



FaithTalks

APRIL 2022

SUNDAY WORSHIP
ONLINE & IN PERSON 9:30 AM

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Roses

Our new Stephen Ministers who are currently undergoing training, as well as their intrepid teachers.

The birth of Baby Zachary, Bonnie and Glenn Pulliam's new grandbaby.

Our small group ministers who have begun to meet in their respective groups.

To Shelley Fairchild and Kim Bruder for delighting us with music during worship in March.

Our ecumenical partners in ministry who shared their teachings with us for Lenten services: Pastor Dave at Trinity Methodist, Reverend Jesse at First Christian, Pastor Gail at First Baptist, and Reverend Robert at Bethel AME.

April Birthdays

1st Joel Zimbelman / 2nd Dianna Snyder
4th Marj Bebensee / 6th Tim Tipton
9th Wendy Pine / 10th Bob Stewart,
Connie Baxter, Margaret McMillan
11th Kim Schweder / 13th Michael Harris
17th Kim Evans / 21st Kris Blee
22nd April Beckett / 23rd Roman Bradley
25th Adelio Havens / 27th Molly Barnum
28th Donna Garland, Daun Weiss
29th Vicki Doeden



Worship and Music

Sunday Worship takes place at 9:30 AM online and in person. Per council decision made on March 15th, 2022, masks are now optional for worshippers. We will still have face masks available, as well as easy-to-access hand-sanitizing stations throughout the sanctuary. Please maintain good hand-hygiene by washing and sanitizing frequently. If you are feeling ill the day of worship, we invite you to worship with us online from the comfort of your home at www.chicofaithlutheran.org/live.

Coffee Hour resumes outdoors, weather-permitting. Otherwise we will retreat to the fellowship hall. Interested in serving? Check out our hospitality article on page 6!

Bell Choir meets Tuesdays at 4pm. **Choir** meets on Thursdays at 5pm. If you've never sang or rung a bell in your life but want to participate in either choir or bell choir, you are welcome! Contact Director of Worship and Music, Luke Nicolay, at luke@chicofaithlutheran.org or by calling the office.

Worship Leaders meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Easter Services



Maundy Thursday service
Good Friday service
Saturday morning egg hunt

April 14th at 7pm online and in person
April 15th at 7pm online and in person
April 16th at 10am
Toddlers – 3-year-olds in the columbarium
4-year-olds – 6th graders in the courtyard
April 16th at 8pm online and in person
April 17th at 9:30am online and in person

Saturday evening vigil
Easter Sunday service



Each year for Easter, we decorate the sanctuary with beautiful flowers! You can purchase mums for \$10 a piece in memory or in celebration of somebody you love. The mums will be displayed during our Easter services for all to enjoy, and afterward can be picked up by you, or donated to somebody who is homebound. Cash or checks can be brought to the office any time during office hours. Please make checks out to Faith Lutheran Church with the memo "flowers." Let Michael know (or leave a note or email) who the flowers are dedicated to.



Pastor's Article: Witness to Resurrection

Pastor Ben Colahan

We are witnesses to the resurrection. We weren't in Jerusalem 2000 years ago, but we have seen a whole society enter a tomb, and, on the beginning of the third year, angels have rolled away its stone. Our whole world did the unthinkable, it completely altered how humans live. Billions of people underwent a form of social death, so that millions of people might have life. This is the story of the cross writ large. It is the story of loving sacrifice. The story of laying down our lives, that they might be raised up in love. It is the story of losing what we knew and discovering what God has prepared.

What rises out of the tomb is not what was buried in it. We have yet to truly understand the ways in which our society will be forever reshaped by this pandemic, but already I am amazed by the ways the Holy Spirit has transformed our congregation.

Many of the changes we made during the pandemic at Faith Lutheran were temporary, and have already ceased, hopefully for good. We are once again holding worship in-person, without masks required, and with singing. We once again share coffee and cake after worship and pass the peace in ways that physically connect us. The months without these blessings were truly painful, but they were temporary. The blessings that were born from them are permanent.

We now have a state-of-the-art livestreaming system that allows us to broadcast our worship services live to anywhere in the world. Members who are sick, seniors who struggle to leave their home, friends and family who are traveling abroad are now able to be a part of our worship services wherever they might be. This tool to share the good news of Jesus was born of a temporary pain, but it is with us to stay.

