaning "good") and *aggelos* (meaning "messenger"). Evangelism is literally sharing good news. The good that we have as Christians to share with people is that they are loved unconditionally by God, have a place forever in Jesus' family, and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to change this world for the better. The good news is incredibly simple, the challenge is how to share it in a way that people believe it.

When you want to let the people who are important in your life know that you love them, how do you go about it? Do you say, "I love you," as the person walks past, and then never interact with them again? I certainly hope not! Conversely, do you wake up early each morning ready to care for all the person's needs, but never actually say the words, "I love you?" If so, I very much hope you someday say those words out loud. As much as caring acts are essential to loving someone, we all yearn to hear those words of love spoken to us. The same is true with evangelism, with sharing the good news of God's love in Christ, it must be done with both words and deeds.

True evangelism is more than standing on street corners holding signs saying "John 3:16," and it is more than providing material help for people in need. Evangelism is loving people through our actions and telling them the source of our love is Jesus, who loves them also, who knows all their sins and faults and yet has chosen them to transform the world. Sometimes evangelism is done by listening to someone's troubles, holding their hands and praying with them to the God who loves them. Sometimes evangelism is done by giving food to a hungry person, and then sitting with them, listening to their story, and saying "why don't you come join me at church on Sunday?"

Sometimes evangelism happens in a classroom, when we examine all reasons people think they or others don't deserve love, belonging, or empowerment, and then studying scripture to discover how Jesus demolishes all those reasons.

“Learning is a life-time undertaking,” says Joel Zimbelman, who has been teaching Faith Adult Christian Education classes for many years, “and the focus of FACE classes over the many decades has been to equip the Saints (and our guests) with an appreciation what the Gospel teaches and the ways in which its truths can nurture and shape our everyday lives. We have always tried to choose topics, books, devotional activities, and speakers who were great conversation starters, had something important to share, and who could help ignite creative ways of making the Gospel come alive for our members. That mission of building up the body in love and community will continue in the coming years as our adult classes move back to Faith’s Fellowship Hall!”

Each and every follower of Jesus is called to be an evangelist, to share the good news of Christ in word and deed, but some people are given a special gift from the Holy Spirit for this ministry. Do you see someone who is hurting, and yearn to let them know they are loved? Do you hear people talking disparagingly about themselves and want to stop-up their mouth and fill their ears with all the reasons they are wonderful? Do you see a stranger all alone, and think to yourself, "here's a chance to make someone feel special?" If so, perhaps the Holy Spirit has given you the gift of evangelism. May you use it to bless this world.



The Social Ministry team is soliciting donations of adult, unisex ankle, crew or tube socks for our unhoused neighbors in the Chico area. We encourage folks to gift-wrap their socks and attach a Christmas card but if you do not have the time or resources, we will wrap them. You can drop off socks any time from December 1st-22nd at the office. These gifts will be distributed at the Comanche Creek encampment on December 24th at 11:00 am. You may also make a financial donation by writing a check to FLC and annotating "sock drive" on the memo line. For more information, contact the office or any member of the Social Ministry Team.

Dani Vogel,
Director of Family Life



FAITH FAMILY NEWS

It's been a busy fall at Faith with our First Third of Life ministries. Our youth were busy doing acts of service this month to help our greater community. Cookies were made for The Hunger Trolley and for Trans Day of Remembrance. We have many talented bakers in our youth group, who also happen to be cookie appreciators. We also built a beautiful creche and backdrop to add to our worship space during the season of Advent.



We will be celebrating Christmas soon together, and one of the many gifts you can share with our youth is your presence. We love to have company during our youth meetings to join us in eating a meal, and participating in fun activities with us.

Our young adult group continues to have wild amounts of fun celebrating our various gifts. Our spectacular gourmand, Joel Zimbleman, served as our judge for our cooking competition. Contestants prepared a variety of dishes, including chicken stir fry, orange chicken, and breakfast tacos. Taron won the coveted blue jacket this month with her vegetarian breakfast taco feast. We'll gather at Cindy Kampf's home to celebrate our Christmas party on December 12th at 5 pm.

