

Faith Talks

WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 9:30 A.M.
FOR ALL THE SAINTS, NOVEMBER 6TH

NOVEMBER 2022

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Roses



Everyone who helped Margaret Bergman move

All those who have put together the ministry videos we've been sharing on Sundays

Logan Bradley who is cancer free!

Ralph Gowdin for repairing the sink in the women's restroom

Jill Bentler, both for spearheading the landscaping project and for preaching on Sunday the 23rd; and roses to Bill Kees for presiding

The Quilters for their bake sale and boutique which raised an astounding \$1,900 to help fund scholarships for graduating seniors as well as to purchase paratransit tickets for churchgoers. Another thanks for the quilt and afghan they made Michael + John

The family of Bob Scharff

And finally, to our wonderful new members! (See page 14)



BEN COLAHAN
Pastor
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Giving Thanks



November is a month dedicated to giving thanks. November gratitude is most obvious on the last Thursday of the month when our nation celebrates Thanksgiving. But the church has a day dedicated to giving thanks on the first Sunday of the month: All Saints Day.

All Saints Day is fundamentally a day dedicated to giving thanks to God for the saints in our lives. As a reminder, as Lutherans we don't believe that saints are special people who are holier or closer to God than anyone else. And Lutherans don't think saints need to be dead!

We believe that each and every person is simultaneously a saint and a sinner. Each person is a sinner because we all fall short of the glory of God; each person is a saint because Christ claims each of us as holy and loved by God. We all do things that harm ourselves and others, and yet God uses each of us to bring forth goodness and blessings into this world.

All Saints Day is the day when we give thanks for the saints, living and dead, who show us God's love in our lives. We celebrate that in Christ we are united with all those saints, living and the dead, past, present, and future. Since we are united with the saints in Christ, when we celebrate communion we share the divine feast not only with the people in the room, but with all who have ever or will ever share in Christ's body and blood. This is why we place pictures of our loved ones around the altar on All Saints Day: it is a reminder when we go forward for communion that those loved ones are sharing that meal with us.

With all this in mind, I want to point out how similar All Saints Day and Thanksgiving really are.

Thanksgiving

We gather around the dinner table
We are joined by our living loved ones

The feast is prepared by our loved ones

We name the blessings for which we are grateful
There is always food leftover

All Saints Day

We gather around the communion table
We are joined by our loved ones, living, dead,
and not yet born

The eucharistic feast is prepared by the One Who
Is Love

We bless the names for which we are grateful
There is always more of Christ's body to share

This All Saints Day is Nov. 6th. We invite you on that day to bring pictures of the people who have been saints for you. After the service, we invite you to join us for a feast of a thanksgiving in the fellowship hall. This feast is to give thanks for the living saints at Faith Lutheran, namely, you.

You are a saint! Yes, you are a sinner, too. But God is using you to bring forth blessings, goodness, and the kingdom of God right here in our own little corner of creation. We as a congregation want to thank you. We want to thank you for your faithful acts of service. We want to thank you for your generous contributions. We want to thank you for the love you share with your neighbors both inside and out of our church walls. We had eight new members join Faith on Reformation Sunday, and all of them said your warm welcome and hospitality was a big part of their desire to be a part of our congregation! But most of all, we want to thank you for being you, for being the person God so fearfully and wonderfully made. Thank you for sharing your life with us. On All Saints Day, I will be giving thanks for you.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan





DANI VOGEL
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If you have an idea for a small group that you would like to facilitate, we'd love to hear your ideas and empower you to become a facilitator. Chat with Dani Vogel if you'd like to start up a new small group this fall and winter season.

We wanted to take time to highlight one of our new small groups! **"JOYS," Just Older Youth Seniors**, which meets about once a month. They'll be meeting on **Monday, November 14th at 10:30 a.m. in Room 7 at the church.** Check out the events calendar on the website to stay up to date on JOYS meetings. This group is using the Vesper Time book for a discussion about life as seniors. We'd love to have you be a part of this important ministry here at Faith Lutheran!