During the months of being unable to sing together, our Director of Worship and Music, Luke Nicolay dusted off our bell set and reformed the bell choir. We give thanks that the singing choir is once again rehearsing together in order to lead worship during Holy Week, but the bell choir will keep ringing also. This return to our bell-ringing heritage arose out of the loss of song, but though the singing has returned, the ringing will stay.





In the midst of learning new ways to care for the health of our congregation, we found new ways to care for the well-being of our neighbor. During the pandemic, the Social Ministry Team partnered with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County to create a drive up foodbank in our parking lot two Fridays of each month. Over a year ago, a family in our congregation purchased a house specifically to be used by the Chico Housing Action Team to house four women who would otherwise be on the streets. A team from Faith Lutheran visits the house weekly to provide support and encouragement to those women. And we have begun partnering the Hunger Trolley to seek out hungry people in our community and feed them good food and warm love. These ministries were developed to find ways to care for our neighbor that could be done without congregating in crowds, but even now that we can be together in large groups, these life sustaining and changing ministries continue.

But there is one transformation resulting from this pandemic that I am most excited about: the return to small group ministry. If the past two years have taught us anything, it is how precious relationships are. The ability to gather with a group of friends in person is a blessing beyond measure. Already, several small groups are meeting, to connect with God through sharing life together. And in the coming months, more groups will be starting. You can find a full list of the small groups available in this newsletter. Our time apart was temporary, but I pray the enthusiasm to live life together never ends.

All this is not to say that the suffering caused by Covid has come to an end. Hundreds of people across our country are still suffering and dying of this disease. As a parent of a young child, I am mindful that no vaccine is available for children under the age of 5. So many of us have spent the past two years hyper-vigilant to protect ourselves and our loved ones; it is hard to begin to let down our guard. Like Doubting Thomas, we will need to touch and feel this transformed life in order to trust that it is real.

Jesus' resurrection did not end suffering and death for his disciples, but it transformed how they viewed their suffering and death. There may be more Covid variants and waves, but these two years have given us the tools –medical, technological, social, and spiritual– to face those challenges with confidence. God has done great things while we have been in the tomb, and God will continue to do great things as we step once more into the world.

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

Spiritual Gifts Part VIII: Hospitality

Janine Rush, Coffee Hour Server

Mary Schweder, Greeter (Hospitality Table)



“What a joy it has been these past six weeks, gathering in the Faith Lutheran courtyard after worship, enjoying each other’s company and conversation, all the while holding a cup of coffee!” says Janine Rush, who you can see smiling with her husband, Dave, in the top picture. Janine, like the rest of us over the last two years, found the ministry of hospitality difficult to attain in some areas. Though hospitality itself is a language she is fluent in, she is also fluent in the language of coffee!

“While [the welcoming tradition of coffee hour] was practiced briefly last summer, it was halted when the Delta variant began its relentless march across country, with Omicron following directly on its heels, albeit with far fewer ramifications.

“Thankfully, fellowship after worship has re-emerged, much to the pleasure of many Faith Lutheran worshipers, as well as those who are making Coffee Hour happen. In Romans 16, Paul writes to the Gentiles and references numerous individuals and entities whose work reflects the love of Christ for all people. In particular, in verse 23, Paul brings greetings from Gaius who has provided hospitality not only to the entire church, but also to Paul, personally. Are we then not carrying on that same tradition established long ago? I dare say, Gaius would be quite proud of Faith Lutheran!

“While hospitality is experienced from the moment members and visitors alike set foot on the campus, it culminates in the sharing of God’s love during time shared in conversation with one another after worship. One of the many perks (no pun intended!) of Coffee Hour is the opportunity of greeting those who are visiting Faith for the first time or those who have visited in the past and are considering making Faith Lutheran their new home. Greeting that individual or couple personally and possibly sharing coffee with them may be just enough to help them make that final decision. Faith has always been known for its friendliness, and our genuine hospitality cements that reputation.”

