

FAITH TALKS . MARCH 2022

VICE

&

VIRTUE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

ONLINE & IN PERSON 9:30 AM

ASH WED SERVICE 3/2 @ 7AM & 7PM

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Roses

Pat and Dianna Snyder for graciously hosting the Young Adults Sportsball Party.

Pastor Manda, assistant to the Bishop, for joining us on Sunday the 13th.

Everybody who donated towels, toiletries and more to the Random Acts of Kindness Drive, supplies for the North State Shelter Team.

Becky Rouse for her presentation on the Lutheran Volunteer Corps.

The birth of the Zimbelman's grandchild, Nico, Joan Palmer's grandchild, Amelia, and the Knights' grandchild, Madison.

Each of our Small Group Facilitators for undergoing training.



March Birthdays

1st Bill Kehoe / 7th Anne Marie Madsen / 9th Rob Brink-Capriola / 11th Karsen Bradley
13th Richard Stafford / 15th Ellen Blee, Sky Sample / 16th Elaine Lund, Kellie Marie Lavin
17th Sue Ligon, Annette Jefferson / 18th Arlyne Francis (turning 100! Read more on page 16)
20th Elisa Brown-Carrier / 21st Judy Struck / 23rd Vickie James / 27th Don Heinz, Jon Stafford
28th Joseph Carstensen / 29th Naomi Lazarus / 31st Kathy Mazen

Worship and Music

Sunday Worship takes place at 9:30 AM. We invite you to sing under your face masks as we continue to mask for worship (masks available during worship).

Coffee Hour is back! We'll be meeting outdoors for the time being.

Choir is returning! Whether you're brand new or a veteran, singing is for everyone and we would love to include you. Contact Director of Worship and Music, Luke Nicolay, at luke@chicofaithlutheran.org or by calling the office.

Bell Choir meets Tuesdays from 4pm-5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you've never rung a bell in your life but want to participate, 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 5:30pm in the Sanctuary.

New Members Classes take place on Sundays 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, and 4/3. Are you interested in becoming a member of Faith Lutheran? Are you curious about where the Lutheran tradition comes from and what it teaches? Then sign up for the New Members Class with Pastor Ben starting Sunday, March 6th! Class will be after worship (11am-noon) either outside in the columbarium or in the conference room depending on the weather and comfort of the people participating. The class will last five weeks and at the end, if you decide you'd like to officially join, we'll have a celebration to introduce you at the Easter Vigil, April 16th. If you're interested, email Pastor Ben at colahanb@gmail.com.



Ecumenical Worship is a decades-long tradition of gathering with our siblings in Christ from other denominations...and it continues this year! Due to the pandemic, we will forgo sharing soup, but we will worship together! Each Wednesday at 7pm starting March 9th, a different congregation will lead worship in the style of their tradition in Faith Lutheran's sanctuary.



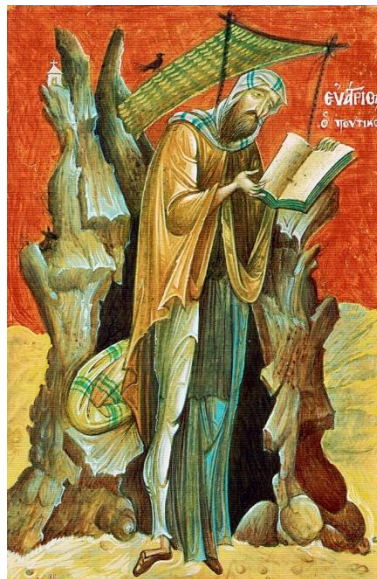
Pastor's Article: Vices & Virtues

By Pastor Ben Colahan

On Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, we begin the season of Lent, a time where we model ourselves on Jesus' forty days of fasting in preparation for his ministry that culminates on the cross. Lent is a time to reconsider our priorities, to ask if we are so busy chasing distractions that we lose sight of what really matters. Historically, people have done this by giving up certain foods during Lent: meat or chocolate. While for some this form of fasting may be helpful, for others, the source of what distracts us is not outside us, but within.

