JULY 202:

FAITH TALKS



SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM

This is a photo Pastor Ben took of the creek, exactly where we'll be going on this year's creek swim!

FAITHTALKS

CONTENTS



Bethel AME, U.U. Fellowship, First Christian, Congregation Beth Israel, and First Baptist for their offerings for the Interfaith Pride Service.

Everyone who helped run our booth at Pride, and especially Doug De Soto for all of his hard work to make this happen.

Those who brought food to share at the Pentecost Potluck.

Troop 12 and our other volunteers who hauled mountains of mulch onto the playground.

To Cynthia Kampf, Donald Heinz, Luke Nicolay, and Dani Vogel for representing Faith Lutheran Church at the 2022 Synod Assembly.

To Cynthia Kampf for presiding over worship, and Bill Kees over communion, while Pr. Ben was in quarantine.

Grace and Vaughn Quinlan for their marriage.

Jill Bentler for running the office during Michael's away time.

Torres Shelter Dinner Teams: Elise Gladu & Mike Kruschke for June, and Kathy & Grace Mahannah for July.

"Roses to Pastor Ben for inviting me to preach and lead worship during his family leave time last year, and for inviting me to preach, at Jim's request, at Jim Kirks' memorial service in May. Dianne and I feel abundantly welcome and delight in these opportunities to renew our connection with you all."

-Pr. Carl Wilfrid.

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KENDALL COOL UOUTH



Dani Vogel, **Director of Family Life** (530) 895-3754 danifaithlutheran @gmail.com Sabbath: Fri / Sat

The early start to summer in Chico meant a lot of fun here at the church. You may have noticed our playground has been spruced up. In order to make a safe playspace for our community, we added new mulch to our playground to get us to a safe depth of 6 inches of mulch. Our Scout Troop, Troop 12, helped a number of our church volunteers lay down the mulch the first weekend in May. We had a great time, and have enjoyed the fresh scent of cedar.

Dani is also scheduling meetings with all of our children and youth families this summer to hang out, and talk future plans. May and early June included our elementary families.

We held VBS with our friends at St. John's, and had a blast on our Adventures with God

Youth group took a walk one Sunday afternoon to go get Froyo and hang out together.

We had a great celebration in our young adult group. Two of our members got married up at Mt. Shasta! We wish many blessings to Grace and Vaughn.



Our youth group will be heading to their summer experience at Luther Glen Farm in Oak Glen, CA from June 24-July 31. We are in the process of creating an Instagram account for this experience, so that you can follow along at home as we learn and grow together.





TROOP 12 AND FLC MULCHERS



FUN AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



MASON, KORTNEY AND KENDALL ENJOY FRO-YO



EVEN MORE VBS FUN

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM online and in person

Art Play continues to meet Mondays at 6:30 PM at the church. Everybody is welcome to join this group. We create art projects to enhance worship, like banners and environmental art that corresponds with the theme of the season.

Bell Choir and Choir are on hiatus and will return in August.

BECOME A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER



Share Jesus' presence by taking communion to people who are homebound or in the hospital. To learn more about becoming a Eucharistic Minister, contact Pastor Ben or the office.

STAFF NEWS

STAFF AWAY TIME

Director or Worship and Music, Luke Nicolay, will be at a conference from July 18th-21st, and will return on Sunday, July 24th

Director of Family Life, Dani Vogel, will be on the Rebound Youth Trip from July 24th-31st and will return Wednesday, August 3rd.



UPDATE ON MIKE & JOHN'S WEDDING

All Faith Lutheran members are invited to manager Michael Nicholson and his flancé John Dick's wedding on Friday, November 11th at 2:30 PM at Faith Lutheran Church. Please RSVP by visiting theknot.com/johnandmikeswedding. RSVPs end August 1st.



STAFF SABBATH DAYS

To keep everybody in the loop, the staff would like to keep the congregation posted as to our days off.

> Pr. Ben, Luke, & Dani - FRI/SAT Michael - SAT/SUN

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

THE WATERS OF CREATION

Summer is a wonderful time to remember our baptism. We are baptized once, but we return to the waters of baptism every day. In baptism, God both makes us promises and fulfills them. It is helpful to think of the promises of baptism, by remembering five major stories of water in scripture:

- Waters of Creation: In the beginning, the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters from which God brought forth life, and God saw that it was good. This is the first promise of baptism: that the life God gives us is good.
- 2) Waters of the Flood: When human sin ravaged the earth and grieved God's heart, God drowned the whole earth, but human and animal life were saved. Noah and the animals were saved not only from the water by the ark, but by the water from the consequence of the sin that humanity had brought upon the earth. This is the second promise of baptism: that God saves us from the divine consequence of sin.
- 3) Waters of the Red Sea: When the Hebrew people were slaves in Egypt, God parted the waters of the Red Sea so allow the Hebrews to escape slavery and enter freedom. The waters then washed away Pharoah's forces that were trying to drag them back into slavery. This is the third promise of baptism: that God sets of free; we belong to God and no other.
- 4) Waters of the River Jordan: When Jesus is baptized in the waters of the River Jordan, he sees the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends on him as a dove, and a voice from heaven says, You are my son, the beloved, with you I am well please."

