

Faith Talks

April, 2023



Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

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Roses

Karsen and Beth Bradley, and MacKenzie and Gary Wilson for donating play equipment to our littlest parishioners | Trinity UMC, Bethel AME, Congregation Beth Israel, First Baptist, and First Christian Church for leading us in worship for Lent, as well as everybody who served bread and soup | Those who sorted our Lenten prayers | Pr. Rev. Jose Luis La Torre Cuadros, First Lutheran in Orland's new pastor | Stephanie at Lifeline Training for teaching us CPR | Everyone who helped with Steven, Carl, and Joseph's funerals | Synergism for their musical worship offering | Arlyne Francis who turned 101 last month! | The committee responsible for overseeing landscaping development, and especially Rick Bentler for tearing down our wall | Ralph Godwin for constructing the Good Friday cross | Bob Bay for constructing the sand-table for kids to play in



Faith Family News

p.3

Dani Vogel, Director of Family Life | 530.895.3754 | danifaithlutheran@gmail.com

On the topic of children: there once was a millennial who lived in a shoe. She had so many children, she and her congregation had to figure out what to do!

Our congregation's most rapidly growing ministry is for kiddos under the age of 6. Through our Baptismal Covenant, we as a congregation lift up and support our families in raising the faith of the newly-baptized, in promises of helping continue that faith journey. We need your help to make this happen. We will be splitting our current Sunday School class into two sections, a section for those in 1st-5th grade, and a section for those in kindergarten and below. That means weekly, we need 4 teachers that can commit to helping us grow the faith of our children. We will also be outfitting a second Sunday School room with items that are developmentally appropriate for older kids, so that they can learn and play in an age-appropriate classroom. Curriculum for the preschool room is being reviewed, and this summer, elementary curriculum will be reviewed as well.



As mentioned, Sunday School teachers are wanted! We will be offering Sunday School

teacher training this spring. If you are interested in serving as a teacher for either our toddler-Kindergarten friends, or our friends in 1st-5th grade, please let me know. This training will be scheduled based on availability.

We will also expand our summer programming. This May through Labor Day, we will bring back Preschool Playgroup on Wednesdays at 9am. This group is for folks with children under the age of 6 and their siblings, and includes Bible stories, and sensory and free playtime. We latch all of our gates in the courtyard so that none of our little adventurers venture beyond the courtyard!



This summer, Vacation Bible School takes place in a different format than in the past. To accommodate the growing number of toddlers in our congregation, we will be offering Family VBS over the course of two Saturdays.

On June 17th, we will learn about the different families of the Bible, and how we are all part of God's great big family! On July 22nd, we will gather again to learn about the Fruits of the Spirit! Both sessions will start with worship and conclude with a picnic lunch. Here is a breakdown of the schedule:

9:00 AM- Opening worship

9:30 AM- Bible story time (whole family)

10:00 AM- Age based breakout groups (play time for littles, games for taller children, adult breakout session)

10:30 AM- Snack time

10:45 AM- Music time

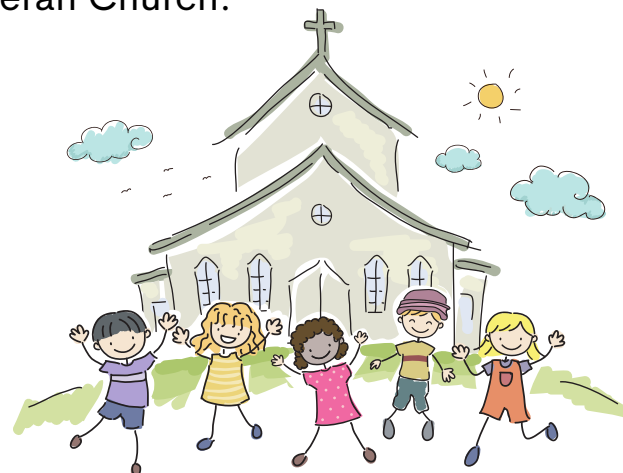
11:15 AM- Creativity time

11:45 AM- Closing session

12:00 PM- Picnic lunch time

We are looking for adults to lead skits, crafts, games, snacks, and be a part of the worship team. Please contact me if you can participate in any way.