For the month of December, we're adding something different to our children's ministry schedule. Nativity School! Families at Faith can sign up for Sunday School lessons in December that focus on the story of Advent and the nativity, which have the option of being held at your home, or in the courtyard at church. Families will be able to do a fun craft, and celebrate the season together. Stay tuned for an email regarding signing up for this new event!

Did you know that Faith Lutheran is the charter organization of our very own Scout Troop? Troop 12 meets regularly at the church with our Scoutmasters David and Jessica.

If you'd be interested in learning more about joining Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts (which is open to all genders) please contact Dani for more information about our troop. Our scouts participate in a wide variety of activities to help promote positive thinking and community engagement in our young people.

Many of you stopped by our annual Craft Fair and Bake Sale this year, and we are grateful for your support. The quilters, crafters, and bakers of Faith Lutheran work hard to create beautiful items for this event, as well as other craft fairs. All proceeds from their sales support their work in providing scholarships to Faith Lutheran members, as well as support the senior bus pass program here in Chico. They raised over a thousand dollars for these vital ministries this fall. Quilters meet regularly on Tuesdays in our Fellowship Hall. If you'd be interested in joining this group, let us know at the church.



Faith Formation at Home!

Activities you can do from the comfort of your own living room! With the extra time off this holiday season, build your own Advent calendar to help count down the days to Jesus' birth!

Most commercial Advent calendars start on December 1st, and only countdown to Christmas from there, but in our church tradition, this year, we start Advent on November 28th! Here are some ideas for a homemade advent calendar:

- **Find some of your favorite storybooks, wrap them up, and pick one to read each night as a countdown to Christmas!**
- **Find snack items from different countries, and open a new snack nightly.**
- **Read a chapter of the book of Luke nightly until Christmas. You'll finish before Jesus is born!**
- **Make a box, and add an item to donate to local non-profits nightly. Donate the box on Christmas Eve at a drop off site.**
- **Save up loose change daily, and use the collection to purchase an item in need.**



COMANCHE CREEK: VOICES FROM THE GREENWAY

The North State Shelter Team recently celebrated the 35th weekend in a row of cleanups that have focused on helping remove trash from Comanche Creek. Working in collaboration with Faith Lutheran Church and other community volunteers, the North State Shelter Team has spent time on Sunday afternoons cleaning up the greenway and getting to know the campers. Charles Withuhn of the North State Shelter Team said that over the 35 weekends, the work is starting to pay off. “There was a time it didn’t look like we’d made any progress. There were piles of trash everywhere, but we just keep plugging away at it and now it’s actually better.”

This milestone also marked 35 weekends of helping the people living at Comanche Creek. “This is 35 Sundays in a row we’ve shown up and handed out fire extinguishers, first aid kits, sandwiches, sundries with toothbrushes and soap, and socks and some clothes,” Withuhn said. “We make friends. We cruise Comanche and go up to the campers and offer to haul away their trash. They’re really grateful. We get a lot of ‘thank-yous’. These people are isolated. They’re folks that don’t have family. And that happens because of domestic violence, because of divorce, because of the death of a breadwinner, because of having health issues. A lot of people are alienated from their families. And so because they have no fallback position, they end up in the bushes.”



I personally have gotten to know many of the campers at Comanche Creek over the past 8 months. It has been a humbling experience to hear their stories and to be thanked for “treating me like a real person.” Two of those individuals are Jason and Tona and they have given me permission to share their stories.

