

SEPTEMBER 2022

FATH TALKS



Pictured above are a few of the folks from last year's God's Work, Our Hands Sunday crew.

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Darlene Hollmann whose last Sunday at Faith was August 28. We wish her safe travels on her move to Washington.

Everyone who supplied items from Dani's nursery and youth wishlist.

Synergism for their marvelous, musical offering during worship.

Our office helpers for folding bulletins, stuffing visitor mugs, and helping our staff on Thursdays (more on page 18).

The Stais and the Knights for offering their cabins for the council retreat.

Becky Rouse's return from a year in Baltimore serving the Lutheran Volunteer Corps.

All who have brought produce to share with our members on Sundays.

Everyone who donated to the backpack and school supply drive.



Everyone who has shown support to little Logan and the Bradley family over the years as she has undergone cancer treatment. In September, Logan had her last treatment!

All of our musicians who are coming back together for fall rehearsals and sharing their gift of music with our siblings in Christ.

We had a busy summer here at Faith Lutheran Church! Our biggest event was the trip that 4 of us took to be in community with other high school students through the Rebound experience offered by Luther Glen Farm, one of our Lutheran Camp and Retreat Centers here in California. After the ELCA made the difficult decision that with so many variables, it wouldn't be feasible to host our National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis this summer, we were able to embark, or rebound, to a new opportunity.



Close to 200 staff, adults, and students gathered for a week to participate in games, do service work, hang out with farm animals, chat with ELCA bishops and more. The Stafford family and Dani had an excellent experience during the week, including a day spent with our friends at Disneyland.



We will be resuming regular youth meetings in September on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 1 pm. We do games and Bible study, go on field trips to the creek, mini golf and more, as well as open up opportunities for our youth and friends to connect to other Lutherans in our synod by attending retreats and activities sponsored by the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Council.

One of our youth, Kendall Stafford has applied to be a part of this group, and they recently asked Dani Vogel, our Director of Family Life to come on board as part of the adult leadership team.

As we gear up for a new year of Sunday Sunday School, we could use your help in stocking our craft cupboard and games area for our youth and Sunday School programs. By making these purchases, you are helping us to maintain a healthy budget here at the church. Our supply and wishlist is available on Amazon. If you would like to help, but do not have Amazon, chat with Dani about supplies we need!

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

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



WORSHIP



MEET THE NEW BISHOP AT OKTOBERFEST

Bishop Claire Burkat will be attending the traditional Oktoberfest at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Artois on Oct. 2nd**. You are invited to meet her, learn what's happening in the synod, and share your perspectives on our shared church. The bishop will be giving her formal presentation at 2:30pm in their sanctuary. You do not need to attend the Oktoberfest to attend. If you would like to attend the Oktoberfest from 1-4pm, which includes homemade German food and has the option to enjoy a beer garden next door, please

RSVP with Faith Lutheran's office by Sunday, Sept. 25th.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

In honor of St. Francis Day, we encourage you to bring your well-behaved pets to worship on **Oct. 2nd!** Animals will be blessed at 9am before the service starts. Pets may then join the procession into the sanctuary.



BAPTISM OF SEAN MEHAN

Sean Mehan will be baptized in the Chico Creek following worship on **Sept 4th**. We encourage you all to either walk with us the three blocks, or drive down to Bidwell Park and meet at the One Mile Parking lot.



COMMISSIONING STEPHEN MINISTERS

Stephen Ministers have spent months training to offer one-on-one Christian care to people who are spiritually hurting. Join us during worship on **Sept. 18th** as we commission our newest Stephen Ministers and bless the ministry they undertake. If you could benefit from receiving care from a Stephen Minister, or would like to learn about becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Ben at colahanb@gmail.com.

MUSIC

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Music rehearsals are back for the fall! And before you say "I'd love to sing or play, but I'm an amateur," here's a fun fact: the word "amateur" comes from the Latin "amator," meaning lover. Music is an expression of love, passion, and praise, and we encourage people of all abilities to join our choir, contemporary musicians, and handbell choir.



HANDBELL PRACTICE
TUESDAYS @ 4PM



CHOIR PRACTICE
THURSDAYS @ 5PM



CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE
THURSDAYS @ 630PM

The bell choir is back working on seasonal music for fall and winter including Reformation and Advent. We also do some partnering with other churches to do some small handbell workshops that have been a big hit.

