

FAITH TALKS

July 2023



Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

About the Cover...



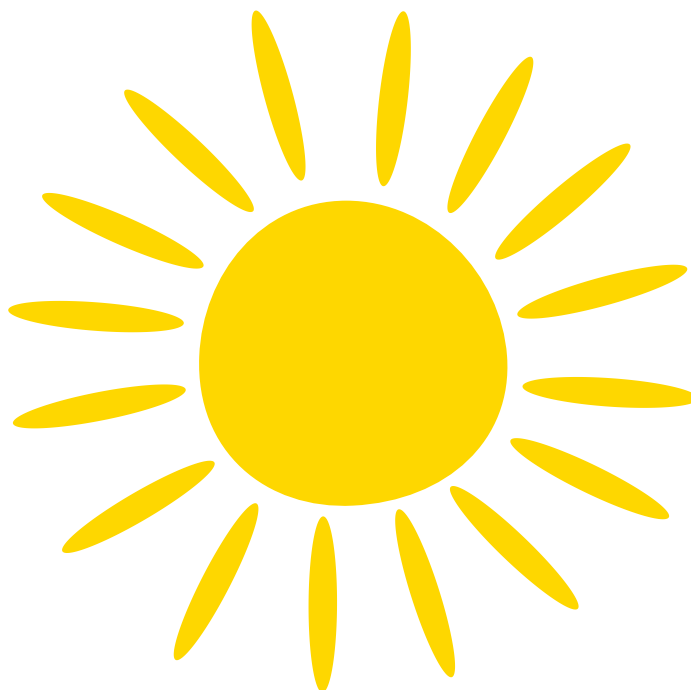
This July we continue to read the gospel of Matthew, which includes the parable of the sower and the seed.

"A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

-Matthew 13:3-9

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Roses



Don Heinz for his nomination to emeritus faculty Hall of Honor. Kortney Stafford for graduating high school. The wedding of Rena and Megan Fox; and the wedding of Naomi Lazarus and Ken Hussar. Dottie Erhardt and Gayle Palys for their art installation in the sanctuary. Gavin and Julian for their musical offering on June 11th. Mark Lund and Raquel Krach for their musical offering on June 18th. Everybody who helped with VBS, and all of the wonderful kids who attended. Char Miller for making Ben's stole.



Gayle Palys, Elise Gladu, and Char Miller for making our rainbow paraments. Everyone who helped out with the pride booth, interfaith service, and coaster art.

Faith Family News

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

VBS

Our Vacation Bible School fun will continue in July! We will gather again on July 22nd to learn about the Fruits of the Spirit. We'd love to have you plan to volunteer or attend this event. We are also on the hunt for fruit (no bananas please) for our fruit buffet that we will offer for snack that week. We are asking for fruit donations to be dropped off on July 21st. Thanks a bunch of grapes!



Sunday School Updates!

This fall, after Labor Day weekend, we will be expanding our space for Sunday school. There will be 2 rooms: one for our friends 1st grade and up, and one for our friends who have not yet completed kindergarten. In order to do this, we need a team of 6 dedicated helpers for each Sunday school room. We will ask folks to pair up in teams of two to teach weekly. Dani will alternate between the rooms as lead teacher as well. We will host Sunday School teacher training in late August, where we will get to play and learn with our new curriculum, and schedule teaching dates for our first semester of the new school year. Please contact Dani if you would like to help us with this project. We will also be outfitting our new room from scratch, and will have an Amazon wishlist and a work day scheduled to help put ourselves together!



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, art, and experience-sharing. Contact Grace 530.218.6636 or Michael 530.895.3754


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

Tuesday Quilters | Every Tuesday from 9:30am-noon in the fellowship hall. Quilt, sew, and work on similar crafts every Tuesday! Contact Char 530.570.6499

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 | 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. Our Ted Lasso Bible Study continues in July! Join us the first few Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 PM as we continue to follow the Richmond Greyhounds and our Romans Bible Study. Join us on Zoom for discussion time following viewing the show if you can't make it in person. All studies will be published on Thursdays on our social media platforms. We will be on hiatus July 26 and August 2nd while we host Safe Space (page 15).



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.

Guest Preachers

Raquel Krach will be preaching on July 16th, and Alyssa Manes will be preaching on July 23rd.



Faith Family Services

We are planning two Sunday morning services this summer be led by children! The goal of these services is twofold: 1) To help the children of Faith grow more comfortable being a part of worship by giving them leadership roles within the service. 2) To encourage the adults of Faith to develop relationships with the children. **The two Sundays will be July 9th and August 13th.** We will be shortening the services to help with attention spans, adding a children's sermon by Dani Vogel, our Director of Family Life, and having kids teach the congregation a VBS song. Most importantly, we will teach our children the joy, not only of being in worship, but of leading others in the worship of God.

Elvanto Training

Have some questions about Elvanto and how to navigate the platform? **Join Luke on July 16th and 30th immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall** to learn or brush-up on your Elvanto skills. During this session Luke will show you how to login to Elvanto, how to edit your profile, and how to work the volunteer scheduling side of Elvanto for Sunday morning worship roles. If you would like to meet with Luke one-on-one to look at Elvanto, please reach out to him.