Mary Schweder of the Equipping Ministry and intrepid Hospitality Table facilitator brings up a related piece of information: “Did you know that first time guests make up their minds about whether or not they will come back is within the first ten minutes of arriving on our church campus? There have been many articles and studies about what influences peoples’ decision

to attend a particular church. High on that list of criteria is the “welcoming nature” of the members of the church. Knowing that, we can make a difference to first timers as well as seasoned members.

Our “Welcome Table” team was established in 2020. Since then and during Covid, we have had many duties, but Hospitality is all about making it easy for people to worship by presenting a warm, friendly atmosphere. Assisting with name badges or making sure our guests have a name badge will help others be able to greet one another. Answering questions regarding the service and directing children to Sunday school are also important. Romans 12:13 says...”

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

The ELCA describes hospitality as “the gift that causes a believer to joyfully welcome and receive guests and those in need of food and lodging.” Notice how the center of focus isn’t the receiver – the person who is a guest, or in need of lodging or food – but rather, the focus is on the *believer*; the giver; the sharer, highlighting the benefit of extending kindness.

This month we encourage you to join one of our hospitality-oriented ministries. Each of the following ministries are in need of members and visitors to serve. As Martha opened her home to Jesus and his disciples (Luke 10:38), may we provide that same welcoming touch to our beloved ministries of hospitality:

USHERS vs GREETERS

What's the difference?

**Greeters man the Welcome table
outside or in the fellowship hall**

Greeters hand out nametags and brochures

Greeters usually stay planted at the Welcome Table

Greeters are responsible for directing folks to others

Ushers stay in the Sanctuary

Ushers hand out bulletins

Ushers move around more, helping people find seats

Ushers are responsible for counting worship attendance

THE HOSPITALITY OF FAITH

Here are the hospitality positions we seek to grow. Follow up using the contact details below the descriptions. And don't be shy! Brand new visitors are welcome to help out, as well as seasoned members!

Coffee Hour Server

Enjoy fellowship after worship by serving coffee and connecting with others face to face. This takes roughly 30 to 60 minutes of commitment on a Sunday morning to provide a service that is welcomed by all. The time expended is minimal compared to the blessings you will receive. Contact Janine at (530) 774-5647.



Small Group Facilitator

Have an idea for a small group that meets outside of worship to pray, play, or converse? Facilitating a group of 3-12 people connects others and encourages relationship-building in the hours that we don't worship together. Some groups are based on art, others on demographics or hobbies. Training is offered, too! Contact Dani, Dir. Family Life at (530) 895-3754 or danifaithlutheran@gmail.com.

Office Helper

When Manager Mike takes vacation days, he calls upon folks to come in and answer the phone, greet people, pass messages along, and hang out with the rest of the staff. Shifts run from 2-4 hours. If you sign up to help him, he'll call upon you and see if you can take a shift; if you can, great, and if not, no big deal, he'll call you next time. Contact Mike at (530) 895-3754 or office@chicofaithlutheran.org.

Gardener

What better way to provide a hospitable environment than by bringing a little color to our campus! If you would like to take a break from your day to day and meditate while you water the plants, please contact Judy at (530) 894-8067.

Greeter

With a partner on Sunday mornings, greet others at our Welcome Table. Hand out name tags, brochures, and other helpful FLC info. Contact Mary Schweder at (714) 814-3737.

Young Adult Minister

Are you between the ages of 18-39, looking for an encouraging and relaxed group of people your age to hang out with? Come check us out, play games, and eat food! Call Dani Vogel, Dir. Family Life at (530) 895-3754 or danifaithlutheran@gmail.com

Usher

On Sunday mornings, pass out bulletins, help others find their seats, and assist with the flow of communion. Contact Luke Nicolay, Dir. Worship & Music at (530) 895-3754 or lukenicolay1@gmail.com.



Communion Server

Serve communion on Sunday mornings. Contact Luke Nicolay, Dir. Worship & Music at (530) 895-3754 or lukenicolay1@gmail.com.



Faith Family News

Dani Vogel, Director of Family Life

It's been a busy spring at the church with our Family Life ministry programs. We've had a large number of students join us in **Sunday School**, where we focused on Jesus and his Disciples, as well as talking about the 7 Virtues that go with our 7 Deadly Sins. We also were able to help celebrate Arlyne Francis, and her 100th birthday, by making birthday cards for her in Sunday School class. If you have a child from preschool to 6th grade interested in attending, drop on by on a Sunday morning. If you'd be interested in helping serve as a Sunday School teacher, let me know by dropping me an email at danifaithlutheran@gmail.com.