For Martin Luther, sin is not a list of dos and don'ts but a state of the heart. Sin is when our heart is curved in upon itself instead of open to loving and being loved by God and our neighbor. This state of our heart causes us to act in harmful ways. To truly cease our harmful actions we must heal the state of our heart.

Beginning in the fourth century, a monk in Egypt named Evagrius Ponticus began reflecting on the states of his heart that distracted him from focusing on Jesus. Even if Evagrius never left his monastery to act on the impulses of his heart, he knew he wasn't experiencing the peace of Christ. Evagrius shared his reflections in hopes they would help his fellow monks. Over time, the states of the heart that Evagrius named were developed by popes and theologians and are known to us today as The Seven Deadly Sins: (1) pride, (2) greed (3) lust (4) envy (5) gluttony (6) wrath, and (7) sloth.



The Seven Deadly Sins don't appear as a list in scripture, but our scriptures each week during Lent this year explore the root and the fruit of each. During Lent, you'll hear me preach each week on one of the Seven Dead Sins, and their opposites, the Seven Heavenly Virtues: (1) humility, (2) charity, (3) chastity, (4) gratitude, (5) temperance, (6) patience, and (7) diligence. If you have yet to choose a Lenten practice this year, I invite you to take up the practice of being mindful of when your heart is experiencing each week's sin, and each day that week doing an action that lives out the opposing virtue.

Our schedule will be:
March 2nd, Ash Wednesday: Sloth/Diligence
March 6th, 1st Sunday of Lent: Envy/Gratitude
March 13th, 2nd Sunday of Lent: Gluttony/Temperance
March 20th, 3rd Sunday of Lent: Pride/Humility
March 27th, 4th Sunday of Lent: Wrath/Patience
April 3rd, 5th Sunday of Lent: Greed/Charity
April 10th, Palm Sunday: Lust/Chastity

Perhaps, like the monks in Egypt 16 centuries ago, you will find this practice helps you focus on what truly matters: Jesus. But, I'll let you in on a secret: the root of every single one of the Seven Deadly Sins is the same, believing that we aren't enough, that we aren't loved. And so while this practice may help you focus your mind on Christ, what truly heals your heart is learning to trust that God loves you unconditionally, just as you are. I give thanks that I get to learn that truth with you every single day of the year.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

Spiritual Gifts Part VII: Giving

Doug De Soto, Social Ministry Chair
Tod Kimmelshue, Stewardship Committee
Joel Zimbelman, Property Manager

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

Giving: "the gift that enables a believer to recognize God's blessings and to respond to those blessings by generously and sacrificially giving of one's resources (time, talent, and treasure). *Time, talent, and treasure* - - simply and elegantly put by the ELCA. But to elaborate further, we can take a look at the gospel of Luke. Chapter 21: 1-4 reads,

‘He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.’

“Jesus teaches us that the offerings of God’s people are measured not by quantity or quality, but by the *heart of faith* that makes the offering,” says Doug De Soto, Social Ministry Chair. “Even though this passage of scripture involves issues of pecuniary giving, the clear implication is that people can also be generous with their possessions and time; giving because we love God and love others. When looking at the time and resources that members of Faith contribute on Social Ministry causes like gift-wrapping a pair of socks, cooking a warm meal, or helping others be seen, it is not how much we give but how we give that matters. God knows people’s hearts as they give and serve. God knows the truth behind our gifts and is blessed when they come from a generous and joyous heart.”

We are blessed that so many people of Faith have the time and talent to minister in the broader community. But that time and those talents are also needed within the foundation of this church... literally! Property manager Joel Zimbelman says, “When pastors, theologians, and regular members talk about Christian life in community, they focus on the importance of *corporate and group* worship, life, and ministry. The older I get the more I believe that, unless you are living this Christian life out in an actual flesh and blood community, you’re missing the central reality of the faith. Zoom has its place, to be sure. But mission, service, and various sorts of evangelical proclamation can’t happen in lives that are separated, isolated, or exclusively inward-looking.