Jason’s Story: Jason is 47 and came to Chico from Redding after losing his job in retail due to the pandemic. Jason said when his unemployment ran out, he was not able to keep up with the rent. “I lost everything. I had no income, couldn’t find work; resources for the homeless were very

limited so I moved to Chico.” Jason has lived at Comanche Creek for the past 18 months. “I know that people think all homeless people are drug users who don’t want to work; we’re not! We all have a different story. I hope to get a full-time job and get a house someday. It’s hard to apply for work when you don’t have an address or the ability to take a shower or put on clean clothes every day - who’s going to hire me like this?” Jason told me, “I keep my campsite clean and appreciate the volunteers who come out to help us. The city only provides one dumpster so there is no place to put the trash. That’s why I help out every Sunday picking up trash. Because we’re all struggling out here.” Jason added that, “What does help with the struggle of being homeless is the help from volunteers. There’s a lot of people that come out here and give us food, clothing, and things like toothbrushes and toothpaste. In return, I try to help others in the same boat as I am.”

Tona’s Story: Tona is 55, a life-long resident of Butte County and has lived at Comanche Creek for about 2 years. “I lost my home in the Camp Fire and we ended up on the streets of Oroville for about 4 months until my fiancé assaulted me, rolled me up in a tarp and set me on fire.” Tona said that after her release from the hospital she went to Catalyst but unable to find permanent housing, ended up back on the streets. Tona told me that she “Worked for over 30 years as an In-Home Supportive Services worker helping seniors, however she is no longer able to work due to late on-set epilepsy.” Tona has no income. She recycles and repairs bicycles for spare change. Tona said, “As a single women, it’s scary as hell living at Comanche creek. I’ve seen 4 of my friends die. People don’t even see us - they don’t see us! That makes me feel horrible. I’m afraid to leave my tent after dark. This is not the life I wanted; this is the life I have. I’m not living, I’m surviving, not living, surviving!” Tona added, “I hope to be able to get off the street someday, I hope to get my Social Security. I really appreciate the volunteers who come out to help us, their actions tell me, you are not invisible, you are not a burden.”



For more information on how you can volunteer with the Comanche Creek Clean-Up project, contact any member of the Social Ministry Team by emailing faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com or calling (530) 895-3754.

Joel Zimbelman
Chair, Property Committee



MAINTAINING OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Our committee has been busy over the past few months taking care of our building and grounds. We have accomplished a lot, but have many projects in the works!

We replaced four air conditioning units (three in the sanctuary and one in the church office) that were inefficient or not working. Some of those units were over 30 years old, so we really got our money out of them!

Our water bills have been high, and we are fixing broken pipes and sprinklers, as well as exploring upgrades to our irrigation system and some new landscaping. More details to follow as we work with Cal Water to solve our problems.

Lighting in the Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and bathrooms is outdated and uneven. We'll be upgrading lots of these lights in the next few months to provide more consistent coverage, good color, and safety.

We have been working with the Fire Marshall to keep our building up to code. We will need to replace the outdated fire suppression system over our kitchen stove. We will try to have that done in December.

As we prepare to return to regular Sunday coffee time, Janine Rush and others have purchased new coffee machines and service. We will be installing a new water filter in the kitchen to make sure our coffee tastes as good as what you have at home.

We are exploring an update to our campus security system with door and window security, as well as a few cameras on the property.

As funds become available through the Stewardship Campaign, we will be working with a contractor to convert the bathroom in the nursery into a fully handicapped-accessible sink and toilet. This will provide us with bathroom access separate from our main building, increase security on our campus, and meet the needs of visiting groups who use our classrooms.

Start time on this project (and the accompanying renovation of the nursery) will depend on how quickly we can raise financial support from our members.

Our playground equipment was power washed and the bark was raked and cleaned by the Boy Scouts. Shortly, we will order ten cubic yards of playground bark for delivery, and kids will be able to safely play on this equipment once again.

Safety on our campus is always a concern. Starting in January, we will hold occasional safety meetings for staff, guest users, and members to orient them to the use of our facilities, procedures we have for safe use of our equipment, and who to contact when an emergency arises. Stay tuned: if you are reading this, we're likely to invite you to one of these 30-minute sessions!

Finally, let Joel know if you are interested in being part of a campus cleanup day after Christmas. We need to take care of some exterior, roof, and interior maintenance chores; organ oiling, window cleaning, and tree pruning. Nothing major, but many hands make for quick work!