Our **youth** met up this month at Bowlero and had a blast bowling. Mason has serious skill at bowling. Youth will do games and Bible study in April, and head to mini golf after Holy Week. Stay tuned for info on exciting youth activities.

Young adults met late in the month for a movie and Bible study on the newest Batman movie. We continue to adventure, and compete for the Blue Jacket™ together.



Easter Egg Hunt on Sat. 4/16 @10 AM: Help Needed!

- We need pre-filled, plastic eggs. Suggested filler items are candy, toys, stickers and other items appropriate for either 3-and-unders (who will have their own egg hunt in the columbarium) or elementary kids through 6th grade. We ask that candy is wrapped, not loose like jellybeans, to avoid ants.
- Calling all young adults! Come and hide eggs for the kiddos! Your craftiness is wanted the morning of Saturday, April 16th at 9am. You will be rewarded with delicious brunch!

To join in on the fun and lend a hand, you can contact me at (530) 895-3754 or by email at danifaithlutheran@gmail.com.



Small Group Meetings in April

You may be noticing more small groups gathering as we embark on new adventures together. If you're seeing how much fun these groups are having, let us know if you want to join one! You can even start a small group of your own! We'd love to have more facilitators and small groups here at the church. Opportunities for groups are endless! This month we have a few feature events from some of our small groups:

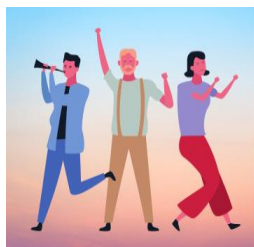


WILDERNESS WORSHIP

Hiking (easy!) trails and
enjoying the wonder of
God together

Meets one Saturday a
month

Contact Pr. Ben at
(530) 895-3754



PRAY & PLAY

Fun activities and
insightful prayer for our
40-and-overs

Meets twice a month

Contact Elise at
(530) 520-4440



ART PLAY

Creative artistic
collaboration to decorate
our sanctuary

Meets Monday nights
from 6:30-8pm

Contact Gayle at
(530) 520-4150



THEATER APPRECIATION

See plays with dessert
and conversation after

Meets once per
production at Chico
Theater Company

Contact Cindy at
(530) 680-0925



Wilderness Worship Night Hike

Friday, April 15th, 8pm

Join us after Good Friday worship for a night hike by the light of the full moon. On the day of our Lord's death, we will ponder the presence of God in the midst of the darkness. Wilderness therapist Karen Ely will lead guided meditation along the hike. Meet in the church courtyard at 8pm, bring sturdy shoes, a headlamp, and water. Please leave dogs at home for this hike. We expect to return to the church around 10pm.

Bowling with "Pray and Play"

Sunday, April 24th at 1pm.

This group for adults who are 40 and up will meet Sunday, April 24th at Bowlero from 1-3 PM. Cost is TBD, but plan for snacks and beverages to be \$20-25 and the cost of bowling between \$15-20 dollars. Let Elise Gladu know if you're interested!

Art Play will meet at 6:30 PM all of the Mondays in April.

(April 18 TBD) Art Play is open to grades 6th grade through adults. They'll be working on Processional banners and some art projects for Pentecost. Contact Luke or Gayle for more information on these dates and if you need any supplies or to dress to get dirty!

Jesus Christ Superstar

Chico Theater Company, April 24 at 2pm

This exciting group sees plays at the Chico Theater Company, and heads to Cynthia Kampf's home afterward to eat dessert and discuss the production. Read more on page 16!



April Greetings

Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship & Music

In a flash, March came and went, and April has rolled around! Easter is just around the corner and so many artistic and musical events have happened at Faith. We've watched our visual art project take form, we've seen the return of singing (choral and congregational) return, we were able to unmask and to bask in the security of each other's faces, amongst several wonderful events.