This is the forth promise of baptism: that we are anointed by the Holy Spirit as God's beloved children with whom God is well pleased.



Pr. Ben Colahan (530) 895-3754 colahanb@gmail.com Sabbath: Fri / Sat

5) Waters of Jesus' Death: Jesus empties himself on the cross, and when a spear pierces his side, out pour water and wine. But those Jesus descends into the depths of death, he rises to new and eternal life. This is the fifth promise of baptism: That we are united with Jesus in his death so that we rise with him in his resurrection. All that belongs to Jesus, is ours: his eternal life, his righteousness, his love, his family.

The promises of baptism are overwhelming profound and beautiful, and yet the devils of this world continually try to get us to doubt these promises, to ignore and forget them. This is why God has united this promises with the tangible object of water. For as Martin Luther writes in his Large Catechism,

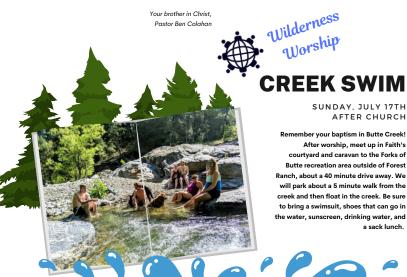
"faith must have something which it believes, that is of which it takes hold, and upon which it stands and rests. Thus faith clings to the water, and believes that it is Baptism, in which there is pure salvation and life; not through the water (as we have sufficiently stated), but through the fact that it is embodied in the Word and institution of God, and the name of God inheres in it."

Water is God's word made tangible. Water is the physical promise of God that is always with us, because we literally need it to live. God knows we will have doubts and forget, so God has attached the good news of God's love to something that we can touch, taste, and see.

And so this summer, I invite you to do just that: Take hold of God's promises through the waters of baptism. What makes water holy is that it is united with God's promise. Before I baptize someone, I say a big long prayer that incorporates the five stories I've listed and is modeled on Luther's "Flood Prayer." But anyone can make the holy water of baptism. Simply speak the word of one of God's promises over any water.

The next time you are in the shower, say, "In the flood of my baptism God washed me clean from sin." Then let the sacred waters of the shower wash your quilt down the drain. The next time you are floating in the creek, say, "In the waters of my baptism, God has set me free," and let the shackles you feel float away in the holy water of the stream. The next time you take a cold drink on a hot day, say, "In the waters of my baptism, God gave me good life," and feel that truth cool your core. When you get caught in a thunderstorm, and you feel the power of the storm soak you to your bones, sing out, "I am united with Christ!" And feel the strength of Jesus stream down your face. And of course, when you come to worship, dip your fingers in the font, make the sign of the cross with that water, and say, "I am God's beloved child." Make the waters this summer holy. Remember your baptism. Live in the promises of God.





PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

REFLECTIONS

After church recently, I engaged in a conversation with a member of our Faith family. She asked, "What does a church council president do?" If you want the complete answer, check out pages 24 to 26 on the Equipped to Serve document on chicofaithlutheran.org under Resources, then Equipped to Serve. I would rather think of my role as connecting members with their Faith family. The name tags let us know your name. The small groups allow you to let us know more about you. Your leadership and willingness to serve allow us to know what you value and believe.

As I end my first year of a two year term, I reflect on what we have done this year. Our church council advance (AKA retreat) in the summer of 2021 focused on things that we could do in the first three months to make difference at Faith Lutheran. We agreed to focus on welcoming in worship, gathering in community, equipping for purpose, and being sent to serve.

How have these areas of focus been felt by you? Do you feel connected, or do you feel left out?

The church council we have its next planning retreat/advance from July 31 to August 1. We need your ideas and feedback.





Cynthia Kampf, Council President (530) 680-0925 ckampf@aol.com

What have we done to support your involvement at Faith Lutheran? What have we done that made you feel less connected? What can we do better?

Please be completely open and honest. No one will be identified in the feedback. I will be the only one who sees your name in the email. Please know that I can handle any negative comments. They help me learn and grow.