It continues to be such a joy to watch the enthusiasm and cheer our youngest friends are bringing to our congregation through their excitement for communion, and their dance party during the sending song. Much like David danced for joy, our kiddos are so enthusiastic about their time with the congregation. Watching the connections our families have made with more members of our congregation is a highlight of every Sunday here at Faith Lutheran Church.





Small Groups

p.5

Dani Vogel, Director of Family Life | 530.895.3754 | danifaithlutheran@gmail.com

Small Group Facilitator Training takes place this spring!

We will schedule this training based upon the availability of those wishing to attend. If you're interested in learning more about becoming a facilitator, or you have an idea for a small group that you'd love to see us offer, please let us know. Call or text Dani.

Time out for Art

2nd Mondays from 1-4 PM

Room 6

Contact Sherrill 530.518.0433

or Caryl 530.864.4630

Take a little time out from day to day stresses and relax with art. Bring a notebook and an art project that you'd like to work on in any medium that you can transport to a classroom.

Just Older Youth Seniors (JOYS)

4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22 at 10:30am in Room 7

Contact Nola 530.891.3575

or Veronika 530.566.4798

or Sharon 530.965.5870

Join our seniors group as we read *I Love Growing Older, But I'll Never Grow Old* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Books available at the office.

Alphabet Soup

Meets as-wanted

Contact Grace 530.218.6636

or Michael 530.895.3754

Our LGBTQ group meets for food, games, conversation, stories, and experience-sharing.

Men's Breakfast

Fridays at 8AM

Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo Ave.

Contact Howie 530.896.0616

Join our men of Faith for breakfast every Friday. Come and grab a cup of coffee, a warm meal, and delight in early morning fellowship.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Last Tuesday of each Month at 5pm

Room 7

Contact Bill & Carolyn 530.809.0144

Knit, crochet, sew and pray on the last Tuesday of each month! Make shawls, or work on your own project and spend time with us anyway. Shawls are blessed and given to those who can use comfort.

Wilderness Worship

Once a month

Contact Pr. Ben 530.895.3754

Explore the outdoors! Hike easy or hard trails, paddleboard, swim, creek-crawl, and discover the beauty of God in the outdoors. This group meets on an event by event basis.



Worship & Music

p.6

Luke Nicolay, Dir. Worship & Music | 530.895.3754 | lukenicolay1@gmail.com



MAUNDY THURSDAY

4/6 @ 7PM

Communion and foot-washing

GOOD FRIDAY

4/7 @ 7PM

With prayer stations about Jesus' death

Music Practice

- Bells Tue @ 5pm
- Contemporary Thu @ 6:30pm
- Choir will perform for Easter and take a brief musical hiatus.

HOLY SATURDAY

4/8

Egg hunt (see p.9)
Prayer stations 1-5pm

EASTER SUNDAY

4/9 @ 9:30AM

Worship, communion, musical ensemble

Small Group Music

This spring, we're going to focus on growing with each other in small groups, so members may connect with one another outside of our main ensembles.

We want to give folks the opportunity to plug-in to music in unique, new ways that utilize a variety of musical talents and instruments. If you would like to make music in a small group, please contact Luke. He will connect you with a group that you might be interested in making music with.

Are you interested in becoming a member of Faith, or curious about where the Lutheran tradition comes from and what it teaches?



Sign up for the New Members Class with Pastor Ben starting Sunday, April 16th! Classes are after worship each Sunday and will last five weeks. At the end, if you decide you'd like to officially join, we'll have a celebration to introduce you on Sunday, May 21st. You are welcome to take the class even if you do not want to officially become a member.



A Letter from Luke

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! What a joyful time the Easter season is. If you're reading this before Easter, you may be thinking, "Wait...why are we saying *alleluia*? It's not time yet!" Consider it

practice for the joyful day of Easter! There are many things happening during the first weeks of the month, so keep close attention and see what you think!

Firstly, the Triduum (Holy Week or 3 Days) begins on Maundy Thursday, April 6th. We will continue on with the tradition of feet-washing, and (what I'm looking forward to with great anticipation) hearing a sermon from our Director of Family Life, Dani Vogel. I'm also excited to include the bell choir, contemporary team, and sanctuary choir.