Choir meets Thursday evenings throughout the season. We'll be working on a number of pieces including music for Reformation, All-Saints, Advent, Festival of Lessons and Carols (joint choir with St. John's Episcopal), and more!

The contemporary musicians will be meeting on Thursday evenings to grow in our knowledge of this body of music. This group will be leading much of the contemporary music that we will do in worship each week.

Luke Nicolay is our Director of Worship and Music. He is 28 years old with his Masters in Organ and Choral Conducting from K.U. in Lawrence, Kansas. He started working with us in 2020 right when the pandemic hit, and this year, he is excited to get people back to singing and ringing in person! If you are interested in joining bells, choir, or contemporary, call the office or email Luke directly at lukenicolay1@gmail.com.

MEET LUKE



"God's Work, Our Hands." It's the name of a Sunday in September when each year our morning worship takes the form of direct service to our surrounding community. "God's Work, Our Hands" is also the tagline of our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. But more importantly, those words sum up the Lutheran understanding of vocation.

Today, most people think of the word vocation as referring to your job or your career. In the early 16th Century, when Martin Luther was growing up, vocation referred to having a calling to be a priest, a monk, or a nun. Indeed, the word "vocation" come from the Latin root *vocare* meaning "to call." But Martin Luther realized that Jesus didn't just call the priests in the temple to follow him, Jesus called fishermen, tax collectors, and women collecting water. Martin Luther realized the Jesus calls everyone to follow him.

Our vocation is the way in which we live out God's love between our baptism and our burial. Each of us is a minister, because a minister is someone who serves God. And while we can serve God in our jobs, we are called to live out God's love in every aspect of our lives, in every role and every relationship. If we are a parent, we have a vocation to raise and care for our children in a way that shows them God's loving care. If we are a friend, we have a vocation to be the loving arms of Jesus that hold our friend close in times of sadness and which give hugs of joy in times of celebration. If we are walking down the street, in that moment we have a vocation to be the face of Christ, bringing joy and peace to those we pass.

Our vocation goes beyond our direct interaction with individuals. When we knit a sweater, we have a vocation in that moment to be the cloak of God, keeping someone warm. When we grow fruit and vegetables in our garden, we have a vocation in that moment to be the way that God feeds our neighbors. When we repair a roof, we have in that moment a vocation to be the means by which God provides shelter. In Luther's "Exposition of Psalm 147," the reformer writes,

"God could easily give you grain and fruit without your plowing and planting. But He does not want to do so. . . . What else is all our work to God—whether in the fields, in the garden, in the city, in the house, in war, or in government—but just such a child's performance, by which He wants to give His gifts in the fields, at home, and everywhere else? These are the masks of God, behind which He wants to remain concealed and do all things...We have the saying: 'God gives every good thing, but not just by waving a hand.' God gives all good gifts; but you must lend a hand and take the bull by the horns."



Luther is saying that your face is the mask which God wears when God is taking care of the world. Or as our denomination phrases it today, "God's work, our hands."

During our council retreat this past month, our main focus was pondering how we as a congregation might better support each other in living out our vocation in its various forms. One of the main ways we will be striving to do so in the coming year is by helping each person realize that God has given them unique spiritual gifts. These unique spiritual gifts allow each of us to be a different mask for God, a different set of hands to do the variety of work that God accomplishes. Some hands are better suited for planting a garden, some hands are best at making music, some hands can balance a checkbook like a breeze, and other hands hold people close in prayer. With whatever gifts God has blessed your hands, they can do God's work to bring forth the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Faith Lutheran wants to be a part of helping you realize how uniquely and wonderfully God has made you to transform the world through Christ's love. And so you'll hear me on Sunday mornings inviting you to consider whether you might have a specific spiritual gift. Further in this newsletter you'll find an article inviting you to learn about a spiritual gift and how you might put it to use. Our congregation already has so many people in it using their gifts to God's glory. I want to thank you for all you already do in Christ's name. And for those of you who feel like your days aren't filled with bringing forth God's love, don't worry, Jesus has something wonderful in store for you. I look forward to discovering it together.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

**NEW
MEMBERS
CLASS**

Ben Colahan

Pastor

(530) 895-3754

colahanb@gmail.com

Sabbath: Fri/Sat



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, Sept. 18th! Class will be after worship (11am-noon) in room 7. Class will last six weeks and at the end, if you decide you'd like to officially join, we'll have a celebration to introduce you on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 30th. You are welcome to take the class even if you do not want to officially become a member, but just want to learn about our church. To sign up, please contact Pastor Ben.