Recently, a member commented that the standing cross was covering part of Pastor Ben's face during his sermons. It was a distraction. The member and I found a better place for the cross and moved it immediately. Some problems can be solved easily. Other problems might trouble you and drive you away. Please let us know how we can be a better family to you.

Send those comments and ideas to me at ckampf@aol.com (old school email address.) Thank you for your feedback. It helps us learn and grow.

Cynthia Kampf, Church Council President (2021-2023)

HOLY LAND TRIP

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 16

Faith Lutheran is taking a trip to the Holy Land in January of 2023! We will be travelling with two other Lutheran congregations, including a Lutheran pastor who grew up in Palestine. The dates are January 16-26th, with the option to add an additional trip to Jordan through the 29th. The base cost is \$3,590, and that includes airfare, hotels, food, and fees to all the sites. Contact the office for more information.



BACKPACK DRIVE



Doug De Soto, Social Ministry Chair (with wife Carmelita and dog Emma) (530) 354-1453 ddesoto5@yahoo.com

This year's backpack and school supply drive will be from July 1st through July 31st, culminating with the "Blessing of the Backpacks" during worship on August 7th. This year's drive will benefit the students at Fair View High School. We are hoping to provide backpacks and targeted supplies for up to 50 students. Additionally we are hoping to raise \$500.00 through financial donations to fund the establishment of a school library in the school's multipurpose room.

Fair View Alternative High School was founded in 1968 by the Chico Unified School District Board of Education. The students named the school Fair View because they said they were treated fairly and that the staff and activities provided by the school gave them a new and more positive view of life. Since its opening Fair View has been led by principals who maintained a focus on academics and behavior and socio-emotional support. Current principal, Andrew Moll, continues to identify the academic and behavioral challenges facing students in alternative education programs. Students who initially attend Fair View have been unable to complete credits needed to meet graduation requirements at the comprehensive school sites, Pleasant Valley and Chico Senior High Schools. Fair View is considered to be a credit recovery school and students are expected to earn those deficient credits and return to their comprehensive sites; however many students choose to remain at Fair View as it has become a comfortable "home" for them. As an alternative high school, FairView is NOT funded like comprehensive high schools.

The socio-economic population limits school fundraiser participation, and there is no PTA organization to raise funds. Therefore donations are very much appreciated. Donations are used to support the purchase of novels for classrooms (there is no library on site), school supplies, bus passes, and other student needs. Fair View is a wonderful school helping students who are challenged in many ways and the school could use our help. Targeted supplies needed are:



3 Ring Binder, 1 Inch, Presentation View, holds 225 Sheets No red or blue



Two Pocket Portfolio Folders, Letter Size Paper, No prongs No red or blue



0.9 mm Mechanical Pencil



0.9 mm Mechanical Pencil Lead Refills



17-inch Lightweight Student backpacks No red or blue







3 X 5 Inches Blank Ruled Index Card, 100 Count, White



Spiral Notebooks, 1 Subject, College Ruled Paper, 70-100 Sheets, No red or blue

Financial donations go to the establishment of a library in the schoof's multi-purpose room. Funds will be used to purchase books and library resources and equipment. Make checks payable to Fatth Lutheran Church. Memo line: School Library

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

PART XI: LEADERSHIP





Michael Nicholson, Office Manager (530) 895-3754 office@chicofaithlutheran.org Sabbath: Sat / Sun

This month's spiritual gift article is perfect for summer, because it's about the aweeome small groups that ameeting cops, I mean leadership. How did I get those confused? Ah yes, it's because the ELCA defines leadership as "the gift that gives a believer the confidence to step forward, give direction and provide motivation to fulfill a dream or complete a task," which exactly what small group leadership is all about.

"Small groups are a way to get to know people in a deeper fashion than just chatting on a Sunday morning," says Dani Vogel, who oversees our Small Group Ministry as a whole, and Theater Appreciation facilitator Cindy Kampf agrees. "Leadership is making connections. When you see the gifts and talents of others, leadership is connecting those gifts with opportunities to serve and be served. Small groups are a perfect way to make connections. What do you enjoy doing? What are you interested in learning? How do you like to spend your free time? Take the lead. Make yourself known. Bring your friends and Faith family with you as you have fun, learn, and enjoy your free time."

This is why we don't talk about small group "leaders," but small group "facilitators." The leadership in these groups is not about having all the answers, or doing everything, but in helping facilitate relationships and connections within the group. When these connections are made, each person can contribute to the group by making use of the skills and gifts that God has given them.