Good Friday will be significantly different than what we've done in the past (see the pastor's article on page 12). We will start the service together, then move into prayer stations that include rending of cloth to lament the things that break us. These stations will be kept up until Saturday to facilitate a time of introspection and prayer. In addition, the Prayer Labyrinth will be in the Parish Hall for those who would like time to quietly walk, pray, and ponder.

To celebrate our Risen Christ on Easter, we'll sing songs of praise; the brass will cry out with joy; the choir will sing anthems; the bells will ring with exultation; and the contemporary team will join us with guitars, drums, and more! It will be a truly wonderful day. Don't forget to reach out to the office or myself if you are interested in purchasing Easter mums. They are \$10 a piece. Each pot of mums decorates the sanctuary during Easter, and afterward, you can take them home or give them to someone who can use a little pick-me-up. The mums can be in memory or in celebration of loved ones, and a list of their names will

appear in next month's Faith Talks. And if you'd like to help decorate this year's flower cross, please reach out to me and I will connect you the folks who will be leading that.



Lastly — musicians!!!!!!! Please remember that I'd like you to be thinking about small groups or solo music-making to share with the congregation after Easter Sunday. We have a huge group here at Faith with musical gifts and abilities, and I want each of you to be able to share those with the congregation. This includes everyone, even if you're not actively involved in one of the ensembles at Faith. Let us help you plug in those gifts and connect to other musically gifted parishioners. Please let me know if you're interested in making such a connection.

The Easter season is a time of renewal and beauty, and it's a joy to share it with this beautiful community. Thank you for your time, gifts, voices, creativity, spirit, and for everything that God made you to be. Now, one more time...

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

Alleluia

Luke Nicolay,
Director of Worship & Music



SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH

Easter Egg Hunt

9:00 AM: Egg Hiding by the Youth and Young Adults (jr. high schoolers to 40-year-olds). This should last about 30 minutes. Brunch to follow!

10:00 AM: Toddlers and Grade School kids egg hunt! Toddlers will have their own section. Please bring a basket!

10:30 AM: Youth and Young Adults will have their own egg hunt. But not just that...they will be competing for the Coveted Blue Jacket! This jacket makes the rounds about once a month during competitive games within our young adult circle. But at the last event, it was won by Kendall from the youth group! Will the young adults reclaim the Blue Jacket, or will the youth remain victorious?





Spiritual Gifts Pt. 20: Writing

p.10

Written by Pr. Ben. For writing opportunities, call the office at 530.895.3754

But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

Writing is foundational to Christian faith. Without writing, we would have no scriptures. Without writing, we would not have the letters that early followers of Jesus wrote to encourage and support each other. Without writing, we could not stay connected to our siblings in Christ across the globe.

While in-person incarnate relationships are always the best way to share God's love, writing allows us to share the love of Jesus across time and distance. And sometimes people aren't ready for the vulnerability required to share love face-to-face. Sometimes we can only share what's in our hearts by writing it down or reading it.

From Moses to Jeremiah, the Gospel writers and Paul, the Spirit continually gives people the gift of writing for the sake of sharing God's word. That continues to this day.

Are you someone who enjoys writing thoughtful cards? Perhaps you are called to our birthday card writing ministry! Do you find yourself wanting to write down stories of hope that can inspire others? Perhaps you are called to write articles about the ministries happening in our congregation for Faith Talks! Do you love thinking about how language can convey the nuances of our heart? Perhaps you are called to be an assisting minister, who each week writes the prayers we lift up on Sunday.

The wonderful benefit of the gift of writing is that it allows you to engage in ministry even if you have difficulty leaving your home or being present on Sunday morning.



During the season of Lent, we asked each of you in the pews to write your prayers to God to be read aloud in worship, and you responded powerfully! Through your writing our congregation has grown closer, knowing that we are not alone in our struggles. Through your writing our hearts have grown tender, knowing the challenges that our siblings in Christ face. Through your writing, our spirits have been strengthened hearing the faith and thanksgiving lifted up all around us.