From the start of Lent, we witnessed a garden spring up in the sanctuary with a lantern representing the light of Christ. We've watched its light be smothered out and covered up by the seven deadly sins, which we've heard Pr. Ben speak about through the weeks and will continue to hear about up until Palm Sunday. Just when we thought that the lantern couldn't get any fuller, at Palm Sunday it becomes so full that it begins to overflow, and it is so overcome by sin that we don't know if it can withstand much more. During Holy Week you will see the lantern eventually become so overwhelmed that the glass cracks and

the lantern is destroyed. However, we have the promise that through our risen Christ all things will be made whole once again. So too, the lantern will be remade and will be whole and complete once again. The lantern will emerge on Easter Sunday, covered in gold and white with a beautiful floral arrangement cascading from all sides. It will be made to shine with the joy and radiance of the risen Christ.

Throughout this season I've reflected on my own life. I've realized that the lantern often reminds me of my own life and my own brokenness caused by so many sins that seem to strangle out the light of Christ in my life. However, each Easter I'm reminded that there is a promise of unconditional welcome and love—all because of the great gift our God gives, and I hope that you, too, will be encouraged and strengthened by this.

Along with the wonders of the Lenten season and Easter, Gayle Palys and I have had a wonderful time working with the Art Play small group to brainstorm, create, and imagine new artistic projects that can be shared by all in the sanctuary. This group has come up with some wonderful ideas and we look forward to continuing work with all the members of this group.

As we continue our Lenten journey toward Easter, I invite us all to ponder the way that sin has dulled our light and filled up our vessels to an overwhelming fullness—how does this feel? What does a full

vessel of sin look like for you? When you feel the weight, how do you respond? How are you comforted? The answers will all look significantly different for each of us. I praise God for the promise that Christ is risen and that there is a beautiful lantern, once broken, but now remade—shining and radiant for each of us, to guide us and to remind us of the promise of our risen Christ.

**Blessings to each of you as we continue this journey of life,
Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship & Music**



Kagitumba Correspondence

Pastor Ngabonziza John

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. I thank you for your email. I am happy to hear from you that you are fine. On our side we are fine too. Surely, in this current situation, the world is in darkness but take comfort because our Lord Jesus Christ is the light of the world. John 8:12. In this advent time, we have hope and strength for remembering and celebrating Christmas. So, we are equipped by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is so nice that you attend church service on zoom and you are generously visiting the Christians in their families by giving them Holy Communion. God bless you tremendously.

I am so glad that you help and support the poor people who do not have a place to live (Homeless). You provide those clothes and food to them and by your prayer they are strengthened. And those are the works of the church and congregation. Mathew 25: 31-46

Particularly, Christians from your Sister Parish Kagitumba are very ok. The main problem we have now is that we do not have where to attend the church service because our church is still in the process of construction. So, it is not yet completed and by now H/office Kigali has not come to progress with the church construction. We are still waiting for them. We only visit and pray for them as well.



In the way of developing our church, we planted crops like Sorghum. Once they are matured, we shall harvest them and take them for sale in the market such that we would get money for daily use. We thank God for the decline of COVID-19, so many people are vaccinated.

**Please take my greetings to your family and congregation of Chico.
God's peace, Sincerely, Pastor NGABONZIZA John**



Life's Most Persistent & Urgent Questions *(part 2 of a 2 part series)*

Doug De Soto, Social Ministry Chair

Here in this church and in the wider community around us, there are opportunities to share God's love and serve our neighbor. Part two of this series continues the reflections on serving our neighbors compiled from a cross section of members of Faith Lutheran.

Sherrill Heinz. *As young girl I belonged to the Girl Scouts. I loved camping and earning badges. One of the things that I heard in almost everything we did was, "always leave every place you are in better than the way you found it." Then as a student nurse, I was told to treat every patient that I cared for as if they were Jesus. These two statements became like a mantra to me. When we came to Chico in the 70's, my 4 children were young, I thought it would be fun to help as a Sunday School Teacher, and when we started going to an Orphanage in Baja, the personal connection that I made with those children, that seed that got planted made my heart grow and want to do even more. Since that time so many years ago, I have discovered what it means when they say volunteers are a church's greatest asset; what it means to be alive in the church is to share your joys, your gifts with the world around you. God has given me so many gifts that I don't have time to do everything. The things I truly enjoy include facilitating groups, being on the council, and gathering backpacks and school supplies for local schools. So many opportunities to do God's work, to be God's hands! Remember, volunteering is just sharing what you love and making the world a little better than when you got here.*



