

AUGUST

2022

FAITH TALKS



SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM

*This month's theme is **home**: celebrating the home we have at Faith, news about the lawn, helping the houseless, and learning how we can "help out around the house!"*

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ROSES



Mike and Melisse Boyd for teaching our young adults about the various flavors of coffee, where the beans come from, and how to roast them.

Kathy and Grace Mahannah for hosting the Alphabet Soup BBQ.

Elise Gladu for leading our adults on a wine-tasting adventure.

Synergism for their delightful musical offering.

Paul and Jana Gosselin for serving at the Torres Shelter.

*The Quilters for alerting us to a potential fire so that the fire department could quickly come to campus.
(More on page 14.) Another thanks for making a bean bag game for kids at VBS to play with!*



Welcome Home!

A Celebration of Faith Lutheran Church!

August 28th
11:00 AM

Join us for a gathering to celebrate our home at Faith. Activities and games, potluck lunch, time to chat with ministry teams, small group leaders and more!



Maybe you've been going to Faith Lutheran your entire life, but the pandemic made worshipping from the comfort of your couch the safest option, or maybe you just moved to Chico and were looking for a new church home. Perhaps you were on journeys to the far-reaching corners of the Earth, or your journey just took you down the street. Either way, we are so glad that you are part of our family at Faith.

We're celebrating the new school year with a Welcome Home event on Sunday, August 28th following our worship service, and kicking off around 11 am! Our day will include a potluck, yard games, time to hang out with old and new church friends, and an opportunity to chat with council members, small group leaders, staff, and others. We encourage you to come and hang out with us, and join us in welcoming everyone home to Faith.

Our Faith Family continues to grow in new and exciting ways through reignited ministry programs, as well as new events and activities to meet the growing needs of our Chico community. We partner with many local organizations, sponsor a BSA Troop, and more!

HELP IN THE KITCHEN...BE A HUNGER TROLLEY HELPER!



Next time you're out grocery shopping, would you consider picking up an extra grocery or two? This is how you can be a helper, it's really that easy AND helpful. The Hunger Trolley cooks

hot meals and delivers them to homeless camps in Chico. Every 3 months, Faith provides the groceries for a meal. This month's menu: spaghetti with meat sauce (and veggie sauce for our vegetarian neighbors). We need everything from noodles to sauce ingredients to drinks and sides. Call the office and see what menu

items are available to purchase. Drop-off will be at Faith Lutheran a day or two before 8/26 which is when the meal will be cooked and delivered. The Hunger Trolley team is an amazing, supportive group, and you are welcome to cook with them and help distribute food. Give us a call and let us know you're interested!

Dr. Sunny Day and all of our dig site helpers had a great time as we traveled on Adventures with God, looking for different artifacts to connect us with the stories of God's people. Through the generosity of both Faith Lutheran and our friends at St. John's Episcopal, students were able to attend a week of VBS, and participate in many crafts and activities to learn more about the Bible Stories we studied. The Seeds of Faith bean bag game made by our quilters was a huge hit, and will be at our Welcome Home event in late August!



We also kicked off a new group to meet the needs of our littlest friends at Faith. Our Preschool Play group meets on alternating Wednesday mornings this summer to read a Bible story, have interactive play, and enjoy the outdoors with each other. This group will continue to grow and adapt into the fall, to meet the needs of our families!



Our group traveled to our Rebound camp held at Luther Glen Farm, in southern California the last week of July. Stay tuned for photos, and a sharing session about our trip to come in August.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year with a growing Sunday School, we are looking for support to help us fill our basic supply needs list (link below). This works like a registry. You can purchase items and bring them to the church, or have them addressed to me and mailed here.



If you have additional items that you would like to donate, please reach out to me to see if your donation meets our needs. At this time, we are only

looking for new craft supplies and potentially some new or gently used children's toys. You can type the following link into your web browser and purchase items from our registry, or go to our website and find this information with a clickable link under "News." Thank you!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2WBGH7NID6AHG?ref_=wl_share

Dani Vogel

Director of Family Life

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Sabbath: Fri/Sat





You may have noticed that the church's front lawn looks like it's dying. That's because it is. Back in May Cal Water moved Chico into stage two of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Among other things, the Water Shortage Contingency Plan limits outdoor landscape irrigation to two days per week. The church dutifully complied with this restriction.

