
FAITH TALKS



Art by Shoshannah Brombacher



JUNE 2023

**WORSHIP SUNDAYS
AT 9:30 AM**

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Roses

Daun Weiss for preaching and Bill Kees for presiding over worship on April 30th. Joel Zimbelman for organizing the churchwide cleanup, and the amazing and hard-working folks who made our campus sparkle. The birth of Katy Schrum's granddaughter, Viola Kathryn. All those who helped with Graham's memorial service. Candy Munson who taught Alphabet Soup how to paint. Pastor Jose Luis, the new pastor of First Lutheran Church in Orland, and all those who assisted with his installation and reception. The quilters for making and dedicating quilts to the Jesus Center. Andrew and Wesley Lavin, Pastor Ben and Baby Sophia, and Marge Troester for bringing a little piece of Faith to the Growing Healthy Children event at One Mile by setting up a booth. Our fabulous new members. Everyone who attended the congregational annual meeting, and each of the authors of the report. Kai McDermott Pappani for conducting outstanding A/V training sessions. Megan Moffit who was baptized on Pentecost Sunday.

Dearest Faith Family: The love and support I have felt from this community upon the sudden loss of my mother has been a balm to my soul. Your cards and gestures of love are so deeply appreciated. Thank you for loving on me and my family and for all the love you showed my mother in the two years she lived in Chico and attended Faith. It seems such a short time but it made a big impact on her life and I am so truly grateful to all of you. - Jill Bentler and family



Faith Family News



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

Vacation Bible School

Faith Lutheran Church
June 17 9am-1pm
July 22 9am-1pm
Please RSVP to
danifaithlutheran@gmail.com



Summer is almost here! This summer, Faith Lutheran will be offering Faith Family VBS!

This event is for all ages to attend here at Faith Lutheran Church. All members and friends are encouraged to attend for fun and games, crafts and more. We will have 2 separate dates to make sure many of our friends can attend. Our first date will be Saturday, June 17th, where we will be learning about Joseph, a very special coat, and talking about family relationships. Check out our schedule below!

9:00 AM- Opening Bible Story

9:30 AM- Small Group time- adults, kids, and our smallest friends will have breakout group time for individual learning.

10:15 AM- Snack time

10:30 AM- Craft time!

11:00 AM- Game time and interactive learning

12:00 PM- Picnic lunch (Please bring your own)

You can register for VBS by calling Faith Lutheran Church or emailing danifaithlutheran@gmail.com

Preschool Playgroup is *BACK!*



This group is for parents and their kids 5 and under. Older siblings are welcome to attend as well. This summertime small group will kick off on June 7th at 9:00 AM and run for an hour and a half each Wednesday morning. We read a Bible story, have interactive play, and lots of playground time. Families are encourage to pack snacks and drinks for the gathering. This group will meet every Wednesday until Labor Day weekend.

Ted Lasso Bible Study

Our Ted Lasso Bible Study series will begin on June 14th. Each week will include viewing the episode of the week, and a Bible study to follow. You do not need to know anything about soccer, football, coaching, or AFC Richmond to join this group. Information about episodes will be handed out weekly in case you want to watch episodes that are between the study focused episodes. We will have 2 weeks of "stoppage" while we are hosting Safe Space. This small group will conclude in late August. Please RSVP to Dani if you'd like to attend, so that we can make sure we have enough seating set up weekly. The group will gather in the Fellowship hall at 6:30 PM on the 14th, and run for 9 weeks.





Small Groups



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



Time Out for Art | 2nd Mondays, 1-4pm, room 6. Take a little time out from day to day stress and relax with art. Bring a project that you'd like to work on in any medium that you can transport to a classroom, or use what's here. Contact Sherrill 530.518.0433 or Caryl 530.864.4630



Alphabet Soup | meets as-wanted.

Our LGBTQ group meets for food, games, conversation, stories, and experience-sharing. Join this group in planning for Pride month! Contact Grace 530.218.6636 or Michael 530.895.3754



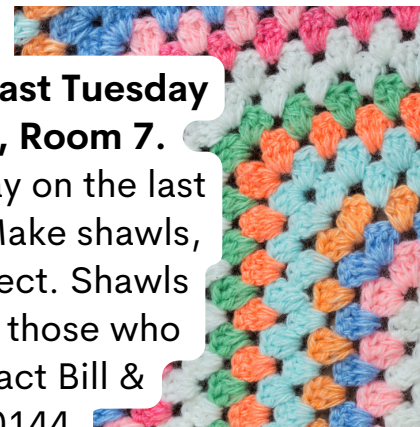
Wilderness Worship | Explore the outdoors! Hike easy or hard trails, paddleboard, swim, creek-crawl, and discover the beauty of God in the outdoors. This group meets on an event by event basis. Contact Pr. Ben 530.895.3754



Tuesday Quilters | Every Tuesday from 9am-noon in the fellowship hall. Quilt, sew, and work on similar crafts every Tuesday! Contact Char 530.570.6499

Prayer Shawl Ministry | Last Tuesday of each Month at 5pm, Room 7.