Glenn and Bonnie Pulliam. *My husband, Glenn and I have always done volunteer jobs with 4-H and school activities as our boys were growing up in Durham. Our volunteer roles with Faith have grown in retirement. I currently make weekly visits with the women living in the CHAT Mercy Home to make sure all is well and to just visit. These women have become my friends and I look forward to seeing them. We are also involved with service activities ranging from making Safe Space dinners to supporting Gay Pride activities to helping with the*

Chico Mobile Shower Project providing showers to the unhoused. The opportunities are limitless! Volunteering with Faith and the broader community has been a way to give back and make meaningful connections with those we volunteer with and those we serve! Jesus compels us to give to those less fortunate not just with money but with our time!

We have definitely reaped more than we have ever sown! We are grateful to be part of a church family that has such a vibrant social ministry that we can be a small part of!



Marge Troester. I am often reminded that I am one to whom much has been given thus it does not feel like a requirement, but rather an opportunity to be able to share the blessings I have been given. Faith Lutheran Church offers so many opportunities to live out this moral imperative. When I take advantage of these opportunities to serve I find that my life is deeper and carries more meaning. Volunteering releases feel-good endorphins that flow through my being and a sense that my time was invested in something that makes a difference in the world. Having spent seven years of my earlier life working in service to people of the Congo, Cambodia and Uganda I am deeply aware of the vast difference between the resources that people on this planet have. To have been part of a team that provided care to Cambodians fleeing conflict gave me such a sense of purpose. The gift we all received in return was to witness the tremendous spirit of human resilience as these people gratefully received the care we offered, and tended, in turn, to the needs of their neighbors. My experience has been similar no matter what the volunteer work has been. Whether it is supporting microenterprise projects in Uganda or babysitting to give young parents a night out, I'm always blessed with a sense that I'm part of something bigger and more important than me. Volunteering expands my perspectives on the world and strengthens my spirit and my sense of being connected with God.

Margaret McMillan. "Do to others as you would have them do to you" has always been an important mantra in my life. I have received much support and encouragement over my life so I'm very happy if I can make life a little easier for someone else. Sometimes I can see things around the church that I can help with... cleaning up after a potluck or serving coffee and treats. My parents provided me with music lessons, so I've been able to share these skills by playing for church services and accompanying choirs. My music skills have also allowed me the opportunity to play for assisted living facilities (before the pandemic). Picking up food that has been donated to the Blue Bag Food Project or helping to prepare a meal for the Torres Shelter are things I enjoy doing. Doing something that helps others brings me much joy.



I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this article. In closing, let me say that volunteering is how I have tried to answer that call to action that Martin Luther King Jr. spoke so urgently about. Volunteering has helped me to grow in my relationship with God and has allowed me to find the renewal of the Sanctuary not only in the physical confines of our church but in my interactions with the less fortunate in the spaces they call home.



Earth Day: Invest in our Planet!

Doug De Soto, Social Ministry Chair



Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement that started in 1970. Today, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people. Every year, these people act to change human behavior and create global, national, and local policy changes to establish a safe and clean environment as the ravages of climate change become more and more apparent every day. The ELCA advocates that “caring for God’s creation is an ever-evolving topic in this world, especially with each new natural or human-made disaster. As stewards of this world, we are called to examine our behaviors toward creation. While we need to take from the land for food and sustainability, we also need to be careful that we maintain good stewardship and do not exploit the wonderful things the earth provides.” The Social Ministry Team invites members of Faith Lutheran Church to research and learn about ELCA-related social teachings, resources for study and education, and ways to get involved in actions that sustain and protect our environment; the resources God has entrusted to our care. Remember our future depends on us.