The grass in our central courtyard has done surprisingly well with this limited amount of water. The shade from the surrounding trees and buildings protects the grass from direct sun throughout much of the day. The grass in the front lawn, however struggled with the reduced water. And so at our June meeting the Congregational Council made a decision to shut off the water to the front lawn all together and begin plans to relandscape the front of the church with native, drought tolerant, plants. The reasons for this decision are threefold:

1) Financial: There have been months this past year in which the congregation's water bill has been over \$500. Most of our water usage is for landscaping. We also never intentionally watered the lawns to such an extent that would warrant such high bills. The irrigation system around the church is well over thirty years old. In the past year we've had over a dozen broken PVC pipes and sprinkler heads. These have resulted in geysers shooting up from our lawn. And because the water restrictions require us to run our irrigation before 8am, we often don't realize these geysers are occurring until a neighbor informs us or a member of the church drives by early in the morning. Part of relandscaping will be

tearing out the old irrigation system and replacing it. Relandscaping the front lawn won't be cheap, but if we can save \$300-\$400 a month in water, over the years it will pay for itself. The council intends to use money from the Capital Campaign for the initial cost, and we will be asking those of you who enjoy gardening to help us plant.

2) Theological: Genesis 2:15 says, *"The Lord God took Adam and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."* The very first action to which God calls humanity is to care for the creation that God has made. In relandscaping the front lawn, the council is seeking to be good stewards not just of our finances, but of our natural resources. California is in the midst of a drought. There are farmers in our congregation who this year received only 10% of their usual water allotment. If there is not water to grow food, the council feels the church should not be using water to grow grass that we do not use. The grass in our central courtyard is used joyously by the children in our congregation and seems to be surviving on restricted water, so we will preserve it. But we don't use our front lawn. By replacing the front lawn with native plants we transform the land into a sanctuary for bees, butterflies, birds and other pollinators. In this way Faith Lutheran can use its resources to strengthen the ecosystem of Chico.

3) Promotional: What most people know of Faith Lutheran is what they see as they drive past on 1st Ave. Right now, what they see is a dying grass. If we watered the lawn extensively what they would see is a church



that ignores the calls to conserve water in order maintain a generic and unremarkable lawn. If we plant native flowers, shrubs, and grasses, what people will see is a dazzling array of color, various forms of life strengthening and supporting each other. Passersby will see a community that takes seriously the care of God's creation, lives out

good stewardship of its resources, and fulfills its civic duty to make sure everyone has the water that they need.

In the coming weeks, we will be asking for your input as we settle on a design for the landscape. We'll need your help in clearing away the old lawn and planting the new flowers.

The transition will not be pretty, but from the death of our lawn I trust will rise new and more abundant life for everyone. ***Your brother in Christ,***

Ben Colahan

Pastor

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Sabbath: Fri/Sat



**WORSHIP
& MUSIC**



Worship on Sundays

9:30 AM in person and online.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 7 during worship. Stuffing to follow.

Welcome Home

Sunday, August 28 at 11:00 AM

More on page 3.

HELP NEEDED! Sunday School Helpers, Communion Servers, and A/V Detail is needed ASAP. Please talk to Luke, Pastor Ben, or any staff, council member, usher or greeter and they will get you connected (pg 8).

On September 11th Faith Lutheran will observe the ELCA's annual "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. This year members of Faith will mark the annual day of service by removing trash and recyclables from Teichert Ponds and assisting with the clearing of the area's east side hiking trail.