"The gift that inspires a believer to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument." -ELCA on Instrumental Music

"The gift that gives a believer the capability and opportunity to present personal witness and inspiration to others through singing." -ELCA on Vocal gifts

There are many spiritual gifts that folks identify with. Some might identify with the gifts of leadership, some might gravitate toward gifts of mercy, and some might hover closer to music which can go in two directions, including instrumental or vocal. If you've ever wondered about your gifts, please take a look at these questions and give yourself a rating (4 being always true, 0 being not true at all):

1-I love to sing and enjoy inspiring others through song. (Rating: 4 3 2 1 0)

2-I have sung before groups and felt a real sense of God's presence. (Rating: 4 3 2 1 0)

3-I am grateful and humbled that my singing has provided inspiration and hope for others on their faith journey. (4 3 2 1 0)

#1-3 TOTAL SCORE: _____

4-I find joy and express myself by playing a musical instrument. (4 3 2 1 0)

5-By my playing a musical instrument, inspiration has been provided for both myself and believers. (4 3 2 1 0)

6-Others have told me they were moved by my playing a musical instrument. (4 3 2 1 0)

4-6 TOTAL SCORE: _____

Now add the total of numbers 1-3, and then add the totals of 4-6 separately. What were your scores? The higher the score (typically 6-7 or higher), the higher the chance might be that you've got a gift for music, whether it be vocal or instrumental. Were you surprised at your results? Why or why not? You may score yourselves really high and it might come as a total surprise to you! What a delightful surprise as there are so many different abilities that one may possess between vocal and instrumental music. If you find yourself with a high score in either, you may be wondering "okay, now how in the world do I get involved?" If these are your concerns, don't be worried! We can help you plug into a group at Faith! There are so many opportunities to serve musically in and out of worship at Faith. Go ahead and flip the page!

Sing at Faith

Cantor: leading worship through the singing of psalms and liturgy.

Choir: group song and hymn singing. The choir also sings outside of worship at some public events. Choir is an excellent way to build community as we regularly gather for rehearsals and for times of fellowship in and out of sacred contexts.

Vocal Soloist: often times we invite folks to sing in and out of worship from numerous genres including Renaissance music up to contemporary sacred and secular music. Many soloists have sung for gay pride services, regular Sunday services, and more.

Small Groups (duets, trios, etc.): during numerous times of the year we delight in have duets, trios, quartets and other small groups singing. This is a great way to get to know others in a smaller group setting and also to get to know the ins-and-outs of your voice.

Play at Faith

Contemporary Instrumentalist (guitars, drums, and keyboards.) This group usually meets for Sunday worship, but occasionally meets for special occasions like Safe Space Winter Shelter or the Advent Workshop.

Organist: Folks are welcome to play our Stephen Russel & Sons organ, and we are always looking for substitute organists for worship. We also look for those who can assist with hymn playing, accompanying, and leading of the church's song as an instrument of our heritage.

Pianist: Pianists play an integral role in a number of musical spaces from rehearsals to contemporary music-making, to solo performance opportunities. There is always an open invitation to share your gift throughout each and every season at Faith.

Brass: At Faith Lutheran we also have a group of folks who accompany service on brass instruments including the trumpet, trombone, and tuba. The brass group typically meets for celebration days such as Reformation Sunday, Easter Sunday, and others as able.

Bells: Our handbell choir is an integral part of winter worship and Advent services. We are currently meeting for fall rehearsals, and whether you have never picked up a bell in your life or you're a long-time ringer, you are welcome to practice with us.

There are so many different ways to use your God-given gifts to lift up the congregation and community in song. What a joy it is to be able to serve a God who delights on our praise. If you have any questions about your spiritual gifts in music, please reach out to me via email. I am more than delighted to sit down with you and talk about where you might feel comfortable sharing your gifts and talents at, and most importantly, how Faith Lutheran can support you in your journey.