Pastor's Article

Pr. Ben Colahan

530.895.3754 | colahanb@gmail.com

July marks the start of our congregation's fiscal year. At our annual meeting at the end of May, we passed a budget for this new year. A budget is a document that reveals our values, but I realized partway through our annual meeting that I didn't give the explanation of this budget that our congregation deserves. In years past, the council and I have done a better job at making the budget available earlier and making explicit the values behind it. We as a council have committed to ensuring we explain the proposed budget more clearly next year and sooner to get more meaningful feedback from the congregation. In the meantime, I want to share with you the values behind our 2023-2024 budget.

The main areas in which our budget decreased were 1) benevolent giving to other non-profit organizations, 2) grounds maintenance, 3) worship arts, supplies, and decorations, and 4) Equipping Ministry.

1)Benevolent Giving: For several years we have contributed small but consistent amounts to the Kagitumba Parish in Rwanda, Chico Housing Action Team, the Shalom Clinic, and the Hunger Trolley. These are all worthy causes and organizations. However, rather than write checks to organizations, we want to encourage members of our congregation to build relationships of service with these and other organizations. With Kagitumba in particular, our relationship has dwindled due to lack of communication with the congregation. Faith Lutheran is not a grant giving organization, it is a disciple making organization. It is in raising up disciples eager to serve their neighbors in a variety of contexts that we can best support partner ministries. We continue to maintain our benevolent giving to the wider church via contributions to the Sierra Pacific Synod. The total decrease in benevolent giving is \$3,850.

2)Grounds maintenance: One of the goals in our landscaping renovation is to invest in an exterior that requires fewer resources to maintain. The capital campaign has paid for the landscaping that is underway. In the coming year we should need less work done to maintain the exterior property. The total decrease to maintaining our exterior grounds is \$3,428.



3)Worship Arts, Supplies, and Decorations: While worship is central to our life at Faith, we are blessed to have both beautiful decorations created by previous generations as well as having artists in the current generation who are creative not only artistically but in wise use of resources. The arts and worship team felt confident that could continue to create beautiful worship experiences with a smaller budget. Total decrease to the worship supplies is \$1,950.

4)Equipping Ministry: Equipping Ministry is central to our vision as a congregation. Equipping Ministry helps us make disciples by welcoming visitors, connecting them to our community, helping them identify their spiritual gifts, and pairing them with mentors and ministries where they can learn to use those gifts. The decrease in Equipping Ministry's budget reflects not a decrease in its importance, but the effectiveness of Equipping Ministry in making the most of its financial resources. As Equipping Ministry grows, we may well see this budget line grow. The total decrease to Equipping Ministry is \$1,250.

The main areas in which our budget increased were a) pastor and staff salaries and benefits, b) staff continuing education, c) equipment purchases, d) utilities, and e) the Youth Gathering (\$9,700).

a)Pastor and Staff: This year we gave the smallest raise to each of Faith's employees, myself included, since I have been the pastor at Faith. In part that is because over the past five years we have aggressively raised the salaries of each of our staff members to provide each one with a living wage, health insurance, and retirement benefits. Our congregation is growing, particularly in the area of families with young children. That growth is due in large part to the excellent team of staff that creates connections, empowers our members, and shares God's love. Having provided our staff with a living wage, we have eased off the rate of salary raises to allow the growth in church membership to catch up with our investment in staff. Last year, the budget increase for staff salaries and benefits was \$45,336.45. This year the increase to staff salary and benefits is \$7,792.00.

b)Staff Continuing Education: An investment in our staff's education is an investment in our congregation. We want our staff to be able to take advantage of opportunities to improve themselves and the ministry they carry out at Faith Lutheran. The increase to staff continuing education is \$2,184.00.



c)Equipment Purchases: This mundane sounding line item is incredibly exciting. Nearly the entirety of this money will go to furnishing a second Sunday school room in the fall. As the children in our congregation multiply, so do the resources we need to minister to them. The total increase to equipment purchases is \$1,565.

d)Utilities: We strive to keep our utilities costs as low as possible. Part of the goal of the new landscaping is to reduce our water bill. We have installed smart thermostats that allow us to check and change the temperature in rooms from staff phones. That said, as all of us have noticed at home, the cost of electricity and gas has gone up in the past year. Also, having come out of the pandemic, our facilities are once again being used throughout the week, both by the congregation and the wider community. The total increase for utilities is \$2,750.

e)Youth Gathering: Our largest single budget increase is for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. It is a life-changing experience. It is also expensive as it involves sending teenagers and chaperones to New Orleans for a week. We have at least five teenagers interested in attending the Youth Gathering. Our Director of Family Life, Dani Vogel, has priced out airplane tickets, hotel rooms, registration, and food, and estimates it will cost about \$25,700 to send them and chaperones. The youth and their families have committed to fundraising over the next year to reach this goal, but there are some expenses that need to be purchased before that fundraising occurs. We as a congregation also want to show these young people that we are investing in their spiritual formation by committing to fund a third of the cost. The total increase to the budget to support sending our teenagers to the Youth Gathering is \$9,700.

