

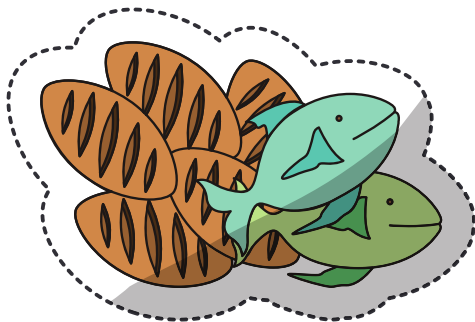
FAITH TALKS

August 2023



Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

About the Cover...

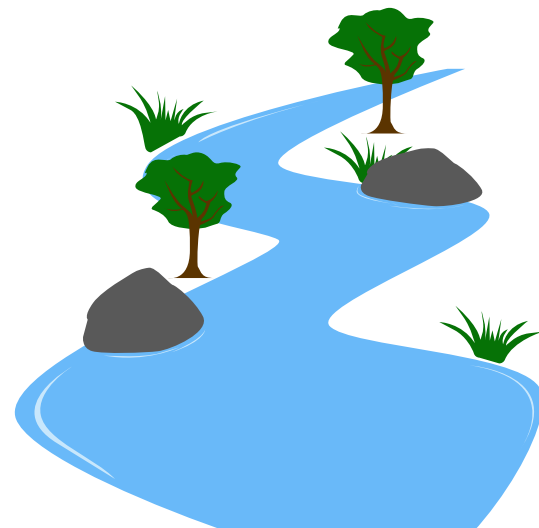
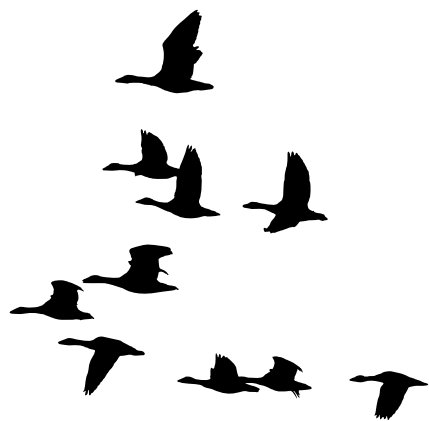


We continue reading the Gospel of Matthew this August. After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles. This is the miracles of loaves and fishes as read in August 6th's gospel, Matthew 14:13-21.

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Contents

- 3 Roses
- 4 Faith Family News
- 5 Small Groups
- 6 Worship & Music
- 9 Pastor's Article
- 11 Celebrating Your Baptism
- 14 Financial Report
- 15 Lutherans in the News



Roses

Darby Sample for his achievements at the Special Olympics (see page 15).

Raquel Krach and Alyssa Manes for preaching in July; Bill Kees for presiding.

Everybody who so generously donated school supplies to the Citrus Elementary Supply Drive.

All of our Vacation Bible School helpers and kiddos.

Everybody who helped out in the office.



Our property manager, Joel Zimbelman, for overseeing progress on landscaping, faucet and lock replacements, and so much more.

All those presently assisting Safe Space as greeters, food donors, and everyone in between.

Faith Family News

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

Sunday School Renovation Project

We are in the process of starting our Sunday School room renovation project! We are expanding to two Sunday School rooms in the fall, and would love your support in creating meaningful spaces for our kids! If you'd like to pick us up some items for our room to help make it a wonderful place for our 1st-5th grade kids, please see the Amazon list. We are always in need of basic craft supplies for our rooms, including watercolor paint, new cans of Playdoh, crayons, construction paper, reams of white paper (all sizes), Crayola makers, and snacks! We love goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, and animal crackers.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1EYYH065T8PGZ?ref_=wl_share

Youth Trip to New Orleans

Save the Date for September 17th. We will be having our registration meeting for our youth trip to New Orleans. Students who have completed 8th grade by summer 2024 through current seniors are welcome to attend our denominational Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 15-20/21st. At this meeting, we will finalize fundraiser plans, take deposits for the trip, and talk about the exciting pre-trip meeting we will add to the youth calendar for the fall.