“In our own situation in Chico, that successful life in community is supported and empowered by a facility—sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, parking lot, classrooms, bathrooms, and offices. Our concrete place in this town—and the physical resources that we bring to the table—allow us to minister in ways unimaginable without our bricks and mortar! Worship is enhanced by light, music, seating. Service to the homeless is possible because of our central location, floor space, security, and commercial kitchen. Invitations to community groups work because we have classrooms and larger studio spaces. Without those physical resources, our greater mission would flounder; it can’t expand, it can’t answer the needs of others that appear, and the Church can’t do what it’s supposed to. It takes time and lots of financial resources to maintain this property. And volunteer efforts like repair work, landscaping upkeep, annual cleaning days, and a willingness to help with hauling and disposal are just a few of the concrete ways that this congregation keeps its eyes on the big picture of ministry by maintaining our facility.”

Our facility, our congregation, our members, and even our worship service are kind of like a garden... or even a farm; something that is nourished and nurtured which in return bears fruit. “As the old saying goes, ‘you shall reap what you sow.’ In the agricultural industry this is most certainly true,” says Tod Kimmelshue. “If you try to take too much out of the soil without putting back organic matter or compost of some kind, next year’s yield on your crops will be less. I have found this to be true in our Christian faith as well. You only get out of faith what you put into it. Personally, I have felt more of a connection or belonging to Christianity the more I invest with both time and money. Obviously, we as Lutherans believe we are loved and will be saved by grace no matter what we do. However, if you really want to feel a sense of fulfillment and joy in helping your fellow man, you will invest more and more which leads to the peace which passes all understanding. Jesus gave everything including his life. It is our duty to give in respect and admiration for what God has given us.”

So how can you share your gifts of Faith?

Give time. Consider joining the Social Ministry team, an action oriented ministry that brings the love of God to those needing it most. Whether you volunteer with our food bank, cook for the Torres Shelter, donate items for supply drives, brainstorm with us at our meetings for plans of action, or remind the world through acts of kindness that all are welcome at Faith and on this earth, there’s a place for you in Social Ministry! Ask how you can get involved by giving Doug a call at (530) 354-1453.

Give talent. Join one of our small groups! Small group ministry may have just started, but it’s already buzzing with interest! See page 17 for a list of available groups to join. You can always contact our Director of Family Life, Dani Vogel to get connected with small groups. Shoot Dani an email at dani@chicofaithlutheran.org.



Give treasure. Make sure you check out Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer's financial report on page 19. Every issue of Faith Talks has up-to-date reports of our budget, broken down month-by-month. **Our greatest financial need right now is giving toward our general fund.** There are several ways you can give:

- Online at chicofaithlutheran.org/give
- At worship on Sundays
- Coming into the office M-F from 10am-4:30pm

You can give to the general fund online by following these steps:

1. Go to chicofaithlutheran.org/give
2. Click "give online now"
3. Enter the amount you would like to give and choose "general fund" from the dropdown menu (here, you can also choose recurring giving, if for example you'd like to give at the same time each week or month)
4. Enter your credit/debit card info and hit submit



Faith Family News

Dani Vogel, Director of Family Life



February was a festive month here at the church. Our young adults gathered to witness some sportsball and demonstrate fetes of knowledge about the football variant of sportsball, of which Pastor Ben was declared the winner. (Please don't ask how well we all scored, Pat Snyder threatened to take our recess privileges away due to an average score of 3/10.)

Our youth are getting ready to embark on an adventure this summer, and we need your help! Due to Covid-19, the ELCA National Youth Gathering that was scheduled to take place this summer in Minnesota was canceled, and will not be held again until 2021. With this news, we opted to attend an alternative event being offered as one of many regional replacement activities. We will head to Southern California on July 24th to attend Rebound, a week of faith growth, service, and fun with other Lutheran Youth. This trip is a lower cost than the ELCA Gathering, but will still have expenses, and we could use your support to attend.

In March, you will see a super cool bulletin board in the Narthex area of the church with a number of envelopes on it. Each envelope has a dollar amount, and a specific sponsorship area, as well as 2 “Name Your Own \$ Amount” options. Our trip includes most of our meals, lodging, and activities at a cost of \$675 dollars per person. Youth are asked to cover a portion of this cost as a sign of their commitment, but we are hoping to fundraise these additional costs with your help. Envelope amounts range from the cost of 1 week of activities, to 5 dollars towards road trip snacks. We do have one free day, and an additional evening where we are on our own for meal costs, and have envelopes to sponsor those costs. Supporters will receive photo and video updates during the trip. If you’re interested in helping sponsor this trip and don’t see an envelope, or you’d like to go above and beyond the envelopes, contact the church. Envelopes can be returned to the office, and as long as you give us your name, your support will show up on your giving statements. All are invited to attend a Q&A about our experience following the trip.