Youth Hangout ~ Nov. 6 at 1p.m.

Bring your extra Halloween candy to nosh on and come play some yard games. This group is for middle and high schoolers.

Young Adults ~ Nov. 13 at 4:15p.m.

Wakanda Forever viewing party at Tinseltown Theater. Cost is about \$9.50. Come geared up to see the next installment of whatever Marvel phase we're on. Young adults are 18-40.

Young Adults ~ Nov. 27 time 4:00pm

Come bearing your holiday leftovers and leftover family drama and join us for a game night and relaxation in the parish hall. canned cranberry sauce accepted.

Quilters ~ Every Tuesday at 10am-noon

Meet in the fellowship hall with these awesome quilters. You can quilt, sew, crochet, or do any related craft that tickles your fancy. We serve coffee and snacks.





LUKE NICOLAY
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And just like that, here we are folks...November! Once again, we've had a wonderful Fall that has included an exciting start to the school year for our children, and the return of numerous activities at the church including celebrations, music rehearsals, potlucks, outings, and more!

I sit here typing to you at 9:23 PM in the evening and as I do, I've been reflecting on the Fall. It's been so exciting and such a welcome change from the last two years. The choir is back in full swing, the congregation is belting out hymns and songs, the contemporary group is rockin' out, artists are creating for the seasons of the church year and people have once again gathered to praise our Great Creator. I couldn't be any more thankful for this!

As I'm sure you're 100% tired of hearing me talk about (hehe J), I arrived before shutdown and had about 2-3 weeks of normalcy as the director of worship and music before everything changed as we knew it. I feel thankful for the many lessons I've learned over covid, but more importantly for this community who rallied behind not only me but all the staff of Faith. You supported us, loved us, and encouraged us to not give up, but to persevere and to aim higher in our worship endeavors and goals. Because of your love and wisdom, we were able to overcome many significant challenges.

As we prepare for the plunge into the holiday season there are several things to keep on your radar, especially in the month of November:

Sunday, Nov. 6 @ 9:30 AM - "For All the Saints" will be occurring! Please come and join us for this event! Several weeks ago, Kim Schweder talked to the church about all the excitement around this event and we truly are looking forward to this! Several hundred hours have already been spent preparing and planning. We're so excited to share our memories of saints past and create new ones with all of you saints presently. If you haven't, mark your calendars for Nov. 6! There'll be a lot of exciting things happening!

Bells, choir, and contemporary groups will continue to meet at their scheduled days and times WITH EXCEPTION of Thanksgiving week. During this week all groups, except contemporary, will be on vacation as most folks will be out of town for the holiday. I will send out reminders as we get closer to the week and the days! If anyone is interested in joining the choir, bells, or praise team please reach out to me via email at lukenicolay1@gmail.com. I always am looking for more folks for each group and we have lots of fun together!

Thursday, Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving) - the church office will be closed, and all activities will be cancelled due to the holiday. The office will be closed Friday as well. Happy Thanksgiving to each of you!

Sunday, Nov. 27 - First Sunday of Advent - come and join us as we prepare for the coming of the Christ-Child and behold the wonders of the Advent season.

Sunday, December 18 @ 5:00 PM - While the event will be happening in December, I want to put it out here now. Faith Lutheran Church and St. John's Episcopal Church will be partnering together, once again, to perform for the community a "Festival of Lessons and Carols." This has not been done in several years in part due to covid and other factors. This event will be completely free to the church and greater Chico community. There will, however, be a goodwill offering taken up as St. John's and Faith Lutheran have chosen to help support the North State Shelter Team's mobile shower trailer. We will hear from Charles Withuhn (of NSST) about the work that he and the team are doing to provide showers to those in need. In addition, Charles has willingly agreed to bring the shower trailer with him so that you can see how it's set up and how it works.

There's so much going on here in the month of November and so much to be incredibly thankful for. I'm thankful, most importantly, to every single one of you for being a part of the community at Faith and for actively creating beauty, nurturing inclusivity, and showing up for one another. Without you, the ministries at this church would not happen. You are the most important parts of the ministry — the body of Christ.