Small Groups

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



Men Toasting Martin | Every Sunday at 3pm at Secret Trail Brewery. In response to Pastor Ben's sermon on what we do with our freedom, Leo Weiss has started a new group: Men Toasting Martin. The group will meet Sundays at 3pm at Secret Trail Brewery to share life and beverage.

Time Out for Art | 2nd Mondays, 1-4pm, room 6. De-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.



Tuesday Quilters | Every Tuesday from 9:30am-noon in the fellowship hall. Quilt, sew, and work on similar crafts every Tuesday!

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.



Preschool Play Group | Wednesdays at 9am. Families! Bring your toddlers to FLC on Wednesdays. This is time for toddlers to play and adults to connect. Contact Dani at danifaithlutheran@gmail.com

Ted Lasso Bible Study | Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. Follow the Richmond Greyhounds and our Romans Bible Study. Zoom option available. Contact Dani at danifaithlutheran@gmail.com





Worship & Music

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

Can you believe that August is already here? It seems like it was just yesterday that I was writing my Faith Talks article for the month of January and basking in the coolness of winter and all of the rain! But, here we are in August and it's sunny as can be!

With these triple degree temps we've been experiencing since end of June and July how are you beating the heat? If you've said swimming or hanging out indoors, I totally get it! Here's another idea... come and join the music and worship ministries at Faith Lutheran!

I've been excited about this upcoming season for bells, choir, and contemporary music! There's so much fun music to do, so much community to be had.

Throughout this season the bells have a major undertaking that we could use your help with. The bell choir has grown so much so that we would like to look at purchasing a set of hand chimes. These hand chimes are an excellent way to vary the sounds of the bell choir, work on new ringing techniques, and get our younger generations involved. The chimes, unlike the bells, are more durable. The rough cost is approximately \$1,895.00 excluding shipping and tax (I would cover this cost). The cost will cover 25 chimes (approximately 2 octaves) and the case to protect them when they're being stored. I'd like to ask for your help in purchasing these chimes by participating in an "adopt-a-chime" program. You would adopt however many chimes you would like at \$75.80 per chime (this would be \$1895.00 divided by 25 chimes). In turn, I would like to have small plaques made for the case that would read who the chimes were donated by/if they're given in memory of a family member, etc.



In addition, if you or anyone you know would have any interest in joining the handbell choir, please let me know! This group has expanded and grown by leaps and bounds and it's so exciting to see! We always welcome new folks and will help you grow your musical abilities. In addition, it would be thrilling not only for me but for the members of the bell choir to begin thinking about adding a second bell choir if we continue to grow as we are! I'm always glad to talk about any concerns you might have and answer any questions for you! Handbell choir will be resuming our fall season starting on Tuesday, August 29th at 5:00 PM! I look forward to seeing several of you there.

As we continue toward the Fall season, I've been thinking about choir. When I first got here, I was thrilled to get to work with such an astounding group of musical readers and musicians. When covid hit, it was a struggle to have to say "farewell" to the choir. Once we could finally come back full-time, I was so excited! There was so much that we could do together as a group. The choir has exceeded expectations, worked hard, and learned some wonderful repertoire. The Sanctuary Choir season will begin on Thursday, August 24th at 5:00 PM! This season, we will be looking at music from England, Germany, and France, all the way to spirituals and up-and-coming sacred music of today. In addition, we will be partnering for the 3rd year with St. John's Episcopal in Chico for the "Festival of Lessons and Carols." This was a hit last year, and we are excited to share this experience again. The date for this event is currently TBD but the event will be hosted at St. John's Episcopal Church.

If you are a singer, whether it be in the shower or the car or to your pets, please come and join us on Thursday evenings! We welcome all, at any level. If you think, "Hmm.. I don't know if this is for me," come and join us for a month and try it out! Or come for 1 rehearsal and see what you think!