Faith Formation at Home

Activities you can do right at your house!



Lent: a time of Vice and Virtue. As we learn about the 7 “Deadly” Sins, or the 7 Vices that we as humans can find ourselves stuck in, we will spend some time also studying the virtues that mirror these sins. Each devotional will have a scripture piece to discuss, and accompany activities to help you engage this season.

Fortitude or Accountability: In a day and time when our watches can tell us if we’ve moved enough, attained a certain step goal or movement time, or even sustained our heart rate at a certain pace for long enough, we’re given hourly reminders to keep at our goals. But what happens when we’re disconnected from an external force that keeps us accountable? How do we continue to hold ourselves accountable?

Our Scripture for Ash Wednesday includes Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21. (Cont.)

“Be careful that you don’t practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

“Whenever you give to the poor, don’t blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

“When you pray, don’t be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.



“And when you fast, don’t put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Then you won’t look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Discussion: How do we hold ourselves accountable to our faith practices without putting on a show, or using our faith practices in a way that communicates them as a performance versus a practice? What is one way you will hold yourself accountable this Lenten season to your faith practices?

Suggested Activities:

- Research the 7 Virtues and come up with a weekly activity to celebrate each virtue.
- Create a Lenten activity sheet with different faith practices to complete daily or even weekly.
- Set aside a daily time to complete a faith practice with an alarm or reminders.



Music in March

Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship & Music

Greetings fellow Faithers! Here we are in the month of March, it's Lent, and we've got lots of exciting events going on! Firstly, WHAT A JOY IT IS THAT WE CAN SING! At the end of February, the council announced that covid cases were once again low enough that singing could resume both congregationally and chorally. Choir resumed and began to focus on Holy Week. In addition to the return of singing, you'll also notice some art projects and some changes in the sanctuary that will take place throughout Lent and our journey to the cross.

To start—isn't it wonderful that we can praise God in so many artistic and creative ways? In the life of our congregation, we've seen a joyous return to singing, both chorally and congregationally; we continue to praise God through song at the bell choir; groups such as Shelley Fairchild's strings group continues to meet and practice to share their love of music with us and with God; musicians continue to utilize our wonderful piano and organ; and lastly, the visual arts continue to meet and praise God through their shared vision of artistic projects which will come to fruition throughout the Lenten season.

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the arts and environment group has been meeting over the last month to work on visual arts projects for the upcoming seasons. These include Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost and beyond to the fall. Their first project will begin to take place throughout the season of Lent. This year, the staff have prayerfully considered many topics for the Lenten season.

Collaboratively we came up with the theme of the seven deadly sins which include sloth, envy, gluttony, pride, wrath, greed, and lust. Following some guidance from Sundays & Seasons, the arts team has come up an extremely creative visual arts project. We were tasked with simplicity and minimalistic ideas for the season of Lent this year. Often, we get so wrapped up in the craziness of the seasons, of every-day life and busy-ness that we often forget that simplicity yields time to reflect, meditate and to grow. Beginning on Transfiguration Sunday you will see a garden pop-up in the center of the sanctuary that will encapsulate the altar and space in front of the altar. Starting on Ash Wednesday we will place a large vessel in the center of the garden. Each week we will add layers to this vessel to represent the seven deadly sins and how they take a vessel and garden and destroy it. These seven layers include:

- 1- Ash Wednesday- sloth- palm ashes and other assorted ashes
- 2- 1st Sunday of Lent- envy- golden stones
- 3- 2nd Sunday of Lent- gluttony- old phones, electronic cords, tabloids
- 4- 3rd Sunday of Lent- pride- dead leaves, weeds, garden and lawn waste
- 5- 4th Sunday of Lent- wrath- roots, root vegetables
- 6- 5th Sunday of Lent- greed- purple linens, pieces of wigs and hair extensions
- 7- 6th Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday)- lust- palm leaves

Each of these layers that we add to the vessel will destroy it a little each week. You'll see that the vessel begins to be so full of the sins that eventually by Holy Week it will overflow and be destroyed, and the vessel will shatter and be ruined. Easter will then yield a new vessel that will be beautiful and made whole again through the promise of our risen God.