Blessings to each of you in this Thanksgiving season,
Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship & Music

HANDBELL PRACTICE

TUESDAYS @ 5PM

CHOIR PRACTICE

THURSDAYS @ 5PM

CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE

THURSDAYS @ 630PM





CYNTHIA KAMPF
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Wonder Valley

Thirteen years ago, I was going through chemotherapy for ovarian cancer. A good friend had stomach cancer and we would visit each other at the Enloe oncology center during our time there. A would like to share one of her last Facebook posts.

WONDER VALLEY – by Jan D.

"For all of you faithful prayer warriors, I have news. We are no longer praying for surgery for Christmas. The scans showed no shrinkage of any of the cancer after all the chemo. After a long talk with the doc about options, I have decided to live out my remaining days as fully as possible and be completely present with those I love so much. It's not a defeat, it's a different reality than I was hoping for, but I am completely at peace. I would like to share a story that taught me volumes about the difference between what I want and what I need.

When we were in our early 30s, an opportunity presented itself that we knew was tailor made for our family. A house had been put on the market that we could afford and was so much more than just a house. It was in Wonder Valley, a place as wonderful as it sounds. The house sat amid a beautiful little valley with a creek running through it. The entire area was open range, no fences, and for every acre someone owned, a horse or cow could be kept. Every year there was a neighborhood round-up. Everything was set. We wrote a check and took it to the realtor, and he said, "Oh, bad news folks, just today the owner went into bankruptcy and thus needs to liquidate his assets. Now the entire price of the house is required in cash." We left brokenhearted – it may as well have been millions, in our situation. Our dreams were dashed, as well as those of our children, who had been promised a horse by some dear friends, and the prayers we had prayed seemed to have fallen on deaf ears.

A year or two later we learned that Wonder Valley had flooded, taking most of the homes. People lost their life savings, their homes, and a beautiful way of life. Since the valley lay in a flood plain, no insurance paid out. We just looked at each other and said, "Thank God we were denied our earnest request. We were so sure!" On that day, I learned a deep and enduring lesson. I cannot see what lies down the road, but God can, and since He loves me so much, He sometimes moves in ways we misunderstand as flat denial or downright orneriness! I now have a mental file titled "Wonder Valley." When I don't understand the denial of a seemingly good, positive request, it goes in the file. I'll look again later when hindsight kicks in! So, my friends and dear ones, this last

request concerning surgery is now filed under "Wonder Valley." I am at peace because God has such a great track record. I have only to be still and try to honor Him with all my days."
December 21, 2009

On Friday, October 14th, I learned that my middle brother has lung cancer. He is positive that he will fight it successfully and be ready to ski in December with our brother-in-law. Having fought the cancer fight myself, I know that he is right. Your prayers and positive thoughts will make it so, with God's help. Thank you, Faith family. I hope to see all of you on November 6th with all the saints.

Cindy



**KIM & MARY
SCHWEDER**
Equipping Chairs
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Sunday is rapidly approaching! Your Equipping Team is very excited and working overtime to make this a successful and meaningful day of celebration! We are hoping to fill the sanctuary with people and hope that all will stay to celebrate in the potluck.

BE SURE TO GET a picture of any of your loved ones who have passed. We hope to see the Altar flooded with these pictures so that we can respectfully celebrate their lives during worship. We ask that you drop off your pictures during the week of November 1st so they can be beautifully arranged. If for some reason you forget or are unable to drop off during the week, remember to bring them with you to worship on Sunday morning November 6th. As soon as you enter the courtyard on the 6th, you will see what is only the beginning of the celebration. Special music is planned for that service including brass, strings, choirs and, of course, our beautiful organ. Pastor Ben will also bring a message to us that tells a touching story of saints past and saints present. There is also a POTLUCK following worship when we will turn our focus toward a meaningful and elegant celebration for all of we saints who continue our work on earth. PLEASE sign up for the potluck at the welcome table but if for some reason you forget, don't let that stop you from coming. You can bring a hearty side dish or salad or sign up separately for an easy to serve dessert. Dessert will be served separately from part 1 of the potluck. The celebration of saints among us today will be equally meaningful and elegant. Any questions? Please contact us.