Blessings,
Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship and Music

Luke Nicolay
Dir. Worship & Music
(530) 895-3754
lukenicolay1@gmail.com
Sabbath: Fri/Sat



In early 2021 Faith Lutheran Church teamed up with Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT) to establish the Mercy House – a home for medically fragile, homeless women – in a house purchased by Pastor Ben's mother, Patricia. Over the past year, the volunteer housing support team from Faith Lutheran Church, myself and Bonnie Pulliam, have met weekly with the residents of the home and offered support and friendship. Bonnie and I, together with the residents have celebrated holidays, birthdays, and the arrival of new grandchildren. We also mourned the loss of a beloved Mercy House resident, Susie, in February. Faith Lutheran Church sponsored the installment of a Lending Library in Spring 2021 in the front yard of the Mercy House and our Spring project this year was the construction and installment of a raised vegetable garden bed which was dedicated to the memory of Susie.



We've had some turnover in residents over the past year. Sarah, who had lost her home to the Camp Fire and was facing homelessness after a long-term stay in hospital, was able to obtain a Section 8 housing voucher and moved into an apartment on her own. Contacted for this article, Sarah told me, "The Mercy House was the landing spot I needed to get back on my feet." Sarah added, "I truly appreciated that an entire congregation was supporting me and praying for me." Susie, who was on the verge of having to sleep on the streets when she was offered a room at the Mercy House, passed away on February 6, 2022. When I interviewed Susie for an article published in the September 2021 issue of Faith Talks, she told me, "Coming to the Mercy House was truly a miracle! I am so thankful for the friendship and support I have received from my roommates and from you and Bonnie."

Myrna and Terri, the original Mercy House residents, remain in the home and continue to be grateful that they have a roof over their heads. Both women had been living in their cars before residing in the Mercy House. Myrna recalls what she felt when she first moved in back in early 2021. "My first night here was the first night in a long time that I wasn't scared." Terri declared, "I remain profoundly grateful. When you are homeless, your self-esteem goes right in the gutter. My life today is so much better than it was. I am truly blessed."

Tona and Christine are the two newest residents of the Mercy House, once again bringing the residence to full capacity. Tona moved into the Mercy House in February 2022 after residing at Comanche Creek for the last two-years (See Tona's story in the December 2021 issue of Faith

Talks). In June, Tona underwent open heart surgery and is "extremely grateful for the assistance of her Mercy House roommates." Christine has been residing at the Mercy House since April 2022. Six months after her husband passed away, she lost her home in the Berry Creek fire and ended up living in the Torres Shelter prior to being offered a room at the Mercy House. Christine said, "What I value most about living here is the love and support I get from my roommates. The weekly meetings with you and Bonnie gives me the structure I need to get through each day."

A year ago, the sentiment most expressed by the residents of the Mercy House was gratitude – gratitude for things housed people tend to take for granted – sitting in the sunshine in the backyard, doing laundry at home, cooking together, access to a bathroom and most importantly, having a place to go home to. This year that sentiment remains as strong as ever and is best summed up by what Myrna told me. "I feel gratitude in my heart each time I walk through the front door and know that I am home."



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



BENEVOLENCE

This last month, \$635 was raised to help Fair View High open a library at the school. This is on top of the many backpacks and supplies that were given, and the money that was raised to purchase these supplies. Thank you to each and every one of you whose generosity gave an encouraging start to the students at the high school.

\$1,200 was sent to the Jesus Center from our Disaster Relief Fund to help fund their Renewal Center.

Our administration, especially the staff, would like to thank each and every one of you for your kind giving to the general fund. The general fund is what is used to pay utilities and keep the church running, and that includes staff salaries. We are grateful that we are valued for our time and talents.



OUR SISTER PARISH'S NEW PASTOR

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Faith Lutheran Church is a financial and spiritual supporter of our sister parish in Rwanda. Here is a letter from their pastor, addressed to Marge Troester, who heads our Kagitumba, Rwanda communications as a part of Faith's Social (outreach) Ministry.

Dear Marge, Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Strongly I thank you for your kindness and hospitality of welcoming me to the companionship between Kagitumba parish, Faith Lutheran Church in Chico California and Trinity Lutheran in Alameda, California.