These connections inspire so many of us at Faith from our young adult group, to our 40-and-overs, to our senior group facilitated by Nola Dosch and Veronika Kehoe. "I enjoy meeting people in a small group interested in their experience of growing into 'Senior' status, being independent yet interdependent," Veronika explains.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS PART XI: LEADERSHIP (CONT FROM PAGE #)

"I always learn from contributions made by participants and hope our group will be enriching our lives as members of Faith." And in regards to the young adult group, Dani says that the young adult group allows her to connect with Faith's 18-39 year olds and gets to know what makes them fantastic. "Hanging out through a wide variety of activities is really a great time to laugh and enjoy the opportunity to be ridiculous in a group setting. Leading this particular group means that I get to come up with creative activity ideas, and then relish in the chans of each event."

Faith has made a big push for small groups to take off, encouraging all of you -yes you, reader!- to consider not only joining a group that meets outside of worship for praying, playing, and fellowship, but to start a group of your own based on your interests. Leadership is a key factor in this...but "leadership" sounds scarv to a lot of people. Have you ever wondered if you're called to leadership? Even our own current group facilitators wonder! Grace Mahannah and I are the facilitators for Alphabet Soup, our LGBTQ+ group. "I don't seek leadership, but I accept it when needed," says Grace, which I cannot relate to enough. "Leadership is always an effort because I'm an introvert; I would rather play a supporting role." In a similar vein, Luke Nicolay and Gayle Palys facilitate Art Play, the group that creates the art you see in the sanctuary during worship, "Frankly I see myself as a reluctant leader. I'm an introvert. I'm not exactly sure how I end up leading things," says Gayle, someone I'm sure a lot of us are relating to right now! "Leadership challenges me to be a better person. To grow, to use my gifts." I asked Gayle what called her to leadership, and she explained that, "Honestly, I have always had a hard time having faith, not doubting the relevance of God. So, what better way to challenge that than to get involved with people of faith? I'm thinking it's the Holy Spirit's way of calling me back into relationship. Funny how the spirit leads you where you don't necessarily think you should be."

So many of us see leaders as "born leaders" or confident extroverts with a voice that carries over mountaintops and through trees...but that's what makes a successful Paul Bunyan, not a successful leader. Like Cindy said, it's about making connections. Lots of us are introverted. Lots of us don't necessarily feel like we were called to leadership at birth. But that's why Grace and I, or Luke and Gayle, or Veronika and Nola are able to lead together as a team. We communicate our fears, motivations, strengths, weaknesses, and inspirations, and encourage all members of the group to do the same. Our facilitators may take on a leadership role, but that role can't catalyze without its members.

So. Should you consider facilitating a small group? Introvert Grace thinks so! "[Small groups are] perfect for getting to know people; it's a great experience!" she says. Elise Gladu, intrepid leader of Pray and Play, the 40-and-overs who went to Hatchet House and had the time of their lives, says that leading a small group is a God-calling, and that she enjoys making people happy, comfortable, secure, and feeling like they're a part of something. "Enjoy it and have fun with it, if you do others will," she says.

Penny Melvin, who with Sherrill Heinz has hosted the class on the book We Make the Road by Walking, says, "The thing that inspires me the most is soaking in the wisdom, loving hearts, and caring spirits of small group members that I have been fortunate enough to be a part of. My advice would be to attend the training offered by church, then jump in and do it! It's easier than you think and more rewarding than you would ever imagine."

"Take the leap," adds Dani. "You might be surprised who has the same interests as you, and what they might want to participate in alongside you." If you're interested in being a part of a small group, facilitator or not, let us know what your interests are. Pick up a Small Group Interest Form at the welcome table on Sunday, or call or email me at the office so I can send over a form. Introverts, extroverts; leaders, supports; there is a space here for everyone to facilitate and to participate.

SMALL GROUPS

JULY | 2022



PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP

For parents to connect with each other while preschool children play and learn Bible Stories. RSVP with Dani Vogel at (530) 895-3754 for July 6th at 9am. This group will start to meet twice a month.



THEATER APPRECIATION

Come and see "The Spitfire Grill" at Chico Theater Company on Sunday, July 24th at 2pm. Afterward, we'll pop over to Cindy Kampf's house for refreshments and discussion about the play. Questions? Call Cindy at (530) 680-0925 or email her at ckampf@aol.com.



ALPHABET SOUP

All queer-identifying members of Faith are welcome to attend Alphabet Soup's BBQ & pride potluck on Sat. 7/9! Wear rainbow, bring a snack to share, and join the fun! RSVP with Michael. (530) 895-3754.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men's breakfast crew meets every Friday morning at 8AM at the Farmer's Skillet. Engage in fellowship with other men over a delicious morning meal. To get in touch with this group, contact Howie Stensrud at (530)

896-0616



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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



YOUNG ADULTS: ROASTING 101

Adults ages 18-39 are invited to learn about roasting coffee with Faith Lutheran member & roaster Mike Boyd. This takes place Sunday 7/10 at 4pm at his coffee shop, Has Beans, and costs \$10. The cost includes roasting education and of course, tasting!