DOUG DE SOTO
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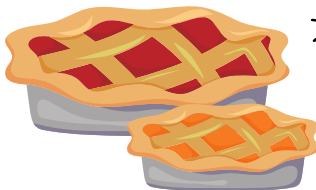


The Gift of Pie

The Social Ministry Team will be hosting the second annual "Give the Gift of Pie" during the month of November. This year's beneficiary will be the Esplanade House. The Esplanade House has asked Faith Lutheran Church to provide a dessert – pumpkin or apple pie – for thirty (30) of the families living in their transitional housing units which they will deliver on November 24th.

The Esplanade House provides transitional housing and intensive supportive services for homeless families with children. The main goal of the Esplanade House program is to work with homeless families to accomplish life changes that will help them to become healthy, confident, and as self-sufficient as possible. The program also places a special emphasis on helping the children recover from the trauma of their family's homelessness. The program provides the supports they need to succeed in school, address developmental progress, and gain social and emotional competencies necessary for their future. Most of the adults served are either in recovery for drug and alcohol addictions or have been diagnosed with some form of mental illness (in some cases both). Often these conditions, combined with their homelessness, have resulted in their children being detained in foster care by County Children's Services. The Esplanade House program helps them stabilize their lives so that they can be reunited with their children. The program provides an on-site licensed drug and alcohol counseling program, case management (for both adults and children), as well as groups and classes which address topics ranging from parenting to financial literacy to healthy relationships. Off-site services are also accessed and part of each household's service plan, including behavioral health counseling, drug court, and any other appropriate community services which enhance the adult's recovery and ability to become self-sufficient.

If you would like to donate one or more pies, please contact Doug De Soto (530-354-1453 or ddesoto5@yahoo.com) prior to November 11th to confirm you will be donating. Pie donations may be dropped off at the Church office or kitchen the Sunday and Monday (November 20th and 21st) before Thanksgiving.





DOUG DE SOTO
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Spiritual Gifts part XV: *Service*

Our call to become like Christ is a call to serve the people around us. In a homily Pope Francis delivered in 2015 to the people of Cuba, he said, "The call to serve involves something special, to which we must be attentive. Serving others chiefly means caring for their vulnerability.

Caring for the vulnerable of our families, our society, our people. Theirs are the suffering, fragile and downcast faces which Jesus tells us specifically to look at and which he asks us to love. With a love which takes shape in our actions and decisions. With a love which finds expression in whatever tasks we are called to perform.

People of flesh and blood, people with individual lives and stories, and with all their frailty: these are those whom Jesus asks us to protect, to care for, to serve. Being a Christian entails promoting the dignity of our brothers and sisters, fighting for it, living for it. That is why Christians are constantly called to set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, and to look instead to those who are most vulnerable.

All of us are called by virtue of our Christian vocation to that service which truly serves, and to help one another not to be tempted by a "service" which is really "self-serving". All of us are asked, indeed urged, by Jesus to care for one another out of love. Without looking to one side or the other to see what our neighbor is doing or not doing. Jesus tells us: Whoever would be first among you must be the last, and the servant of all". He does not say: if your neighbor wants to be first, let him be the servant! We must be careful to avoid judgmental looks and renew our belief in the transforming look to which Jesus invites us.

This caring for others out of love is not about being subservient. Rather, it means putting our brothers and sisters at the center. Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, "suffers" in trying to help. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people, and it is here, that we encounter one of the fruits of a true humanity. "Whoever does not live to serve, does not 'serve' to live."

For more information on service opportunities offered through Faith Lutheran Church contact any member of the Social Ministry Team: Doug De Soto, Bill Kees, Marge Troester, Bonnie Pulliam, Grace Mahannah, Vicki Doeden, or Michael Nicholson.