Global Giving Tree



This December, the Season of Giving, look for our Global Giving Tree in the Sanctuary. This tree will be adorned with ornaments, each a service opportunity in which to support the ELCA on a global level. These donations go to purchase water taps to outfit families in Nepal with clean water; broods of chicks for farmers; fish for ponds, or even entire startup ponds for farmers/fisherman in Cambodia; sewing machines for sewers in Sudan; and so, so much more all over the world! Gifts start at \$10, and there are a variety to choose from. The Giving Tree will be made available at our Advent Workshop on Saturday, December 4th and will stay throughout most of December.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 10/31/2021

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$128,088.41	\$114,281.64	89.22%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$161,198.23	\$146,353.16	90.79%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$33,109.82)	(\$32,071.52)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2021		\$46,984.43	
Net Revenue through 9/30/21		<u>(\$32,071.52)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u>\$14,912.91</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.

At the end of 4 months both income and expenses are tracking slightly below budget. The General fund balance continues to decline which is not unusual for this time of year. However, it would be helpful if we all could give a little more to help strengthen the General Fund in support of the programs at the Church.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue
530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com

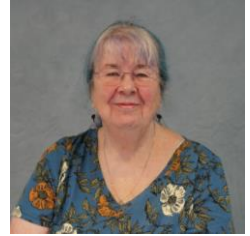


BENEVOLENCE REPORT

Lynette Stensrud,
Financial Secretary &
Michael Nicholson, Manager



As we transition into the holidays, seasonal giving is starting to trickle in. In November, \$165 was donated so that we could purchase pies for Chico Housing Action Team's Thanksgiving. 65 pies were purchased and given out prior to Thanksgiving. The Disaster Relief fund received \$100 this last month, and \$192 of Joseph Project money was used to purchase room and board for an individual who would otherwise have no place to sleep. Food donations were given by members of Faith for the Hunger Trolley, who on November 12th, were able to provide two meals to over 36 people at Comanche Creek.



COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday November 16, 2021 @ 6:15 PM
Fellowship Hall

Present: Colahan, Kampf, Kimmelshue, Heinz, Zimbelman, Sample, Melvin, De Soto, Groh.

Absent: Kimball, Pulliam, Woods.

1. Welcome and celebrations
2. Prayer and Covenant
3. Devotion: by Pastor Ben, followed by discussion
4. Motion made for approval of 10/19/2021 minutes: Kimmelshue/Sample approved
5. Financial report: update of Stewardship Campaign by Zimbelman and monthly report by Kimmelshue. Motion to approve: Melvin/De Soto approved
6. Holiday Worship Schedules: **Advent** – Wed. Dec 1, 8 and 15 @ 7:00pm: Holden Evening Vespers. **Christmas Eve**: 3-6pm walk thru Living Nativity Scene and evening inside Candlelight Worship Service @ 9:00pm. **Christmas Day**: worship service @9:30am
7. Safe Space: after discussion De Soto will talk with Safe Space Winter Shelter to set up dates pending FLC discussion with our neighbors
8. COVID-19 guidelines: in order to help with our connection for the season we would like to allow some “gentle” congregational singing with masks on, starting Dec. 1
9. Audit: we need people who will help do audit. Will have exec committee make these decisions
10. Small Groups: update: we have a few experienced leaders meeting with our Director of Family Life to set up some guidelines and training
11. Holden Village: Zimbelman is looking into the possibility of any who might be wanting to go to Holden Village this coming summer. More info coming
12. Communication: in an effort to have all church council members present or accounted for, Kyle Groh or Sky Sample will make reminder phone calls at 6:30 to those are not present. If you plan to be absent, let Cindy or Sherrill know ahead of time
13. Next meeting is not until Jan. Exec meeting TBD. Council Christmas Party Dec. 11, 6pm @ Kampf’s.
14. Closing Prayer and adjournment

667 East 1st Ave.
Chico, CA. 95926

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



RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

[insert label here]

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

Location: 667 East 1st Ave. Chico, CA. 95926