Knit, crochet, sew and pray on the last Tuesday of each month! Make shawls, or work on your own project. Shawls are blessed and given to those who can use comfort. Contact Bill & Carolyn 530.809.0144



Men's Breakfast | Fridays at 8AM

Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo Ave. 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. Contact Howie 530.896.0616



Preschool Play Group | Families! Bring your toddlers to FLC on at 9am on Wednesdays starting June 7th.

This is time for toddlers to play and adults to connect. Contact Dani at danifaithlutheran@gmail.com



Ted Lasso Bible Study | Starting Wednesday, June 14th at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall, join us for Ted Lasso Bible Study. This group will meet for 9 weeks. Contact Dani at danifaithlutheran@gmail.com





Worship & Music



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



Music Practice

Contemporary Thu @ 6:30pm

Choir and Bell Choir are on summer hiatus and will pick up again this fall.

Photos from Megan's Baptism



Celebration of Life for Carl Johnson

You are invited to celebrate the life of our brother in Christ, Carl Johnson, on Sunday, June 25th at 11:30am.

Following the service portion of Carl's celebration, we will have a tri-tip lunch in the fellowship hall. The tri-tip will be provided, but we are asking for sides, potluck style. You are welcome to bring any side you would like from salad to dessert to anything in between. Please call or email the office or Judy Struck to let us know what you are bringing.



Office
530-895-3754
office@chicofaithlutheran.org

Judy
530-894-8067
astruck@csuchico.edu



Pastor's Article



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

In May, we officially welcomed eight new members as part of Faith Lutheran Church. In the new members classes, I talked to these folks about what it means to be a member of Faith Lutheran. I realized, many of us may have been members for years and may have forgotten what it was that we committed ourselves to in membership.

Constitutionally, being a member has to requirements and two privileges. The requirements are: 1) Receive communion at least once a year, and 2) give a contribution of record once a year. The benefits are: 1) Ability to vote in congregational meetings, and 2) Ability to serve in governance roles.

But spiritually, being a member means so much more. When we welcome new members into our midst, we ask them if they intend to live out their baptismal covenant in this place. And then we explain living out our baptismal covenant means:

- We are called to live among God's faithful people: Being a member means you desire to share your life with us, to be the Body of Christ together, not just on Sunday morning, but through one-on-one relationships, small groups, and/or ministry teams.
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper: Being a member means you desire to let your life be shaped by regularly participating in worship, hearing the Good News proclaimed in sermons and tasting the Good News revealed in communion.
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed: Being a member means you desire to recognize that the Holy Spirit has given you unique gifts, talents, and passions, and that you want to learn how to use those God-given gifts so that through you, others might know God's loving presence in their lives.
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth: Being a member means you desire to live your life not just for yourself, but for Jesus present in neighbors both near and far, and that you want to work together with our congregation to encourage yourself and others to carry out service to those neighbors.



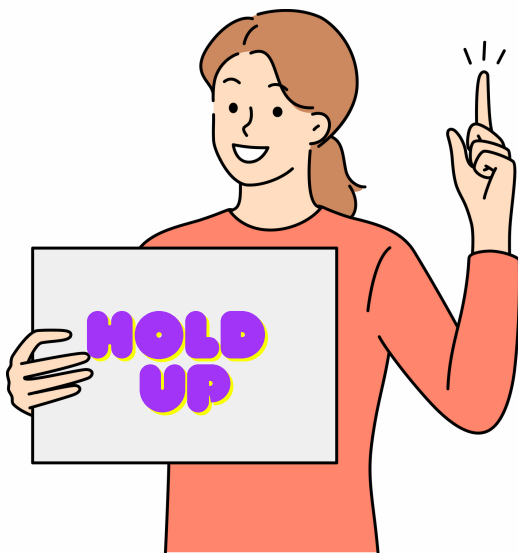
The new members' response to the question of if they intend to live out this baptismal covenant is: "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me." May we also help and guide our new members, and may God help and guide us to live out our baptismal covenant with them.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben



Update Your Directories with New Member Info

*To respect our members' privacy,
this info is not available online.
Please give the office a call and
we will pass along the contact
info we have been permitted to
share by our members.*



Meet our New Members



Michael and Roseanna Cassetta have been seekers for a welcoming religious congregation. Married 5 years, 4 grandchildren (2 each), Roseanna was born and raised in Florida. Michael was born and raised in San Francisco.