Thank you for sharing your gift of writing, and if you feel called to continue sharing your gift of writing, please contact the office so that we can connect your gift to one of the many ministries where you can share God's love through your words.

Share your writing



Birthday Cards

A few anonymous parishioners write and send birthday cards each month. Use the power of the written word and combine it with the power of compassion!

Faith Talks

Have you written a poem or article that might be a good fit for Faith Talks? We would love to include your voice!

Sermons

Write it, practice it, preach it. We look forward to folks sharing stories of their journeys with us in 2024 while Ben is on sabattical.

This was the last installment of our Spiritual Gift articles! Check out the Resources tab on our website to view past editions of Faith Talks, including all 20 spiritual gift articles starting in September, 2021.



Pastor's Article

p.12

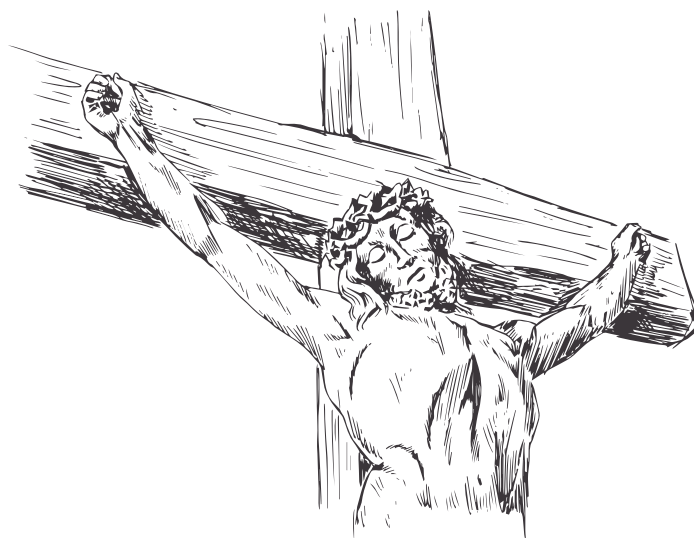
Pr. Ben Colahan | 530.895.3754 | colahanb@gmail.com

Each year during Holy Week, we journey with Jesus to the cross and to the resurrection, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. But there is a day between Friday and Sunday, just as there is usually time between the moments when we experience death and the moments when we experience rebirth. In Holy Week, this day is known as Holy Saturday. It is a time for waiting, for grieving the pains of yesterday, and wondering in hope what tomorrow will bring. In truth, most of our days are Holy Saturdays.

In years past, we haven't had a service to honor Holy Saturday. We go straight from Good Friday to the Easter Vigil on Saturday night that culminates with celebrating the resurrection. This year we are going to walk through Holy Week differently. We won't have our usual Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. Instead, on Holy Saturday, the sanctuary will be open from 1pm to 5pm. Inside will be prayer stations based on the final hours of Jesus' life.

Every prayer station will have a way for you to tangibly engage with the reality of Jesus' death. Just as Pilate's wife learned in a dream who Jesus was and tried to warn her husband against killing him, so too will you be invited to write in sand the fearful dreams that the sandman has brought to you, and then wipe them away. Just as the veil of the temple was torn in to at Jesus' death, so too will you be invited to rend strips of cloth to express your own grief.

Just as Joseph of Arimathea brought down Jesus from the cross, so too will you be invited to pull nails out of our wooden cross and remember that we are called to take down the crucified from their crosses today. The prayer labyrinth will also be available in the parish hall so that you can literally walk with Jesus in his journey through death to life. We will introduce each of these prayer stations to the whole congregation during the Good Friday service, but on Holy Saturday you are invited to come and pray in your own time.



Historically, the Easter Vigil has been a time to welcome new believers into the life of Christ and the church, and for the past several years we have done just that. However, the Vigil has been our least attended of all Holy Week services. Instead of welcoming new members at a service which only the new members attend, we will be holding new member classes in the season of Easter and welcoming the new members the Sunday of our annual meeting, right before Pentecost.