I'm excited to continue working with the contemporary team as well. This group has been such a joy to work with. There are always laughs, creativity, challenges, and more to experience. The Contemporary Team meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM. All are welcome and invited to join the contemporary team for bonding that we like to call -

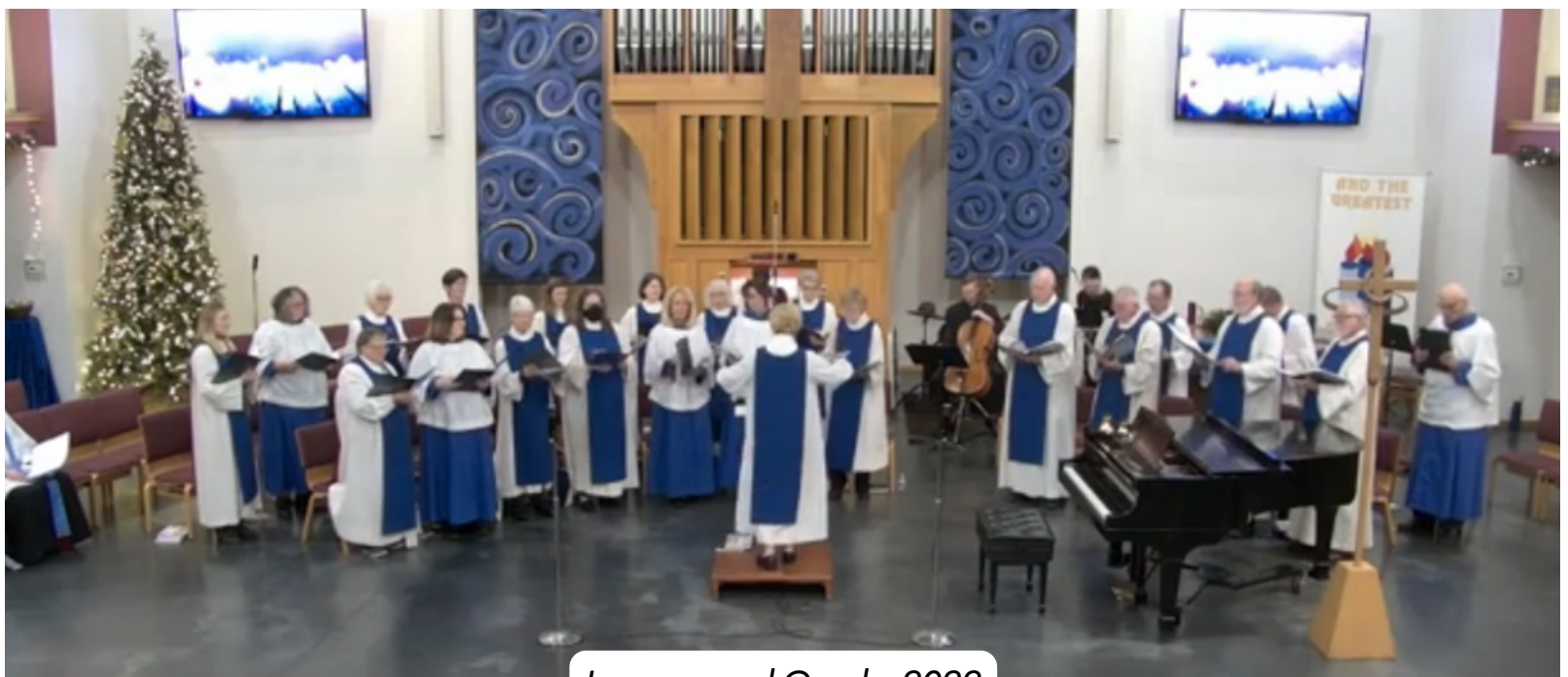


"seminar." Each week after rehearsals, all are invited to join us at a restaurant for dinner and fellowship together. Even if you aren't at rehearsal or scheduled to sing that week, please come and join us! It'd be wonderful to get to know you and to answer questions you might have, or to just hang out and have a fun time!