Atsuyo Wicks is semi-retired. She likes to play music and games. She looks forward to learning and being a part of this loving community.



Ellen Droke moved from Santa Clara in 2021. Most of her church life has been in the United Methodist Church. But it was here at Faith Lutheran that she found a congregation deep into outreach and service to the community and wider world. She is retired from office management and being a paralegal. Two of her three children live in Chico, so it is becoming home to her too. She looks forward to fellowship and study opportunities with everyone here at Faith.

Max Gillespie is 19 years old and a recently saved Christian. Max says, "I hope I can be a good follower of Christ and contribute to the church."





Alecia (pronounced uh-LEE-shuh) and "the Bens" (husband and son) moved to Chico in January, 2022 from Missoula, MT. Alecia (she/her) was born in Atlanta, GA and grew up in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She went to college at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Virginia, studied for a year in London, England, and then moved to Florida after graduation, with the hopes of being a cheesy lounge singer. Instead, she began working at Walt Disney World in various resorts and

trained new cast members (employees) on spreading magic and pixie dust. She eventually left Disney and worked in other settings, including several churches and a non-profit.

While in Orlando, Alecia met and married Ben (AKA BJ), a native of Orlando. Together they moved to Lawrence, KS for BJ's graduate studies, and they found that although they had been born in big cities, they preferred university town living. In Lawrence, Alecia worked for the University of Kansas (KU) in various positions. Ben (the younger) was born while Alecia and BJ were living in Kansas, bringing even more love and laughter into the mix.

From Lawrence, the family moved to Stillwater, OK for a year, and then Missoula, MT for several years. When they moved to Missoula, Alecia began working for the University of Montana (UM). She still works with UM in a remote position as an IT Business Analyst.

Alecia is grateful that their family has found the welcoming people of the Faith Lutheran community!

Dave is retired from CSU after teaching and studying environmental science. Chris is mostly retired from environmental consulting and lecturing at CSU Chico. Chris and Dave have 2 adult sons that live out of state. The Browns have been attending Faith for most of the past year, and enjoy hiking, gardening, reading, and coffee.





Letter from the Council President

Cynthia Kampf | 530.680.0925 | ckampf@aol.com



p.11

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Church Council President for the past two years. It has been a blessing to get to know you better as brothers and sisters in our Faith family.

Thank you to the staff. Pastor Ben, Michael, Luke and Dani have been a pleasure to get to know better in our weekly encounters. We have laughed, cried and worked together to make our church home a better place for all people. They truly live Christ centered lives and serve as models of a life well lived.

As we enter the 2023-24 fiscal year, we are in a place of confidence and hope for fulfilling our mission. We seek to be a community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone. We always ask ourselves, "Does this expenditure serve Jesus? Does it help bring Christ into the lives of those in our Faith family and our wider Chico Community?"

Thank you to the council members who have served us faithfully by asking the hard questions. They feel called to be responsible stewards of your financial contributions. They are always open to thoughtful consideration of projects that serve those who are less fortunate and who need help to see hope in their futures.

Thank you to Joel Zimbelman who serves as our facilities manager. His vision of a welcoming and comfortable place to worship, play, and learn has energized volunteers to contribute many hours to the effort. We are fortunate to have such a gifted and generous presence in our congregation.

Thank you to all of you for your part in reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone. As you invite friends and family to Faith, we see even more opportunities to expand the talents and skills of our collective expertise. Together we can become a place of comfort and support to each other. We can bring Christ into the community and help lead others to follow in Jesus' steps. Welcome home. May this be your church home.

With peace and love, Cindy

Called to Serve in June and Beyond

Office Subs

"Thank you to Judy Struck! Because she watched the office, I was able to care for my mother after her surgery. She is recovering well. Too well. I'm trying to get her to take it easy! I have a summer filled with vacation time, oral surgery, and driving my husband to take the State BAR. It would be so helpful to have a couple folks watch the office so I am able to have this time off. Shifts are from 10am-noon, and 1pm-4:30pm. I'm flexible on time as well, so if you can help but can only do so many hours, please let me know anyway. Watching the office entails answering phones and emails, sorting mail, and directing correspondence. You get to be the welcoming face of Faith! It is an easygoing task, and I will show anybody interested the ropes. Your help allows me to have time off." -Michael, office guy

Friday, June 16th (husband's birthday surprise; it's fine, he doesn't read Faith Talks)

Thursday, June 29th & Friday June 30th (surgery)

July 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th (vacation)

July 25th & 26th (taking husband to take State BAR)

Sunday School Teacher

Caring adults are wanted to grow, play, and learn with our littles. Training will take place on your schedule. We ask folks to serve about once a month during worship in the Sunday School room. Contact Dani Vogel or the office if you'd like to help.