Before I become pastor of the Kagitumba parish, I served in different positions in the Lutheran Church of Rwanda, such as a parish pastor of Kigali, a parish pastor of Nyagatare; twice I was a district pastor of Umutara, twice I was a Principal of LCR-Bible School, and for four years I was Secretary General of Lutheran Church of Rwanda. I served Kagitumba in an indirect way especially when I was a district pastor of Umutara, where Kagitumba is one of 11 parishes which are under Umutara District. I served Kagitumba when I was a Secretary General of LCR. Currently I am a Principal of LCR- Bible School (Theological Education and Leadership Development – TELD).

I am married. My beloved wife is Mukundwa Rose. God has blessed us with four children, (Saveline, Rebecca, Eric, and Anitha) three girls and one boy. I and my family stay at a town called "Matimba." From Matimba to Kagitumba is 11 Kilometres , and so it is not far.

Thank you for sharing to me about Social Ministry Team at Faith-Chico. I appreciate the good job you are doing to serve God in your congregation, Synod, LCR- particularly Kagitumba parish. I am very excited for your progress and growth. It is good that youth are participating in Church.

There are some key issues in the parish that you may pray for, such as the finishing of our church building. I appreciate the good steps that have been taken, because there is some progress on the building, but we need iron sheets for roofing and finishing. This will help parish members to come together again in the church for Sunday service and other activities. Pray for our members and my family so that God will strengthen us to accomplish what we are suppose to do.

I would like to learn more about Faith Lutheran Church in Chico and Trinity Lutheran Church in Alameda California. (I would like to learn about children, youth, women, men, congregation daily activities, challenges, obstacles, successes, opportunities, lifestyle, etc., and other things that you want to share with us). We love you and pray for you, "All together we can".

**Rev. Dr. NTIDENDEREZA David
TELD – Principal & Parish Pastor of Kagitumba**



SAVE THE DATE AND SAVE A LIFE!

Did you know that every two seconds there is someone in the U.S. who needs blood? The U.S. is facing a critical blood supply shortage. Vitalant, who supplies blood for 28 states currently only has a two-day supply. And even though 60% of people are eligible to donate, only 3% do. The Social Ministry Team is pleased to offer you the opportunity to improve those numbers! Faith Lutheran Church's 10th Annual Blood Drive, in memory of Steve Troester, will take place from **8:30am-noon on October 30th**. We are so pleased that the drive will happen at the church this year rather than virtually as it has in the past two years. More details will follow so for now, please just save the date!

SAVE THE DATE FOR ALL THE SAINTS!

As we at Faith Lutheran celebrated "Welcome Home" on August 28th, we celebrate the various ministries that take place at Faith. **HOWEVER**, "Welcome Home" is not the end but rather the beginning of our celebration. In fact...an entire season of celebration! Pastor Ben has skillfully been asking us questions which are designed to give us a roadmap to discover our Spiritual Giftedness. In a few weeks, you will be hearing a bit about our history and what has been done with previous surveys. Worshipers will also hear about what Equipping at Faith Lutheran means for all of us and learn more about the various ministries that take place regularly through the people of Faith. The celebration continues all the way through All Saints Sunday on November 6th. While a large number of people are making plans, **November 6th promises to be a celebration of Saints** unlike what most of us have seen in the past. PLEASE be sure to mark that date on your calendars and look for details in the coming weeks. Your Equipping Team is excited to plan with care to honor and celebrate "For All the Saints" Sunday. I am thankful that we have such a dedicated team that shows so much excitement for ministry at Faith!



Kim Schweder
Equipping Ministry
 (with wife Mary)
 (530) 354-1453

kim.schweder@thejoyfactor.net



SAVE THE DATE AND CELEBRATE!

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Faith Lutheran Church members and visiting regulars are invited to attend the wedding ceremony of office manager Michael Nicholson and his fiancé John Dick. Join them on **Friday, November 11th (Veteran's Day) at 2:30 PM here at Faith Lutheran Church** for their ceremony officiated by Pastor Ben. Show up at around 2:10 and enjoy organ and piano music from Faith Lutheran musicians. Join the married coupled afterwards for cake-cutting, light refreshments, and photos. Gifts can be given via their registry at theknot.com/johnandmikeswedding. If you don't use a computer but would like to contribute, please talk to Michael.



Faith Lutheran Church will be providing the facilities for Safe Space's Cooling Center from Monday, August 29th to Thursday, September 15th. Guests will do intake with Safe Space and be able to relax or enjoy snacks in the cool air of our Fellowship Hall.