This has been a wonderful summer. I'm so excited to prepare for the fall, and to share these opportunities to serve in music ministry here at Faith. It is a gift to share this time and space with each of you. I look forward to learning and growing alongside you.

With great excitement,
Luke Nicolay, Director of Worship & Music

P.S. If you'd like to share your gifts with the congregation, whether for music, art, or worship, please reach out to me and I'll get you linked in. It's been a true joy to have all of you involved and so active in every ministry here at the church! I wake up every day excited to come to Faith to serve with you!



Lessons and Carols, 2022



Pastor's Article

Pr. Ben Colahan

530.895.3754 | colahanb@gmail.com

It's once again summertime with temperatures regularly over 100 degrees. While some people lament this weather, as your pastor I want to once again encourage you to make use of summer as a wonderful time to remember your baptism! Remembering your baptism is arguably the foundation of Lutheran spirituality. In baptism, God both makes us promises and fulfills them. We are baptized once, but we return to the waters of baptism every day so that through them we might come to believe God's promises to us. There are five major stories of water in scripture which we use to understand the promises God gives us in baptism:

1)Waters of Creation: In the beginning, the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters from which God brought forth life, and God saw that it was good. This is the first promise of baptism: that the life God gives us is good.

2)Waters of the Flood: When human sin ravaged the earth and grieved God's heart, God drowned the whole earth, but human and animal life were saved. Noah and the animals were saved not only from the water by the ark, but by the water from the consequence of the sin that humanity had brought upon the earth. This is the second promise of baptism: that God saves us from the divine consequence of sin.

3)Waters of the Red Sea: When the Hebrew people were slaves in Egypt, God parted the waters of the Red Sea so allow the Hebrews to escape slavery and enter freedom. The waters then washed away Pharoah's forces that were trying to drag them back into slavery. This is the third promise of baptism: that God sets of free; we belong to God and no other.

4)Waters of the River Jordan: When Jesus is baptized in the waters of the River Jordan, he sees the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends on him as a dove, and a voice from heaven says, "You are my son, the beloved, with you I am well please." This is the forth promise of baptism: that we are anointed by the Holy Spirit as God's beloved children with whom God is well pleased.



5)Waters of Jesus' Death: Jesus empties himself on the cross, and when a spear pierces his side, out pour water and wine. But those Jesus descends into the depths of death, he rises to new and eternal life. This is the fifth promise of baptism: That we are united with Jesus in his death so that we rise with him in his resurrection. All that belongs to Jesus, is ours: his eternal life, his righteousness, his love, his family.

The promises of baptism are overwhelming profound and beautiful, and yet the devils of this world continually try to get us to doubt these promises, to ignore and forget them. This is why God has united this promises with the tangible object of water. For as Martin Luther writes in his Large Catechism, "faith must have something which it believes, that is of which it takes hold, and upon which it stands and rests. Thus faith clings to the water, and believes that it is Baptism, in which there is pure salvation and life; not through the water (as we have sufficiently stated), but through the fact that it is embodied in the Word and institution of God, and the name of God inheres in it." Water is God's word made tangible. Water is the physical promise of God that is always with us, because we literally need it to live. God knows we will have doubts and forget, so God has attached the good news of God's love to something that we can touch, taste, and see. And so this summer, I invite you to do just that: take hold of God's promises through the waters of baptism. What makes water holy is that it is united with God's promise. Before I baptize someone, I say a big long prayer that incorporates the five stories I've listed and is modeled on Luther's "Flood Prayer." But anyone can make the holy water of baptism. Simply speak the word of one of God's promises over any water.