Teichert Ponds is a city of Chico owned wetland, an oasis for wildlife in the midst of the City's urban development. The 30-acre site supports a dense riparian overstory of cottonwoods, valley oaks and willow. Much of the site's lush ground cover provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, especially berry eating birds such as cedar waxwings. Resident Canada geese and wood ducks can be seen on the ponds, along with other migratory waterfowl, while songbirds and raptors, such as red shouldered hawks, enjoy the riparian vegetation bordering Little Chico Creek.

This year's clean-up provides the opportunity for our church community to work together towards a common goal; protecting our shared natural spaces and waterways and building and deepening relationships and sharing God's love. The ELCA advocates that "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."

Participants will meet on September 11th at Faith Lutheran Church at 8:30 am for a blessing and communion, and then head out

to our designated site for the cleanup. Clean-up is expected to take approximately two-hours. Participants are reminded to be sure to wear a pair of sturdy shoes and bring plenty of water, sunscreen, a hat, and a pair of work gloves. Other clean-up supplies will be provided by donations from the North State Shelter Team and Lowes Hardware. As a reminder there will be no Sunday worship service held at the church on Sunday, September 11th. If you are interested in participating in this year's clean-up, the Social Ministry Team has additional information about the event and will have sign-up sheets outside the Sanctuary after worship starting August 21st. For more information contact the office or call Doug De Soto at 530-354-1453.



Doug De Soto
Social Ministry Chair
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Chores can be a pain. My least favorite chore is doing the dishes. I'll clean toilets with an attitude passing for contentment, but dishes *completely* drain me. Fortunately, my partner doesn't mind doing the dishes, so we have an agreement: he does the dishes, and I clean the bathroom. He doesn't get drained, I don't get drained, and both kitchen and bathroom remain functional. Having that kind of mutual support keeps us both feeling energetic!

Right now, we have a decent chunk of worship leaders being too-often recycled; the same communion servers, the same A/V folks, and especially the same Sunday School helpers. The staff are concerned about burnout. These are all positions that our wonderful Faith family have volunteered their time for, and we simply need more help in the following areas as soon as we are able.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is our top priority. We only have 2 helpers, which means each individual is being scheduled 2-3 times a month, and while we are beyond grateful for their presence, we need to be scheduling other people. 2 qualified adults need to be in the room with children, so between Dani (our Director of Family Life) and only 2 volunteers, we are in immediate need of more folks to help with the kids on Sundays. This involves doing arts and crafts, telling Bible stories, and other young-children-aged activities. The nursery is equipped with fantastic speakers that relay the service in realtime, so you won't miss any element of the service. Please contact the office if you are able to help ideally once a month with the littles.

A/V, COMMUNION SERVERS & USHERS

We are also recycling many of the same people for these ministries. Luke would like to train new people for A/V, communion, and ushers ASAP. A/V includes operating the soundboard, mics, and livestream. The A/V team are such a blessing to our community as they make it possible for over 30 households to worship with us online each week. Ushers dispense bulletins, log worship attendance, and help people to their seats and to the communion table. Ushers get to be the gracious hosts of Faith for visitors. Communion distributes the eucharist, the blood and body of Christ; they literally get to give people Jesus.

WORSHIP LEADERS: MIND THE DOORS

Doors, especially in the worship building, have been left unlocked and/or open on Sundays. If you are a worship leader and/or one of the last people to leave worship, please check all the doors. Tug doors from the outside and make sure they're locked. Double-check all doors in the worship building, especially the fellowship hall.

Those are the immediate needs of Faith, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me. Thank you for the consideration Dear Faith.

Michael Nicholson

Manager

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Sabbath: Sat/Sun



Mercy: "the gift that motivates a believer to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then act to meet that need." -ELCA.

While the gift of mercy shines bright through many ministries of Faith, this month, we're going to be focusing on 3 organizations supported by our Social Ministry.

Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT)

Last fiscal year, we donated \$1700 to CHAT which helped house Chico homeless and students, establish landlord incentives to assist Camp Fire survivors, and build Everhart Village. Everhart Village's Groundbreaking happened on July 13th with a community forum the following day. You can learn more about CHAT at chicohousingactionteam.net.