A/V Desk

Make worship available to ALL by joining our A/V team. Without this team, we would have no audio on Sundays; nothing up on the monitors like lyrics or videos; and our people worshiping from a distance would not be able to do so. This team is crucial to worship, and more members are needed. Please contact Luke Nicolay or the office if you would like to see how you can help.

Drivers

Driving somebody to where they need to be is a simple, yet meaningful act of kindness. If you're curious about who your neighbors are (in Christ, but also geographically!) this could be the ministry for you. Help your neighbors get to church on Sunday morning or a doctor's appointment during the week. Michael at the office can show you which parishioners live near you.



Pride Month: A Letter from Michael



p.13

Michael N-D , Office Manager | 530.895.3754 | office@chicofaithlutheran.org

When I was 11, it started to sink in: I was queer. At the time, I was being raised by my fundamentalist aunt and uncle, and went to a large, large Baptist church in Sutter County. When my family found out, they said that if I were queer, I would have no place in their home. I imagined what I would lose: my church, my house, my family, everything. That's when I realized that Christ's love was conditional.

Christ's love was conditional until I was 28. My coworker, Rita Bova and her partner Linda Fischer, both long-time members of FLC, asked if I would volunteer at Chico Pride with the church. I was confused. So confused that I did it because I was darn sure it was going to be a...well, I can't use *that* term in Faith Talks, so I'll just call it a trainwreck. But it wasn't. I met Kathy and Grace Mahannah who were leading the booth, and they put me straight to work! A while later, Rita said that Faith Lutheran was hiring an office manager. I thought they would never hire a queer person, but au contraire! I was trained for my job by Susan Kimball, the wife of Shari Kimball.

Institutions of religion, often Christians, tell queer people we don't belong, but I have lived a pleasantly normal life since I've been here! I started taking transitional hormones a few years back, then had surgery. I was able to treat my surgery for what it was: a means to live the rest of my life in comfort and happiness, same as any other medical procedure. No one hounded me about it. What they did was provided a meal train which is actually how I met Faye and Carl Johnson, and Linda Rice. Aside from a 'hi nice to meet you,' their meals were our first interaction, and I have gotten to know Linda and the Johnsons more personally since. Then my husband had our wedding here, a normal, amazing wedding!

At Faith, I am able to worship, work, and have a family without condition. When a church banner or brochure includes a rainbow or an LGBTQ-positive sentiment, that church speaks to all the people who were taught that Christ's love is conditional, and says "it is not!" Then, those people are given the same opportunity I have been given: normalcy! Love! Church! Happiness! The occasional meal train! And all those things that make us whole. Thank you for loving me. If you want others to know this unconditional love, flip this page over and see the ways you can serve this pride month.

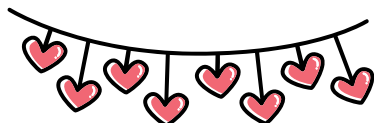
Downtown Pride Festival

**Downtown Plaza
Sat. June 24 11am-4pm**



Each year, we booth at pride so that Chico knows we are a safe place to worship and love all of God's children for who they are. You are invited to run the booth with us! We have games, swag, and FLC info at our booth. Sign up to help via the E-blast, website, or by calling the office.

This event is hosted by Stonewall Alliance Center. Faith Lutheran Church is a money and in-kind sponsor of Stonewall. Stonewall is located at 358 E. 6th Street, and serves as a resource center for queer and questioning individuals, kids, and families, as all who seek to learn more.



4th Annual Interfaith Pride Service

**Faith Lutheran Church
Wed. June 28 7pm**



Welcome to Chico's 4th annual Interfaith Pride Service: a gathering where affirming congregations of various faiths share stories, sermons and music. We speak out against the condemnation of others based on gender, sexuality, and race, and proclaim that faith and spirituality are for everyone. Regardless of our spiritual background, we are neighbors, and we are loved!