The next time you are in the shower, say, "In the flood of my baptism God washed me clean from sin." Then let the sacred waters of the shower wash your guilt down the drain. The next time you are floating in the creek, say, "In the waters of my baptism, God has set me free," and let the shackles you feel float away in the holy water of the stream. The next time you take a cold drink on a hot day, say, "In the waters of my baptism, God gave me good life," and feel that truth cool your core. When you get caught in a thunderstorm, and you feel the power of the storm soak you to your bones, sing out, "I am united with Christ!" And feel the strength of Jesus stream down your face. And of course, when you come to worship, dip your fingers in the font, make the sign of the cross with that water, and say, "I am God's beloved child."

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan





Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays



Baptism anniversaries are joyous occasions that can be celebrated by the entire family. If parents, grandparents, and baptismal sponsors pay attention to these "birthdays," children will come to regard these anniversaries as significant. We help our children value the remembrance of their "birth" into the family of God. By also celebrating adult baptismal birthdays, we show that our baptism is something we treasure throughout our whole life. Here are a few suggestions for baptismal birthdays:

Cross of Honor

During the mealtime, make or designate a special cross for the one who is honored to wear around their neck. If you collect more than one cross for this purpose, the family member can choose which one to wear.

Candle Lighting

Many of our younger family members received a candle that was used at their baptism. Use this candle or a special candle reserved just for baptismal birthdays. Let the "birthday" person have the honor of lighting the candle if they are old enough to safely do so. Offer a special prayer. You may combine this with a meal or devotions.

Read Aloud Together

Read from a book that is a gift from a baptismal sponsor. Bible storybooks, age appropriate Bibles, and other Christian books are wonderful ways for a baptismal sponsor to remember their godchildren's baptismal birthdays. Read one together.

Mementos and Photographs

Look at photographs from the "birthday" person's baptism. Remember together who was there, what happened, and what the day was like. Look at mementos, such as the towel used to wipe the water from their head, or the bulletin from the worship service.

Small Gift

Some families may want to give the person a small gift chosen to nurture faith: a small cross to wear or one to hang in the bedroom, a CD of Christian music, a Bible story coloring book, a Christian video, a book of Bible stories, or a collection of prayers. It isn't necessary to spend a lot of money, but these kinds of gifts help to focus on the spiritual significance of the event.

Special Dessert

Let the baptismal birthday person choose a favorite dessert. Cake and celebrations are strongly connected, but any special dessert can add an extra touch to the celebration.

Special Liturgy

You can create your own liturgy to celebrate a baptismal remembrance. Things you could include might be:

Scripture Reading

One of many possibilities is Romans 6:3-4. *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life."*

Hymn

Again, there are many possibilities, including from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, "Children of the Heavenly Father," #781, "Borning Cry," #732, "Baptized and Set Free," #453, "You Are Mine," #581, "Waterlife," #457, and "Jesus Loves Me," #595.

Apostle's Creed

Families might choose to repeat together this earliest of Christian creeds, which offers a statement of our baptismal faith. Its origins reach back to baptism in the early church.