As we journey through this Lenten season, come and be part of this artistic experience. Whether you are artistic or not, creative or not, or just would like to see how things come to be, please join us! There's lots to do and room for all who want to participate in the creation of art. Again, WHAT A JOY IT IS TO BE ABLE TO PRAISE GOD THROUGH ART AND SONG! Blessings to each of you as we journey to the cross in this season of Lent.

With love,
Luke Nicolay, *Director of Worship and Music*



FLC Choir, early 2020



Life's Most Persistent & Urgent Questions (part 1 of a 2 part series)

Doug De Soto, Social Ministry Chair

The 1963 collection “Strength to Love” by Martin Luther King Jr. included a sermon titled “Three Dimensions of a Complete Life” which contained the following passage: In a sense every day is judgment day, and we, through our deeds and words, our silence and speech, are constantly writing in the Book of Life. Light has come into the world, and **life's most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?”** How we answer that question varies from person to person and on the circumstances we find ourselves in. This two-part article consists of reflections on how we can answer that question, through volunteering, compiled from a cross section of Faith Lutheran Church members.

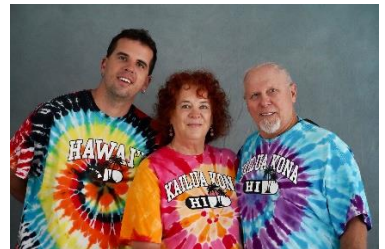


Judy Struck

[Al and I] have been at Faith for 36 years. Shortly after we arrived, I was in the office and saw that the secretary was trying to do three things at once, so I told her I would run off those copies so she could stay at her desk. That's how it starts.... see a need and fill it. And then you find that you enjoy helping. I volunteer for purely selfish reasons. It is fun, and it makes me feel good! Try it, you'll like it!

Sample Family

We volunteer because it just seems like the right thing to do! We've been serving at the Torres Shelter for so long, we really don't remember when and why we started doing it. Our two sons have been involved from a young age. This taught them there are many populations that differ from our own little social bubble. They learned that homeless individuals are people too, not to be marginalized and ignored. The rewards come while serving. Pre-Covid the people would give us applause as a group and individually thank us while going through the food line. It is easy to see the appreciation on their faces. It is so rewarding to provide them with a warm meal with the knowledge that they have a roof over their heads for the night! Serving a meal is something we all can do in these times.



There are many ways to do so. Serving at the Torres Shelter is but one way and it does involve time and effort, but the pay back is in the understanding that whatever the reason these folks are homeless, they are people with their own story to tell.

Molly and Dave Barnum

My parents were volunteers, so we learned from them the benefits and rewards gained from volunteering. Volunteering gives us a chance to connect with others and make a positive difference, to help those in need, sometimes when they need it most, and to build new friendships. We all have talents and gifts to share (pray for others, send cards, help with worship, call fellow members, visit members, clean up the church campus, make a meal, the list is endless). Call us (530-342-7832) and we will help you get started. We are so thankful for Faith Lutheran and the MANY opportunities available to serve. There is something for everyone - every age - to do “God’s Work, Our Hands.”



Cyla Nelson

I retired in 2019 from a career where social justice and working with people in need was always front and center. I started volunteering with activities such as delivering groceries and bringing communion to housebound members of the church because it makes me feel good and keeps me connected to others. I was raised to believe that if someone needs help, you help them out. And when you help others out, you reap the benefits. Delivering to others during covid kept me active and I had fun while staying safe. Because of volunteering I have developed friendships that wouldn’t have occurred otherwise. Pick an activity that calls to you and does good for others and have fun with it!

Here in this church or in the wider community around us, there are opportunities to share God’s love and serve our neighbor. Martin Luther King Jr. asked, “What are you doing for others?” Whether it be our time, our money, or our prayers, the work we do together in the name of Jesus Christ surely seems a great answer to that question.