Join St. John's Episcopal, Trinity United Methodist, the U.U. Fellowship, First Christian, First Baptist, Congregation Beth Israel, Bethel AME, and Faith Lutheran Church in a shared, interfaith service open to all. Stick around after the service for refreshments by Faith Lutheran's gay and trans group, Alphabet Soup.

If you can't make it in person, watch online at chicofaithlutheran.org/live.



Financial Report



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

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 4/30/2023

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$441,853.11	\$402,160.47	91.02%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$443,770.83	\$403,702.43	90.97%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$1,917.72)	(\$1,541.96)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2022		\$56,320.95	
Net Revenue through 4/30/2023		<u>(\$1,541.96)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u><u>\$54,778.99</u></u>	

General Fund giving continues to be relatively strong.
Total April giving was \$36,934.15 which is helping to maintain a strong General Fund Balance.

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



Council Meeting Minutes



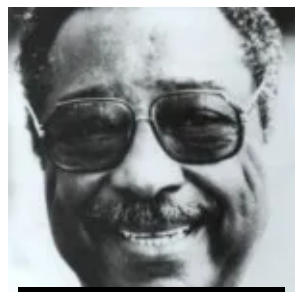
Sherill Heinz, Secretary | 530.518.0433 | sdheinz@gmail.com

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Minutes Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Present: Pastor Ben Colahan, Kampf, Sample, Kimmelshue, Heinz, Bentler, Groh, Hall, Manes, Snyder, Zimbelman.

- 1) Welcome, Celebrations, Devotions, Covenant
- 2) Book discussion: "Rich Church, Poor Church" chapter 2. Discussion based on idea, that a churches Mission Statement is the most important item when doing their budget.
- 3) Approval of 2/21/23 Minutes: Motion made to approve minutes as amended:
Kimmelshue/Bentler/ Approved
- 4) Financial report by Kimmelshue: After discussion and amendments', Motion made to approve amended budget to be sent to Congregation Annual meeting:
Hall/Sample/Approved
- 5) Request to change name of designated fund "Mwika Computers" to "Faith Mission Projects" approved by unanimous vote.
- 6) Church Council Membership discussed re: ideas for new members for coming fiscal year.
- 7) Upcoming dates:
May 16. next council meeting,
May 21. annual congregational meeting
June 10. lunch meeting and fun for all council

Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference



Rev. Dr. Proctor

\$727 was raised by our Lenten ecumenical soup suppers and gifted to the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference in Chicago. "The mission of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. (SDPC) is to nurture, sustain, and mobilize the African American faith community in collaboration with civic, corporate, and philanthropic leaders to address critical needs of human rights and social justice within local, national, and global communities. SDPC seeks to

strengthen the individual and collective capacity of thought leaders and activists in the church, academy, and community through education, advocacy, and activism."

"The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (SDPC) was incorporated in September 17, 2003 with the hope and faith that the organization would focus on what was proclaimed in the fourth chapter of Luke, to set captives free and to give liberty to those who are oppressed. It is what was envisioned by the three founders and theological giants, Dr. Iva E. Carruthers, Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III and Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. who met, prayed and talked about giving birth to a particular "something" that could speak to the needs of those who were thirsty for sound biblical knowledge and committed social advocacy. Four of their colleagues then joined the discussion. And that conversation, the spark of an idea, became what is now the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, a national network that serves thousands of pastors, lay leaders and the next generation of those working for social justice.

It is with this divine calling that the Samuel DeWitt Proctor entered the public square. And it is with prayerful dedication and purpose that we work to change the socio-political landscape for those in need as we continue our fervent quest and biblical directive to do justice. The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference network, has been challenging communities and churches, hearts and minds of clergy and lay leaders, seminarians and thought leaders. From its inception, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference adopted an organizational vision to affirm that there is no separation between the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord and the social justice aspects which that same spirit calls us to carry out day-by-day in the communities in which we live and serve.

Through the power of prophetic preaching, informed teaching and true social activism, clergy and lay work together, with, through and on behalf of those most vulnerable and marginalized in the world. We are making a difference!"

Learn more at sdpconference.info

Congratulations to Jenny James, winner of the 2nd Annual Faithtucky Derby!



Quilters' dedicated quilts arrive at the Jesus Center



Mark and Leanne Chrisman hanging our paraments



FLC blesses quilts for the Jesus Center's family shelter



JOSEPH

and his coat of many colors



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CHURCH COUNCIL

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Secretary Sherrill Heinz | Members Meridith Woods, Kyle Groh, Joel Zimbelman,
Alyssa Manes, Steve Hall, Pat Snyder, 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