MICHAEL NICHOLSON-DICK
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Office News

By the time you receive this edition of Faith Talks, I will have long since mentally checked out. My wedding is this month, 11/11 at 2:30 PM, and you are all invited. There will be cake, there will be punch, and after 8 years together (engaged for 4) John and I will finally be married. Almost 4 years of our relationship have taken place while I've worked at Faith Lutheran church. In that time, we've gotten to know so many of you incredible people. You've supported us in more ways than we can list, and we can't wait to expand our family in the coming years with you by our side.

I'm so excited to have several days off for our honeymoon where I can press pause on work and chores and simply enjoy John's company. I'll be out of the office starting Wednesday, November 9th, and will return on Monday, November 27th. In that time, December's Faith Talks will be created by Pastor Ben, Dani, and Luke, so thank you dear staff for kindly taking this on. Lynette Stensrud, Jill Bentler, Jenny James, Janine Rush, Bill Kees, and Judy Struck are graciously stepping in to watch the desk and assist the staff while I'm away. Thanks to all the support from the staff and my amazing office helpers, I feel completely relaxed about stepping away for a bit.

This is Michael Nicholson-Dick signing off until late November. And as promised, here is a picture of the office which is making significant progress!

BEFORE



**CLUTTERED
WHAT IS THIS STUFF AND WHY
IS IT HERE?
NO ROOM FOR ACTIVITIES**

**SPACIOUS AND INVITING
MORE LIGHT FOR FRED THE PLANT
ROOM FOR MANY ACTIVITIES**



AFTER



MARGARET KORTE
Long Time
Faith Member



Dear friends at Faith,

Greetings from Palo Alto! Yes, I moved again, in September 2021 – the third move in three years. Now I reside at a senior independent living facility called Vi (pronounced vee) at Palo Alto, located about half way between my daughter Jennifer, in SF, and my son, Chris, in Sunnyvale. I also have two sisters nearby. My address here is: **620 Sand Hill Road, Apt. 304B, Palo Alto, CA 94304.**

My one-bedroom apartment has a balcony and is sunny and bright. I have discovered an advantage of having a small dwelling – misplaced items can easily be found! Since I had given away most of my furniture and belongings before leaving Chico, what I have now are mostly products of other people's downsizing. Fortunately, the overall appearance of my apartment is still cohesive. There are many activities, such as exercises, art classes, lectures on current events, movie and opera viewings etc. in which we can take part. The people here are friendly and the food is good.

Mirroring the population diversity in the Bay Area, my physicians now consist of an Iraqi, an Indian, a Greek, a Jewish and a Chinese. That all of them are female reflects on the fact that more women have been trained as physicians. This is a very helpful trend for the country.

I have been gone from Chico for over two years. To be sure there are many things in Chico that I miss, one of which is Faith Lutheran Church. With covid not receding and my not driving, online worship is my alternative right now. Pastor Ben, thank you for your excellent sermons, and Luke, thanks for the wonderful music each Sunday. And thank you, AV team, for making it possible for me to worship online!

Blessings,
Margaret Korte

The New Members

Carol Grandy



Mereleen Brown



Janice Taylor



Dottie Erhardt



Luke Nicolay



Favi Camacho



Pam Pudewa



Megan Moffit





MARK KIMMELSHUE
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Financial Report

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 9/30/22

	Budget	Actual	Percent
	To Date	To Date	Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$113,410.05	\$94,438.69	83.27%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$133,131.25	\$122,946.70	92.35%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$19,721.20)	(\$28,508.01)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2022		\$54,299.07	
Net Revenue through 8/31/2022		<u>(\$28,508.01)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u>\$25,791.06</u>	

In an effort to be transparent and keep the Faith Lutheran Community up to speed and in touch with the finances of the Church, this report will be posted in Faith Talks on a monthly basis.

Income increased slightly in September compared to previous months. However, there still needs to be increased giving for the coming months to meet all the Church's financial obligations.

The Church Council continues to address this issue, but the Council can't solve the problem without increased giving from each of you. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your General Fund giving.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

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

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