Part two of this series continues in the April Faith Talks.



American Red Cross Volunteers: Making a Difference

Doug De Soto, Social Ministry Chair

Each year, the President of the United States proclaims March as "Red Cross Month," to honor and celebrate the everyday volunteers who make the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross possible. The Red Cross Society has been saving lives since the 1800s and is made up of volunteers who offer to help others in times of crisis.



According to statistics, the American Red Cross responds to an emergency every eight minutes. That means that in every 24-hour period, the Red Cross responds to approximately 180 emergencies. The American Red Cross, through its strong network of volunteers, donors, and partners, is always there in times of need. The American Red Cross Vision Statement reads, "We aspire to turn compassion into action so that all people affected by disaster across the country and around the world receive care, shelter and hope, our communities are ready and prepared for disasters; everyone in our country has access to safe, lifesaving blood and blood products; all members of our armed services and their families find support and comfort whenever needed; and in an emergency, there are always trained individuals nearby, ready to use their Red Cross skills to save lives."

During Red Cross Month, the Social Ministry Team invites you and others to join the Red Cross mission by volunteering, giving blood, learning lifesaving skills, or making a financial donation.

The Social Ministry Team will be providing material and information on the American Red Cross during the month of March. Material will be available at a tabling station located in the Fellowship Hall hallway.



Celebrating Arlyne's 100th Birthday!

Molly Barnum

Arlyne Francis was born on March 18, 1922 (100 years ago this month!) in Wausa, Nebraska. Growing up on a farm in the country, Arlyne was the youngest of 11 children. She says as children they made their own fun in the creek, running up and down the hills and playing in the apple orchard during the day. At night the family would be outside star gazing, a hobby Arlyne still enjoys to this day. In fact, just the other night she woke up and went on her deck to find the constellation Orion. During the winter nights the family would sit around the table making up math problems and the others would try to solve them.



Arlyne met Jerry, the love of her life, on a blind date in Nebraska. After a short courtship, they traveled to California to meet Jerry's family and got married in Artois. They were blessed with three children (Reed, Betty Lynn, and Mark). While Jerry taught school, Arlyne completed her degree at Chico State, taught elementary school, and then substituted while raising their children. Arlyne also babysat Char Miller's children Kelly and Tim! 😊

Arlyne and Jerry began attending Faith Lutheran in the early '50s when it was just getting organized and met at the Memorial Hall. She has always enjoyed Faith Lutheran and the socializing, especially the Mary Martha Women's Bible Study Circle.

Today Arlyne lives at Sycamore Glen where she enjoys many activities such as bridge and pinocle. She says, "It is a good place to live when you can't live alone". What is Arlyne looking forward to on her 100th birthday? Spending time with her family.



Small Group Ministry

As we prepare to launch some new exciting small group opportunities at Faith Lutheran, we want to take time to highlight some of these groups. For the time, these are groups all built for adult participants. More groups are coming soon!

Pray and Play participates in activities and prayer as a group. If you've found yourself envious of the activities and fun our young adult group has been having, but you're 40 or over, this group is for you. This group plans to meet twice a month to participate in fun activities like Hatchet House, art projects, tours, etc. Contact: Elise Gladu, (530) 520-4440.

Seniors is a conversation based group to help support the senior members of Faith Lutheran. Contact: Nola Dosch, (530) 891-3575, or Veronika Kehoe, (530) 566-4798.

Wilderness Worship meets one Saturday morning of each month, with a few exceptions to hike various trails and creeks in Nor Cal. Grow in your relationship with God and each other by noticing God's presence in wilderness places. The hiking portion of each gathering will be one to two hours long on "easy" rated trails. Our first hike will be Saturday, March 12th in Upper Park. Meet in the church parking lot at 9am. Contact: Pr. Ben Colahan, (530) 895-3754.

Art Play meets in the Fellowship Hall Monday nights from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The purpose of Art Play is to grow in our relationship to God and each other by collaborating and creating ways to enhance worship through visual art. Contact: Gayle Palys, (530) 520-4150.