Earth Day events in Chico:

- This year the Butte Environmental Committee (BEC) is hosting the Endangered Earth Event, an event that brings the state of our planet's current environmental crisis to the forefront. BEC is bringing the event to the heart of Chico with a "Walk for Earth" through downtown to the City Plaza. At the Plaza, the community will be part of the Earth Rally and get to enjoy guest speakers, music, exhibits, food, and more! The event is April 23, 2022, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at City Plaza. The “Walk for Earth” starts at 10:30 am at Children’s Park and finishes at City Plaza at 11:00 am.
- The Gateway Science Museum (near Bidwell Mansion) will be hosting a Sustainable Transportation and Earth Day event on Friday, April 22, 2022 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- In recognition of Earth Day, the City of Chico will be facilitating the annual Chico Spring Clean on Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 9:00 am to Noon. Sign up to clean a designated area in the community. Volunteer supplies such as trash bags and litter grabbers will be available for pick up at Hooker Oak Park starting at 8:30 am the day of the event. Event T-Shirts will be available until the registration deadline of April 22nd or while supplies last. To sign up, go to: <https://chico.ca.us/post/volunteer-calendar>.
- The Pageant Theater near downtown Chico is planning on hosting a series of environmentally themed movies starting the week of April 18, 2022. For more information contact the Pageant Theater or visit their website at: <http://pageantchico.com/>.



What Fills your Tank?

Cynthia Kampf, Church Council President

A recent opinion page cartoon shows a gas gauge full and a person with empty pockets. I reflected on how my life is full, but my energy gauge is running on empty.

Sometimes I miss the old days of quarantining due to COVID. My schedule of traveling, concerts, and plays was suddenly empty. I only had to schedule Grandma school (remote learning) for my granddaughter Aubrey, an occasional medical appointment, and the A/V desk for online church services.

Now that we can travel, my postponed events have been rescheduled for this spring. What seemed important at the time, now seems like too much. I planned to drive to Modesto for a concert tonight. My energy tank is running on empty, so I canceled that trip for another event when my energy returns to normal.

What will I do instead? Pick up my grandson at preschool and go with him to his sister's first softball game of the season. This fills my tank. What else fills my tank? Listening to music, playing the piano, playing board games with my grandchildren, and most importantly, worshipping with you at Faith Lutheran.

Luke's selections for organ and worship music, the sounds of the faithful musicians and singers, Pastor Ben's insightful interpretations of the Gospel for the day, Dani's care for the little ones among us, and Michael's detailed preparation for worship all give me joyful energy each Sunday.

Seeing so many people in church recently and seeing all your beautiful faces gives me joy. I am so happy to see many old friends return and many new faces. Filling my energy tank each week at Faith is important to me.

What fills your tank?

If live theatre fills your tank, please join the Theatre Group on April 24th at 2 p.m. at the Chico Theatre Company for Jesus Christ Superstar. Call the theatre at (530) 894-3282 to purchase a ticket. Join us at my home at 227 Brookvine Circle after the show for dessert and conversation. Call me at (530) 680-0925 if you have any questions.

Michael & John's Wedding

All FLC Members Invited to RSVP

John and I are so excited to invite you to our wedding on Veteran's Day, 11/11/22 here at Faith Lutheran Church! The start time is still TBD but is expected to be late morning/early afternoon. John and I started dating on the 4th of July, 2014. He proposed to me on top of a ferris wheel in August, 2018. We can't wait to get married and start a family together.



SAVE THE DATE

11.11.22

- FOR -

JOHN & MICHAEL

Faith Lutheran Church
667 East 1st Ave. Chico, CA. 95926
Reception to Follow



An RSVP gets you a reserved seat in the sanctuary. I'll be sending out an RSVP form in the E-blast on Tuesday, April 12th which will run for a few weeks. Afterward, I'll send the form directly to anyone who asks to RSVP. You can also register in the office. You can keep up to date with the wedding, our registry, and more at www.theknot.com/johnandmikeswedding. If you have Facebook, tell me and I'll add you to our Facebook event page too where you can chat with other guests, post pictures, and have some online fun! Can't wait to see you there!

Michael Nicholson, Manager FLC

Nursery/Childcare attendant wanted! As we continue to expand our Sunday offerings for programs, we are looking for a nursery/childcare attendant for Sunday mornings. Please let us know if you have someone that we can contact, or please send them this listing.



SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY/CHILDCARE ATTENDANT

Hours: 8:30-12:00 on Sunday mornings.

Pay: \$60 per Sunday morning flat rate.

Provide supervised care for children 3 and under in the shared Nursery/Sunday School space. Play and interact with the children in care. Assist with supervised outdoor play.