The shelter will start each day at 2pm and run until 8pm. It will be staffed by Safe Space employees, and an additional volunteer will be on site for 2 hours shifts. The cooling center, unlike the winter shelter, does not stay overnight, and cooks are not needed. Volunteers are needed to help out with these 2-hour shifts though, and you are encouraged to participate! Duties include helping with intake, handing out snacks, and visiting with guests. Sign up by going to our facebook group (facebook.com/groups/faithlutheranchico) and scrolling down to find the Safe Space sign up link. You can also call Faith's office and Michael will help you.

Immense thank-yous to the following: Safe Space staff and volunteers for this act of mercy, Royal Aire for our A/C maintenance that allows for this shelter to happen at FLC, Doug De Soto and the Social Ministry Team for coordinating with the Faith council, the Hunger Trolley and FLC members for tag-teaming to provide a meal on Friday the 26th, and Trinity Methodist and the Chico Friends Meeting for hosting this shelter earlier in the summer.



YOUNG ADULTS



Our young adult group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. On September 11th at 4 PM, we will host the 2nd Annual Fall Mini Golf Classic. Golfers are encouraged to wear their ugliest golf attire.

WILDERNESS WORSHIP



Merlo Park 20-acre park filled with sculptures, pioneer history, and duck ponds. Spend an afternoon in mindful exploration as we learn to pray through paying careful attention to the rich tapestry of sights and sounds. The trails are paved so this Wilderness Worship is well-suited for seniors and children. Dogs are not allowed at this park. Meet at Faith's parking lot at 1pm on Sunday, Sept. 18th to carpool.

SENIORS



This is a conversation based group to help support senior members of the church. This group starts on Monday, September 12th here at the church in room 7 and will meet regularly on Mondays. Contact Nola (530) 891-3575 or Veronika (530) 566-4798.

PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP



This is a group for toddler-aged children and their parents to read a Bible story, do interactive play, and be in community with each other. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at Faith Lutheran Church at 9AM.

PRAY AND PLAY



On Sunday September 18th at 2 o'clock Pray & Play will hit the mini golf course at Fun Land, then hang out at The Tackle Box and visit a bit! Come and join us! Call or text Elise Gladu at (530) 520-4440.

THEATER APPRECIATION



This group sees plays together and meets afterward for dessert. Join us on September 18th at Chico Theater Company at 2pm to see *Something Rotten*. (That's the name of the production, which in and of itself is not rotten at all!) Come and join us by calling Cindy at (530) 680-0925.

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Year End 6/30/22 Report

	21/22 Budget	Year End Actual	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$483,595.00	\$416,523.74	86.13%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$483,595.00	\$459,067.63	94.93%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$0.00	(\$42,543.89)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2021		\$59,138.37	
Net Revenue through 5/31/2022		<u>(\$42,543.89)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$16,594.48	
Transfer from 1st 3rd Fund		\$7,344.36	
Transfer from Special Funds		<u>\$27,794.20</u>	
Adj. Ending General Fund Balance		\$51,733.04	

The figures shown above are the year end figures for fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. As shown, during that period of time, expenses in the General Fund exceeded income by \$42,543.39.

This would have left only \$16,594.48 in the General Fund to start the new Fiscal Year, which would not have been enough to cover the cash flow needs for the first few months of the new year. Fortunately, there were funds available as shown above that were transferred to the General Fund to accommodate these needs for the first part of the year.

The Church Council is working to identify areas in the budget where cuts can be made. However, looking forward, cuts alone will not be enough to support the current programs and staff. It is going to take increased giving to support Faith Lutheran's needs going forward.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com

Hey everyone! First of all I wanted to thank you for "helping out around the house," the 'chores' mentioned in our last edition. We have a couple more people helping out with Sunday School, new ushers and eucharistic ministers have started training, and doors have consistently been shut and locked after worship. This was an immediate and awesome team effort and you never cease to amaze me with your giving of time and talent! There are a few more areas that need attention beyond my own.



These "office helpers" have started coming in on Thursdays to take a load off of me, Luke, and Dani so we can pay attention to big projects. It has been incredibly helpful. Our clean font, folded bulletins, and freshly stocked visitor mugs are all thanks to them. If you'd like to help out with little things around the office with a group of kind people, we invite you to come Thursday afternoons. If you're interested, you can call me, or Mary Schweder who is graciously organizing this. Mary: (714) 814-3737.