Mary and Martha Women's Bible Study meets on the second Thursday of the month for fellowship and scripture study. Contact: Randy Franken, (530) 891-8634.

Alphabet Soup, our LGBTQ group, meets once every three weeks for games, Bible study, food, and meaningful conversation. Contact: Michael Nicholson, (530) 895-3754, or Grace Mahannah, (530) 218-6636.

Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday (except holidays) from 10am-noon. Contact: Char Miller, (530) 345-6825,

Theater Group sees plays at the Chico Theater Company, and heads to Cynthia Kampf's home afterward to eat dessert and discuss the production. Contact: Cynthia Kampf, (530) 680-0925.

Men's Breakfast occurs at 8am on Fridays at the Farmer's Skillet. Come and engage in fellowship over breakfast. Contact: Howie Stensrud, (530) 896-0616.



Council Minutes

Sherrill Heinz, Council Secretary

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

Present: Pastor Colahan, Kampf, Sample, Kimmelshue, Heinz, DeSoto, Melvin, Pulliam, Woods, Zimbelman

Absent: Groh

1. Welcome and celebrations
2. Devotions – Sherrill Heinz
3. Covenant
4. Approval of 1/18/22 Minutes
(with amendments): Woods/Kimmelshue/Approved
5. Financial Report – See attached: discussion re: up-dating the congregation
6. Update on Tri Path Invoices: Report by Zimbelman
7. Request from Joel Zimbelman regarding project in Tanzania - Approved
8. Social Ministry Update: report by DeSoto: Safe Space in Winter went well; The Shower Trailer has been going well
9. COVID-19 and Worship Guidelines: 1) will continue with congregation wearing masks, 2) individual speaking parts will demask for those sections, 3) will start congregation singing and choir (with masks), coffee hour outside. Will revisit each month.
Pulliam/DeSoto/Approved
10. Stewardship Drive Update: report by Zimbelman
11. Facilities Update: report by Zimbelman
12. Audit Update: Pastor is speaking to possible people to do audit and the recommendation is to do audit at beginning of new fiscal year (July)
13. Small Groups Ministry Update: Training has started with 14 Facilitators
14. Communications: visit on Sunday with Rev. Manda Truchinski, Assistant to the Bishop was very positive.
15. Announcements and upcoming dates of note:
 - a. Synod Assembly will be held in Reno, June 3-4. We need two representatives plus pastor.
 - b. Staff evaluations will be done on March 7
16. Closing Prayer and Adjournment



Financial Report

Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer

Faith Lutheran Church
General Fund Finances as of 1/31/2022

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$295,807.63	\$245,944.01	83.14%
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$282,096.90</u>	<u>\$266,432.59</u>	94.45%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$13,710.73	(\$20,488.58)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2021		\$46,984.43	
Net Revenue through 11/30/21		<u>(\$20,488.58)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u>\$26,495.85</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.

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As shown above for the General Operating Fund, expenses have exceeded income by \$20,488.58. This is somewhat concerning as we still have 5 months left in the fiscal year and will need to make up this deficit plus pay all expenses during that time. Total monthly giving in January was \$25,035.76. Giving needs to be in the range of \$47,000 each of the next five months to cover the current deficit and pay all expenses.

The Church Council will be addressing this issue, but the Council can't solve the problem without 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



Benevolence Report

Lynette Stensrud, Financial Secretary

Michael Nicholson, Manager



Safe Space Winter Shelter concluded at the end of January. For the first week of Safe Space, Faith Lutheran Church members cooked meals for the folks staying at the shelter. \$1057.57 worth of groceries were purchased to make these hot meals. Boxes and boxes of towels, blankets, toiletries and other essentials were delivered to the North State Shelter Team on February 17th, Random Acts of Kindness Day, as well as \$1000 of financial donations. \$168 from the Joseph Project was given to families in need.



667 East 1st Ave.
Chico, CA. 95926

Non-Profit Organization
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Chico, CA.



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Faith Lutheran Church Council

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Cynthia Kampf

Vice President
Sky Sample

Treasurer
Mark Kimmelshue

Secretary
Sherrill Heinz

Council Members

Joel Zimbelman
Bonnie Pulliam

Meridith Woods

Sky Sample

Penny Melvin

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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