This Holy Week we invite you to join us as we journey not only to the cross and the resurrection, but also through the time in-between. We invite you to dwell in wondering, the quiet solitude, the unseen hope of Holy Saturday. We invite you to come, watch, and pray. Jesus is coming, even when we can't quite see him yet.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

STAFF AWAY TIME, APRIL

*Dani leaves for
vacation Monday
the 10th, back on
Saturday the
22nd*



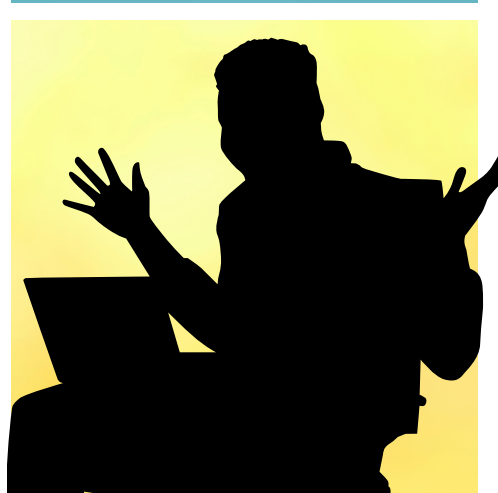
*Ben leaves for
vacation Friday
the 21st, returns
Saturday the 29th*



*Luke leaves for
vacation Monday
the 17th, back on
Saturday the
22nd*



*Michael is
happy the office
will be quiet*





Property

p.14

Property Manager: Joel Zimbelman | 530.520.9608 | joelzimbelman@gmail.com

Article by Michael N.D.



We've done it! We've finally finished the landscaping on the front lawn!

April Fools! Last month, the staff watched Songbird Landscaping and the Bentlers tear out the lawn, foliage, and a huge chunk of wall in the span of 2 workdays. The work moved so fast we couldn't believe it. But this was just step one in creating a more beautiful and sustainable property.

Next comes leveling, laying rock, and planting succulents and other native foliage that will thrive in this climate. This will include irrigation that should lower our water bill and be very easy to manage. Our goal is to present something that is pleasing to look at, and is able to be easily maintained for years to come.

In other news, Joel and I are updating our map of the property. This of course shows all of our buildings, but more importantly, where water shut-offs, light switches, fire exits, electric panels, and other essentials are. In the near future, you can expect a training day which you will all be encouraged to attend.

Even if you have no arms and legs and shutting off an emergency valve is not in your wheelhouse, knowing where the valve is is knowledge just as valuable. So whether you are 10 years old or 110, we hope that everyone will attend this class when it happens.

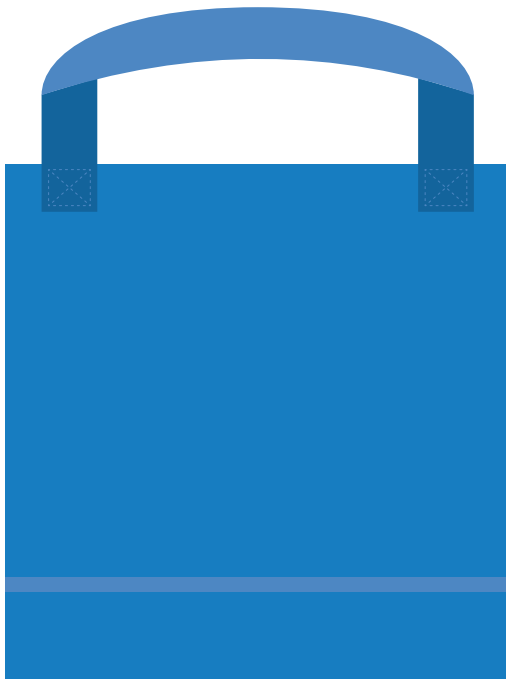


Cleanup Day

Hey everyone! Grab your favorite pair of work gloves and workin' shoes and hop on over to the church at 8:30 AM on Saturday, April 29th, where you will find other parishioners eager to do light-to-moderate spring cleaning around the church. Coffee will be provided to put some pep in our step.