In mid-November I'll be on my honeymoon! I'll need people to cover the desk, which is way less scary than it sounds, I promise. Joel Zimbelman, Judy Struck, Janine Rush, Doug De Soto, Nola Dosch, Jill Bentler, Cindy Kampf, Dani Vogel, Bill Kees, Lynette Stensrud, and Marge Troester have all subbed for me and survived. Shifts are from 10am-12, and 12:30-4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Duties are to answer the phone, respond to emails, and direct correspondence like calls, mail, and emails. You will not have to create a Faith Talks or anything crazy! Please let me know if you can help.

Also in November, we'll be honoring our saints (see page 14). Have you heard of our Great Book? It's a ledger that started at the start of the church in the 1950s and has every name of every member recorded inside of it along with pastors, baptisms, et cetera. The one area it lacks is "officers," as in council members/staff. In the 1960s, the officers for one term were recorded, and no other officers were ever recorded again. My hope is to fill in as many gaps as possible. If you or ANYONE you know served as a staff or council member in any capacity, at any point in history, please let me know! I would like to make the Great Book available for viewing at the All the Saints event including the names of as many officers as possible.

Thank you everyone! You are amazing to work for, and you bring me such joy!

Michael Nicholson

Manager

(530) 895-3754

office@chicofaithlutheran.org

Sabbath: Sat/Sun



Present: Colahan, Sample (acting president), Kimmelshue, Zimbelman, Groh, Woods, Bentler (acting secretary), Hall. Absent: Kampf, Heinz, Manes.

1. Welcome and celebrations (once around, please share something positive in your life)
2. Devotions: Mark Kimmelshue: Learning about faith and little miracles
3. Covenant: Read aloud in turns
4. Financial Report from Mark Kimmelshue: Reviewed handouts of financial reports for the previous fiscal year, and the report for July 2022. Approved following a motion made by Woods.
5. Budget adjustments and realignment: Pastor Ben presented proposed budget cuts recommendations. In addition to the cuts proposed it was recommended that we seek a new security company and potentially partner with our neighbors. In addition to a PG&E check up it was recommended that we have a Comcast assessment as well. Council approved proceeding with these plans following a motion from Kimmelshue.
6. Lawn and landscaping update: Current plans are to tear out landscaping and old irrigation on E. 1st Ave. and replace with hardscape and drought tolerant plants. Landscape committee will be meeting with a master gardener on Wednesday August 17 and with a landscape architect on Saturday August 20. Goal is to have plans to present to the congregation in coming weeks.
7. Safety meeting with Chico PD: Zimbelman presented an outline of recommendations for what to do in the case of an active shooter. (a) In the nursery it was recommended that curtains be installed to block the view of the interior. \$300 was approved by the council to purchase curtains following a motion from Woods. (b) Zimbelman and Michael will work together on a curriculum for what to do in the event of an active shooter based on CPD's recommendations.
8. Council Retreat debrief and next steps: Pastor presented major takeaways from the retreat. In addition to items on the document, council members were encouraged to chat with congregants about the upcoming potluck. Equipping ministry team will present more info in Sep. regarding All Saints celebration on November 6th. On Sunday Ben will define for the congregation what the term "ministers" means. Zimbelman, Heinz, and Hall will comprise the Sabbatical team.
9. Staff requests to be considered for membership: Ben presented that some of our employees are interested in becoming members of the church. Our current policy is that church members cannot apply to be employed by the church. Following discussion, a motion made by Mark Kimmelshue was passed that church employees may become members following one year of employment. It still stands that current members cannot become employees.
10. Rental agreements: Home schoolers and MTAC are seeking contracts.
11. Coffee donations have resumed in order to have this ministry be self-sustaining.
12. October Church Council Meeting – move from October 18th to October 11th due to Pastor Ben's vacation request. Approved following a motion from Groh.
13. Welcome Home Celebration on August 28th. Please wear a Welcome Home button provided by Dani. Introduce yourself as you feel comfortable doing so.
14. Communications: Pastor Ben will mention the landscape planning and dying lawn to the congregation on Sunday.
15. Announcements and upcoming dates of note: Groh announced that he will be leaving the US in March for an unknown period of time. He will be resigning from the council at that time.
16. Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Next council meeting September 20th.

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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: Alyssa Manes

Member: Steve Hall
Member: Pat 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