Shalom Free Clinic

This summer, this clinic will be using the Prayer Room here at FLC for one-on-one counseling. The Shalom Clinic offers free health and mental health care to those who cannot afford it, and operates right down the road at 1010 Mangrove St. D. The clinic also offers alternative health care like energy balancing and reiki. Hours for general health

care are Sundays 1-4pm; mental health care Sundays 1-4pm; alternative care Wednesdays 5-7pm. Learn more at shalomfreeclinic.org.

Hunger Trolley Helpers Group

We are still proud supporters of the Hunger Trolley, who are currently serving hot meals to the homeless once a month. The Hunger Trolley operates right here out of the Faith Lutheran Church kitchen! This month, it's our turn to help provide the groceries needed to feed our neighbors. The meal is spaghetti with meat and veggie sauce, which is being cooked and served on August 26th. Please call the office if you are able to donate one food item or more. These items range from meat to sauce ingredients to sides and drinks. Items can be dropped off at the church between August 22nd-25th.

Other Acts of Mercy

Because our fellowship hall A/C is broken, we are not able to adequately provide the facilities for Safe Space's cooling center. Social Ministry hopes that once our A/C is fixed, we can revisit the issue and host again later on in the summer. Members of Faith still serve at the North State Shelter Team's shower trailer which is operating from Windchime Park, 1197 Humboldt Ave. on Fridays at 11:00 AM, and our food bank still happens regularly on the 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month in the parking lot.

Help our most vulnerable siblings in Christ by offering your time and talent with Social Ministry. We meet once a month, and take on about one project a month. Call the office to learn more!

Greetings, my dear friends! It's mid afternoon on a Tuesday near the end of July and, in true Chico fashion, it is warm outside (nearly in the hundreds, which decidedly is not as hot as it could be... haha!) however, it's not quite as warm as it could be. This summer has brought so many blessings and adventures -many including some much needed rain, hikes and swims with good friends, educational trips, time to recharge, but most importantly- time to reflect, plan, and praise God.

As we plan forward to the Fall and toward this next season of music and art there are a number of goings-on. Groups will be rehearsing, we'll be organizing and cleaning out music, preparing lots of diverse and exciting services, planning and carrying-out numerous art projects, going out to serve the community, collaborating, and more!

Firstly, the handbell choir will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, August 23rd at 4:00 PM and go until 5:30 PM. Handbells is an exciting way to grow your music reading abilities and to meet some wonderful folks. We are a group of between 8-12 folks who meet weekly to prepare handbell pieces for many of the major church celebration services. In addition, we work weekly on many music reading aspects such as our theory (understanding of the way music is composed and created the way it is), bell ringing technique (how we ring without causing injury to ourselves or the bells), and proper bell care technique. This group is super energetic and works on a lot of fun music! If you would be interested in joining us, please reach out to me via email.

Secondly, the sanctuary choir will resume rehearsals on Tuesday August 16th at 5:00 PM. This date, however, is not the typical date that we will meet on. The sanctuary choir sings a wide variety of repertoire from the classics of Bach and Brahms all the way to spirituals and contemporary a cappella. Currently, the choir is in the midst of thinking about a switch to our rehearsal schedule to accommodate more folks' evening schedules. We encourage anyone who would like to sing and praise God with their voice to join us. Earlier this summer I sent out a survey to the choir members on my current list to see which dates/times would work best. I'm currently still collecting those results and then will send out a final survey to get a solid day/time that works for everyone. If you are interested in joining us for choir, please contact me.

As soon as the choir has a set date/time, the contemporary group/Sunday worship leaders will be setting a time to get together weekly to work on Sundays' music and focus solely on contemporary and world music as a collective group. If you are interested in working with this group of folks, please reach out.



In addition to the groups of musicians that will resume rehearsals, Art Play, the art group co-facilitated by Gayle Palys and myself, will continue to meet every-other-week throughout the Fall and into the wintertime.