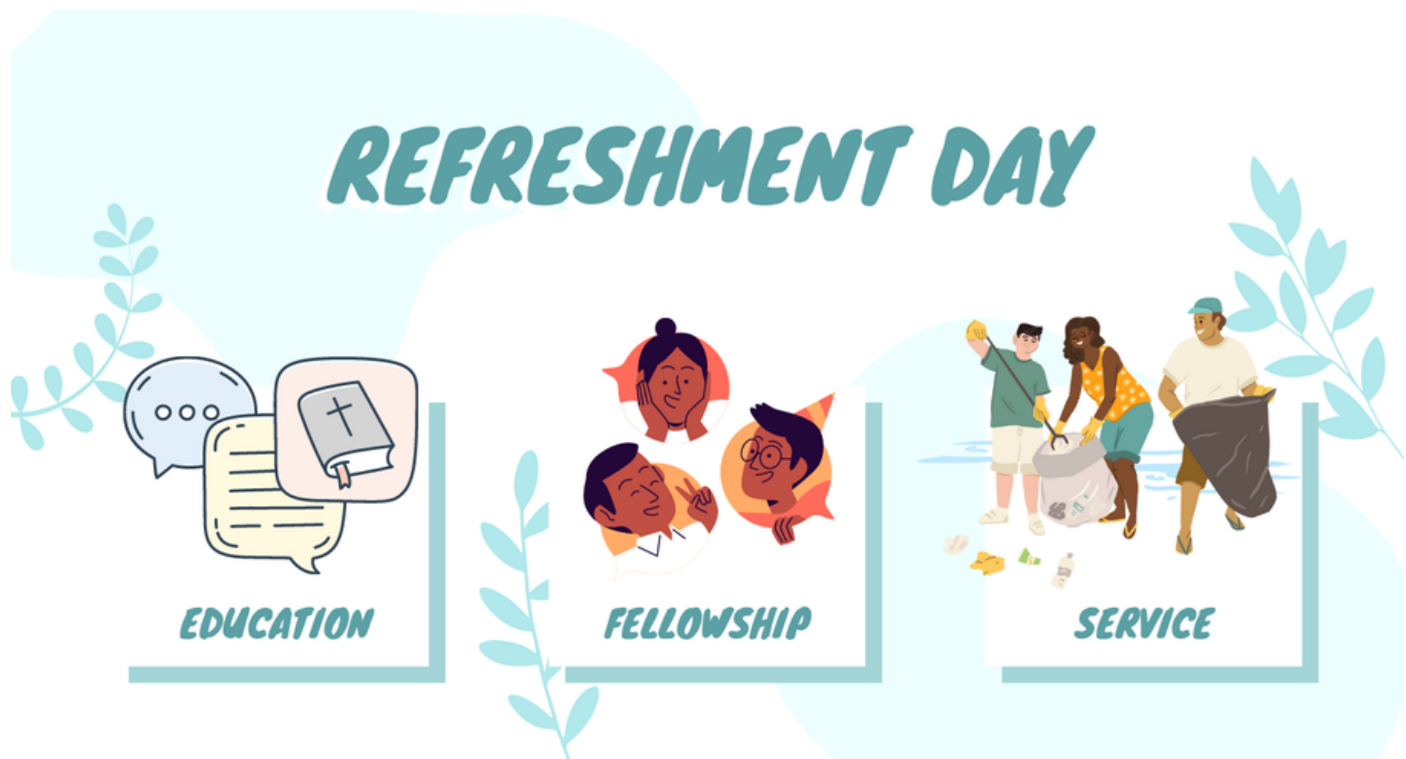
We'll be painting, window cleaning, moving stuff, emptying closets, clearing brush, moving wood chips onto the playground, and inspect drains. We will supply all tools and equipment.

If you can help, call the office or email Joel at joelzimbelman@gmail.com.



Blue Bags

Do you have nonperishable goods you'd like to donate? We invite you to bring them to the office by Friday, April 14th at noon. This food goes to the Chico Food Project, a pantry that feeds anyone in need in Chico.



"Refreshment Day:" a quirky name for this day of worship, education, fellowship, and service. April 16th is comprised of the following event lineup, with each event being open to any member, visitor, or friend!

9:30 AM – Worship.