All faith formation will be taught by Sunday School volunteers or our Faith Formation director.



Council Minutes

Sherrill Heinz, Council Secretary

Tues. March 15th, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall

Present: Pastor Colahan, Kampf, Kimmelshue, Heinz, DeSoto, Groh, Woods.

Absent: Sample, Melvin, Pulliam, Zimbelman.

1. Welcome and celebrations
2. Devotions and prayer
3. Covenant by all
4. Approval of 2/15/22 Minutes: Kimmelshue/Kampf/Approved
5. Financial Report – See attached: Motion made to replace money borrowed from Miscellaneous fund for the new Audio/Visual System with Capitol Campaign funds: Kimmelshue/Woods/Approved. Financial report approved: DeSoto/Groh/approved
6. COVID-19 Policy and Worship Guidelines (See Faith Talks and/or E-Blast) In addition to Pastor Ben's recommendations, the Council added:
 - 12) Recommendation: As soon as we have appropriate persons to start having Healing Ministry once a month during worship.
 - 13) Let all users of our facilities know that masks are optional. After much discussion, motion made to approve all recommendations. Kimmelshue/Groh/Approved
7. Delegates for the Synod Assembly: Cynthia Kampf and Pastor Ben. Per synod guidelines, will check and announce a male member recommended by council.
8. Church Council Membership planning: we may have approximately 4 vacancies, so nominating committee (past members from 2021) will need to start search.
9. Setting the date for the Annual Meeting: May 22, 2022
10. Audit Update: Bill Youngstrom will lead the audit committee
11. Staff Evaluation update: the evaluation of all staff went well, council applauds the wonderful team we have at this time
12. Budget development for 2022 – 2023: Will work on this at April meeting
13. Jesus Center Capital Campaign: Laura Cootsona will give update and presentation. She will also preach on May 15th (worship service)
14. Small Groups Ministry Update: All are going well at this time
15. Announcements and upcoming dates of note: Next council meeting: MONDAY 4/18/2022 at 6:00 p.m.
16. Closing Prayer and Adjournment



Benevolence Report



Lynette Stensrud,
Financial Secretary;
Michael Nicholson,
Manager



In March, the council voted to use \$1,200 from our Disaster Response Fund to send to Lutheran Disaster Response for the people of Ukraine. \$900 was given via special fund to Growing Healthy Children, whose purpose is to promote fitness and empower families to live an active and healthy lifestyle together.

UKRAINE CRISIS: MAPPING YOUR IMPACT THROUGH LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Your gifts of more than **\$1 million** to support relief to those impacted by the crisis in Eastern Europe through Lutheran Disaster Response are already at work. *Thank you!*

EXAMPLES OF RESPONSE PROJECTS

- Cash support for refugees and displaced people
- Emergency items such as beds, blankets and shelter
- Food, clean water and hygiene items
- Protection and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and groups
- Psychosocial care, pastoral support
- Gender justice and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse

POLAND

Partners: Lutheran World Federation, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland

UKRAINE

Partners: Lutheran World Federation, German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine

SLOVAKIA

Partners: Lutheran World Federation, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia

ROMANIA

Partners: Lutheran World Federation, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania

Additional responses with partners in these countries and others in the region are expected in the coming weeks and months. Learn more and give by visiting ELCA.org/disaster.



Financial Report

Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer

Faith Lutheran Church
General Fund Finances as of 2/28/2022

	Budget	Actual	Percent
	To Date	To Date	Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$337,886.98	\$281,036.31	83.17%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$322,396.46	\$306,185.97	94.97%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$15,490.52	(\$25,149.66)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2021		\$55,205.84	
Net Revenue through 2/28/2022		<u>(\$25,149.66)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u>\$30,056.18</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.

As shown above for the General Operating Fund, expenses have exceeded income by \$25,149.66. Even though income in February exceed income in January by \$9,950.77 there was still a deficit in February of \$5,568.84.

The Church Council will continue to address this issue, but the Council can't solve the problem with out increased giving from each of you. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your General Fund giving.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:
Mark Kimmelshue
530-520-8228
kimmelshue@armcorice.com

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Chico, CA. 95926



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Faith Lutheran Church Council

President
Cynthia Kampf

Vice President
Sky Sample

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
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