The many artists in this group have been having a lot of fun exploring liturgical art and it's vibrant place in our worship. We look forward to the many projects that will be created. If you're interested in being a part of this group, please reach out to Gayle Palys at gaylepalys@yahoo.com or myself. We're always excited to have more folks join in the creative process!

Lastly, as we continue throughout the month of August and into the Fall/Winter, be on the lookout for announcements from us regarding trainings for worship roles (see page #). We are always looking for more folks to assist with worship. I can provide you with more details or connect you with one of the shepherds

(long-time ministers who train others and assist with various worship roles) so that we can answer your questions.

As we head into August and into the Fall there's so much going on. I'm truly thrilled and excited to be starting my 3rd Fall here at Faith Lutheran and look forward to continuing working with all of the amazing groups here! I'm even more excited that, as we continue to manage and deal with covid, we're able to offer more small groups and opportunities to be involved at Faith Lutheran. It's been a joy for me to be involved in several different ways, in addition to music and art here at Faith. Blessings to each of you as we venture into this month of August! With great love,



NO COUNCIL MINUTES OR FINANCIAL REPORT THIS MONTH

In lieu of a council meeting in July, our council met for a retreat at the end of the month. As such, this edition of *Faith Talks* will not contain council minutes or a financial report. Stay tuned for September's edition for news from the council and treasurer.



Faith Lutheran Church: A Community Reflecting God's Love with a Place at the Table for Everyone.

Greetings Faith family! This has been a joyous summer so far. It was wonderful to see so many members of the congregation and visitors at Sophia Ireta Marie Colahan's baptism. It was even more wonderful to see a full sanctuary on July 17th. The middle of the summer break is usually sparsely attended. Thank you to Luke Nicolay and Daun Weiss for arranging for the beautiful sounds of the Synergism Women's Chorus. I usually attend their annual musical program and have missed that during the pandemic. We are truly blessed to have the young people practice stringed instruments and women's chorus gather in our sanctuary to learn new songs. Thank you for all these musical gifts.

I am also pleased to see so many children worshipping each Sunday. Thank you to their parents, Dani Vogel, and her crew of Sunday School helpers for bringing the children to our "table."



You will be hearing about the Welcome Home event to be held on August 28th after church. Think of it as a family reunion. There will be activities for everyone and a regular Lutheran style potluck. Hot dishes, casseroles and jello salad will be welcome, but please bring whatever is your specialty. (No lutefisk please.)

Please know that our Theatre Appreciation small group is open to everyone at any time. Check the schedule for our group at the Welcome Table. Note that the August show is on a Saturday night. I will be out of town, so no dessert after that show. You might want to arrange to have dinner with church friends before the 7:30 showing of "The 39 Steps" on August 13th. The next Sunday afternoon play (after "The Spitfire Grill" on July 24th) is "Something Rotten!" on September 18th. This show was on Broadway in the recent past. I am looking forward to seeing it for the first time. Please join us for a fun afternoon and dessert at my house (227 Brookvine Circle) after the show ends.

When we say Welcome Home, it is important to remember that we would not have a Home without the tireless work of many members of the congregation. I especially want to remind all of us of the endless hours that Joel Zimbelman donates to Property Management. This has been a crazy year. Two fires, two broken windows, old air conditioning system failures, huge water bills and accompanying decisions about landscaping. There have also been very many things to celebrate. New air conditioning units, replacement of timers, new furniture and carpet, kitchen updates (cont.)

and organizing, and the continuing use of our new A/V system. None of that would have happened without Joel and Tod's leadership and the generosity of the Faith family.

On a final note, I have helped plan five weddings for four daughters and a special niece. One of the hardest things to manage is RSVPs. Knowing how many to plan for is important. All of us have been invited to the wedding of our office manager Michael and

his fiance John. If you are also going, please let Michael know. He will be very appreciative. Have a great rest of summer. We love to see you on Sunday. Safe travels if you are headed out for vacation.