11 AM – Not only is this the start of our New Members class, but this class is open to everyone at Faith! Pastor Ben will be teaching a refresher course on the basics: who we are, where our beliefs are rooted, etc. This is a great starting point for potential new members, and a chance for long-time members to revisit old lessons.

12 AM – Refreshment time! Coffee and a light lunch will be served, and both new and old members can mingle and get to know one another.

1 PM – Refresh our park! All are invited to head over to Depot Park, where we will do a light park cleanup in collaboration with our friends at the North State Shelter Team. This is an excellent introduction to community service at Faith Lutheran, and an opportunity to show some love to mother nature. Make sure to bring good, sturdy shoes or boots, some work gloves, and water. We'll pick up litter and clean up for about an hour, hour and a half. Anyone is welcome to come, but please make sure to RSVP with the church office so we know how many people to expect for the cleanup; this will help us plan for things like child care, etc.



Ways to Serve

p.17

in the month of April and beyond...

Sunday School Teacher

Needed ASAP, as our population of kiddos is growing, but we have fewer adult supervisors. Training will take place on your schedule. We ask folks to serve about once a month during worship in the Sunday School room. (See page 3.)

Prayer Chain Links

When somebody is in immediate crisis, we fire up the prayer chain. In the prayer chain, several members of our congregation are called and texted so that we can all pray. Additional "links" are needed to pray and pass along prayer messages.

Funeral Helpers

Folks to help set up and tear down tables and decorations, and serve refreshments.

A/V Desk

3 people are needed each Sunday to run the A/V desk for worship. We want to make sure our A/V helpers have days off and are able to attend worship regularly, so we'd like to train more people to help with A/V as soon as possible. Please reach out to the office or Luke Nicolay if you're interested in seeing what's needed to run A/V. It's okay to check it out and decide it isn't for you.

Office Subs

Not sandwiches. Michael needs help answering phones and checking emails when he's on vacation. He's planning his summer and winter vacations now, and would like to train a couple more people to watch the desk while he's away.

Drivers

Help your neighbors get to church on Sunday morning or a doctor's appointment throughout the week. Michael at the office can show you which parishioners live near you.

Small Group Facilitators

Facilitate gatherings of folks interested in the same topic. (See page 5.)



Financial Report

p.18

Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer | 530.520.8228 | kimmelshue@armcorice.com

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 2/28/2023

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$367,536.31	\$332,929.18	90.58%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$355,016.67	\$323,962.44	91.25%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$12,519.64	\$8,966.74	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2022		\$56,320.95	
Net Revenue through 2/28/2023		\$8,966.74	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$65,287.69	

General Fund giving for February was \$23,651.52.

This falls short of the \$44,000 per month needed to meet and pay for all budgeted expenses. Due to the generous giving in December and January, the General Fund balance remains strong. However, future monthly giving will need to increase to maintain a strong General Fund Balance. Your continued generosity is appreciated and necessary to maintain and grow Faith Lutheran's programs and mission.

The Church Council will continue monitoring this and report here on a monthly basis.

Thank you all for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com



Troop 12 News

p.19

Written by Nathan R. Methvin-Terry, Troop 12 Assistant Scout Master

Faith Lutheran Church is the charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 12: an all-girl troop comprised of 10-17-year-olds.

We would like to congratulate Merissa Methvin-Terry, one of our scouts from Troop 12, on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout! She has been a member of Troop 12 since its inception in 2019, and earning the rank of Eagle is the result of years of hard work, community involvement, and leadership.

A part of her journey was her Eagle Scout Project. She invited The Tuskegee Airman Heritage Chapter to Faith Lutheran Church, where she organized a team of youth to digitize over 1,800 documents and photos relating to the Tuskegee Airmen dating back as far as the late 1930's. Merissa has decided that although she's now 18, she has returned to Troop 12 as an adult leader, to help with mentoring current and future scouts. We will be honoring her achievement on April 15th at an Eagle Court of Honor where she will be presented with her Eagle rank and we will celebrate her accomplishment.

If there are any girls this age interested in joining the troop or learning more, please contact Dani Vogel at 530.895.3754 or danifaithlutheran@gmail.com.



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