Signing of the Cross

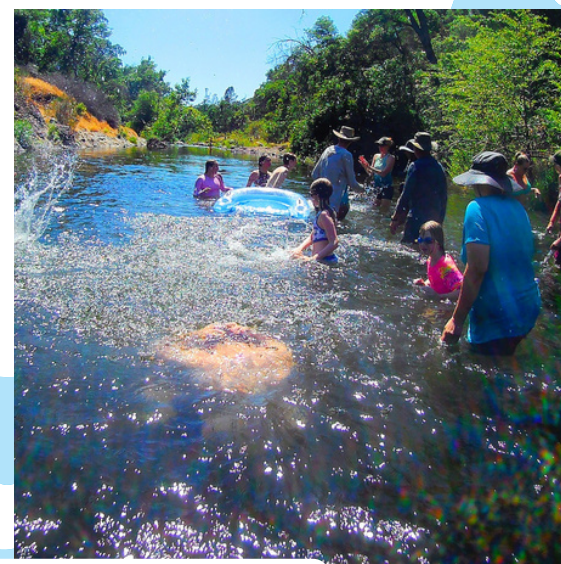
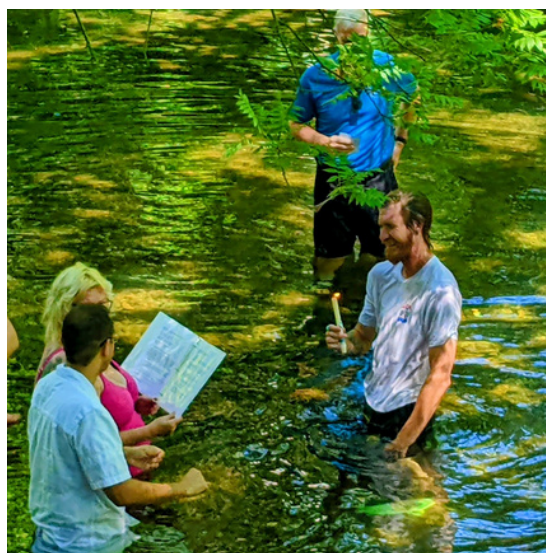
At our baptism, we receive the sign of the cross on our forehead with the blessing, "(Name), child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever." Repeat this blessing to each other! One way is to place a small bowl of water on your table. One by one, each person wets their thumb in the water and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the person beside them. As you do this, repeat the blessing for that person.

Candle

As you light the special baptismal candle, your family can repeat the scripture verse used when presenting the lit candle during the service of Holy Baptism. "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." Let the whole family say it together to the one who is celebrating their baptismal birthday. This blessing could be said while each family member places a hand on his/her head.

Prayer

You may use your own prayer of thanksgiving or one from the service of Holy Baptism found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The use of the Lord's Prayer would be a wonderful way to conclude your prayers. Consider joining hands as you pray as a sign of your unity.



Baptism of MacKenzie and Christian, and Wilderness Worship Creek Swim



Financial Report

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

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 6/30/2023

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$532,525.00	\$467,266.67	87.75%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$532,525.00	\$499,167.91	93.74%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$0.00	(\$31,901.24)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2022		\$56,320.95	
Net Revenue through 6/30/2023		<u>(\$31,901.24)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u>\$24,419.71</u>	

The figures above are for the fiscal year with ended 6/30/2023. As shown, expenses exceeded income by \$31,901.24. Due to a large memorial gift received during the previous year, which gave the General Fund a large beginning balance, this deficit was able to be covered.

Gifts like this can't be depended on in the future. We all must take into account all the good work that is being done at Faith Lutheran and strive to increase the amount we give to support this work.

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



Lutherans in the News

Every year, **Darby Sample** participates in the Special Olympics. This year was no exception.

A seasoned athlete, Darby has competed for over 12 years. During that time, he has achieved success, especially on the track. Not only is Darby a passionate athlete with a knack for sportsmanship and dedication, but he is a gold medalist.

In his most recent competition, Darby won not one, not two, but *three* gold medals for the 400, 800, and 1500 meter run!

Darby's favorite parts about participating in the Special Olympics are winning medals, competing, and cheering on his teammates as they compete as well. He practices and trains throughout the year, running track and participating in other fun sports that keep him in good shape. When asked what advice he would give to others hoping to compete in the Special Olympics, Darby said, "Try your best, but if you don't win a gold medal, have a good time and be a good sport."



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
667 E. 1ST AVE.
CHICO, CA. 95926

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICO, CA.
PERMIT NO. 354

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

INSERT LABEL HERE

CHURCH COUNCIL

President Jill Bentler | VP Steve Hall | Treasurer Mark Kimmelshue
Secretary Alyssa Manes | Members Meridith Woods, Pat Snyder, Elaine Lund, Sky
Sample, Leanne Chrisman, Martha McDermott, Sharon Prindle, Mary Schweder

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