GENERAL FUND FINANCES

AS OF 5/31/2022

	Budget	Actual	Percent Of
	To Date	To Date	Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$444,587.72	\$374,205.36	84.17%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$443,295.13	\$420,506.84	94.86%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$1,292.59	(\$46,301.48)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2021 Net Revenue through 5/31/2022 Ending General Fund Balance		\$63,826.35 (\$46,301.48) \$17,524.87	

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 \$46,301.48 and the General Fund Deficit continues to grow.

The Church Council is addressing 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

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

The Benevolence Report tells what Faith and its members give monetarily. June marked one whole year of giving monthly \$100 gifts to the Hunger Trolley Helpers Group and Chico Housing Action Team for a total of \$1,200 each annually. This monthly giving will continue throughout the fiscal church year of 2022-2023. We will also be giving \$100 a month to the Shalom Clinic, who will be using our facility this summer to offer free counseling to those who could otherwise not afford such a service.

Many of you have given toward the Youth Trip, for which Dir. of Family Life Dani Vogel and the youth are grateful. These money donations sponsor gas, food, and entertainment. If you would still like to support the youth trip, please reach out to Dani Vogel by calling the office.







Women's Retreat

Saturday September 10, 2022 8:30 to 4:15

St. John's Episcopal Church

2341 Floral Avenue. Chico

Retreat Leader: Pastor Ann Sullivan

Breakfast & Lunch served

Cost \$25.00

To Register Please Call: Mary Hall – 530-879-0524 Lydia Conley – 530-570-0711

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6/21/2022, 6:15PM IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

Present: Pastor Colahan, Kampf, Kimmelshue, DeSoto, Groh, Melvin, Pulliam, Woods, Zimbleman, Bentler.

Absent: Sample, Heinz.

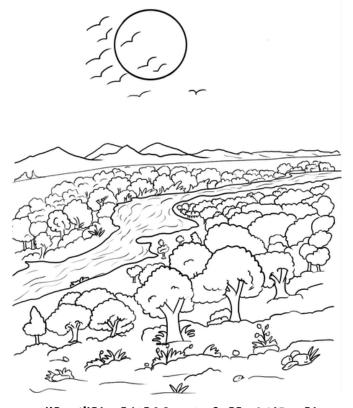
- Welcome & celebrations
- · Devotion and prayer by Cindy Kampf
- · Covenant by all
- · Minutes from previous meeting 5/17/22 approved (Kimmelshue/Groh)
- · Financial Report discussion:
 - Sub committee will meet on July 19th to address possible cuts in budget. (Kimmelshue Kampf, Bentler and Pastor Colahan.)
 - Decision made to transfer 1st/3rd Coordinator Fund and miscellaneous account to general funds as needed.
 - Motion made and approved (DeSoto/Melvin) to stop watering front lawn on East Ave due to water conservation and costs.
 - o Financial Report Approved (Kimmelshue/Groh)
- Emergency Protocols: Dani, DeSoto, Heinz, Pastor Colahan will develop plans and coordinate trainings, and videos for congregation, volunteers, and staff.
- Synod Update: No Bishop as of yet. Potential Interim Bishop to be appointed soon. Pastor Colahan is
 Dean of Redwood Synod. His duties include advisor to the Bishop, offer encouragement to other
 pastors and congregations as needed, attend installation of new pastors, monthly meetings via zoom.
- Executive Team will meet in July.
- Discussed possibility of new bumper sticker/window clings. Groh will start the process.
- Council Retreat is scheduled July 31st-August 1st. Plans include discussions on, relationship building
 and "What we do Right?" and "How can we Improve?" Council will get input from congregation.

Upcoming Important Dates:
Welcome Home Sunday – August 28

All Saints Thank you Sunday - November 6

Next council meeting: August 16 (Sample will lead.)

COLORING PAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART



HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES; HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS -PSALM 23:2

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CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Cynthia Kampf Vice President: Sky Sample Treasurer: Mark Kimmelshue Secretary: Sherrill Heinz Member: Meridith Woods Member: Kyle Groh Member: Joel Zimbelman Member: Alvssa Manes

Member: Steve Hall Member: Pay Snyder Member: Jill Bentler

A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE WITH A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE

Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 10A-4:30P
Website: chicofaithlutheran.org
Email: office@chicofaithlutheran.org
Phone: (530) 895-3754