Cynthia Kampf
Council President
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In the month of July, \$125 was given to the Chico Food Project. The Chico Food Project is where our "blue bags" go. Blue bags are bags filled with nonperishable goods that are used to feed the homeless in Chico. Faith collects blue bags every other month.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

The Social Ministry team met last month and discussed the difficult topic of tighter spending. Because general giving was low at the end of the last fiscal year, Social Ministry has temporarily suspended monthly giving to the Hunger Trolley, CHAT, and Shalom Clinic. These three organizations are still partnered with Faith Lutheran. Come time, we will offer free facility use to the Shalom Clinic for one-on-one counseling. We continue to support the Hunger Trolley by donating groceries (page 3) and

providing free use of our commercial kitchen. We continue to do yard work for CHAT'S Mercy House, and offer companionship as well. Social Ministry will reconvene in regards to monthly donations in 3 months and discuss options to further support these organizations. In other news, a total of \$265 was given to support our backpack and supply drive for Fair View High. Most of this money was given specifically so Fair View can install a student library on campus. Thank you for your support!

Manager Michael here! As you read in Roses and the president's article, we've had a bit of excitement on campus this month!

In Cindy's article on page 12, one fire she referenced took place back in January during Safe Space Winter Shelter. The shelter staff quickly spotted the fire in the women's restroom at about 7pm, extinguished it, evacuated everyone, and called the fire department. Had they not been present, the sanctuary as we know it today may not have been where we're worshipping now. We are so grateful for Safe Space's timely intervention.

The second fire wasn't a fire per se, but rather an almost-fire that took place in the Fellowship Hall last month.

On a balmy Tuesday in mid-July, Char Miller called the office from the fellowship hall and hollered "Call the fire department!" I did. They were here in minutes, and the Quilters were quickly evacuated. Smoke was seeping from the vents in the fellowship hall and filling the air with the scent of burning rubber. I felt a sense of nostalgia, remembering my first few attempts at "cooking" at mine and John's apartment. This was not a result of my pizza though, this was the furnace dramatically retiring after 35 years of service. The fire department shut off the breaker that controls that fellowship hall A/C and cleared out the smoke. There were no injuries and no damage to the building, not even smoke damage. And no quilts were harmed in the process!

Many thanks to Char and the gang for acting quickly! We also extend our thanks to Royal Aire, the folks responsible for fixing many an A/C unit over the last year. They quickly got us a bid and scheduled an install within a week, so by the time you're reading this, we should have functioning A/C again.



THE QUILTERS WATCHING THE FIREMEN WORK ON THE ROOF

As far as broken windows go, it's an unfortunate reality that they happen. There are two broken windows in the midst of being repaired on campus. One is the result of a rock being thrown in from the outside; the other was accidentally cracked by one of our renters who have kindly offered to reimburse the cost to get it replaced. We give thanks for the responsible renters who we share our space with, and we all know too well that these things happen.

We are grateful that regardless of everything mentioned in this article, everybody is safe. Until next time!

Michael, Manager FLC
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PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP

A group for parents to connect with each other while preschool children play and learn Bible Stories. We meet about twice a month on Wednesday mornings. Call the office and ask for Dani if you're interested in joining us!



ALPHABET SOUP

This group is for queer-identifying members of Faith to eat food, share stories, do Bible study, and play games together. We meet about once a month on Saturdays around 3pm. Give Michael a call at the office if you'd like to join!



ART PLAY

We meet Mondays at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Our creations are the splashes of color you see in the worship environment on Sundays from banners to plants to lots in between! Give Luke a call at the office to join us!



THEATER APPRECIATION

This group sees plays together and meets afterward for dessert. Join us on Saturday, August 13th at 7:30 PM to see Chico Theater Company's *The 39 Steps*. Afterward, we'll head to Cynthia Kampf's house to talk about the play and eat dessert. Contact Cindy at (530) 680-0925.



YOUNG ADULTS

This crew ages 18-39 get up to all kinds of adventures from minigolf to coffee tasting to simply relaxing together with snacks and board games. Give Dani, Dir. of Family Life a call at the office and see what they young adults are up to this month!



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our 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.



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

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