The total budget change for the coming year is an increase of \$12,733.06 or 2.4%. More than anything, that increase represent our value of focusing on relationship building, especially for children and youth, so that the good news of God's love in Christ is lived out through person-to-person connections at Faith and planted in the hearts of future generations. Thank you for your incredible generosity and for making Faith Lutheran a community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone.

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Ben Colahan



Financial Report

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

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 5/31/2023

| | Budget To Date | Actual To Date | Percent Of Budget |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| TOTAL INCOME | \$480,395.62 | \$433,424.27 | 90.22% |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$488,147.92 | \$446,251.23 | 91.42% |
| NET INCOME/(LOSS) | (\$7,752.30) | (\$12,826.96) | |
| Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2022 | | \$56,320.95 | |
| Net Revenue through 5/31/23 | | <u>(\$12,826.96)</u> | |
| Ending General Fund Balance | | <u>\$43,493.99</u> | |

General Fund giving was down in May to \$31,263.80. We need to maintain average monthly giving at a level of \$44,000.00 per month to meet the budget. We are averaging \$39,400.00 per month.

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

Alyssa Manes, Secretary

530.591.5521 | alyssamanes@hotmail.com

Saturday, June 10, 2023, Home of Cynthia Kampf

Present for meeting: Pastor Ben Colahan, Cynthia Kampf, Mark Kimmelshue, Sherrill Heinz, Joel Zimbelman, Kyle Groh, Pat Snyder, Alyssa Manes, Steve Hall, Jill Bentler.

Incoming council present for meeting: Elaine Lund, Martha McDermott, Sharon Prindle, Mary Schweder. Absent: Sky Sample, Meridith Woods, Leanne Chrisman

1. Welcome and celebrations
2. Introduction of new members (Elaine, Martha, Sharon, Mary)
3. Discussion of gifts to give to visitors who come to Faith Lutheran
 - a. Motion made to give a budget to the Equipping Team to let them select the visitor gifts/passed
 - b. Additional consideration – could we have a gift specific for visiting kids
4. Support of two “family led” worship services during summer – July 9th and August 13th
 - a. For these two Sundays, kids and their parents would help with the worship service
 - b. Ben will do a kid-friendly sermon, kids could be involved by doing the readings, serving communion, lighting candles, leading music, etc.
 - c. Motion was made to support Ben in doing the trial of two Sundays of family-led worship /passed
5. Reflections about the Annual Meeting and ideas for next year
 - a. Communication a priority for next year
 - b. Suggestion to introduce council members during Sunday services so that the congregation knows who to go to with questions/concerns
 - c. Next year, check in with ministries to see budget expectations/wish lists
 - d. After council agrees on budget, publish it ahead of Annual Meeting so that people have a chance to see and discuss it
6. Announcement – church council retreat upcoming in July or August
7. Closing prayer and adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Manes, council secretary



Lutherans in the News



The Faith Lutheran Church Tuesday Quilters donated 12 quilts to the Jesus Center last month. This intrepid group was featured in the Chico ER! Here is the picture that was published, and a link to the article.

<https://www.chicoer.com/2023/06/12/sharing-warmth-snapshot/>



Don Heinz was nominated to emeritus faculty Hall of Honor. "Donald "Don" Heinz is an exemplary administrator, teacher, and scholar who imbued the campus, and the reading public through his writings, with a deeper appreciation of religion's role in society. Heinz joined the Department of Religious Studies faculty in 1975 already an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Five years later he was department chair. In 1985, Heinz was named dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, a position he would hold for 16 years." -CSU Emeritus And Retired Faculty And Staff Association





Citrus Elementary School Supply Drive

This year's school supply drive will be from July 1st through July 31st, culminating in a Blessing of Citrus School Supplies on August 6, 2023.

We will not be collecting backpacks this year, but rather school supplies since that is what is most needed. Our contributions will benefit the students at Citrus Elementary School in Chico. Citrus Elementary has an ethnically diverse student population with over 90% of the students receiving free and reduced lunch. It is our intent to be an ongoing support to Citrus Elementary students and teachers this entire school year!

We will begin our partnership with Citrus School by donating classroom school supplies, playground balls, and classroom library books for new teachers. In addition to supplies, monetary school accounts will be established for teachers to access for classroom supplies throughout the year! We have been blessed with two Thrivent grants for a total of \$500 dollars that can be utilized.

New and unused donations can be dropped off in the church foyer prior to worship, or at the office. Monetary donations can be made out to Faith Lutheran, memo line: Citrus Elementary.





Supplies Needed

(available in stores or online)

Glue sticks (80)

Expo Black Markers (220)

Lined journals (36)

8 pack Crayola Crayons (60)

Expo Pens (36)

Sharpie Permanent Markers (36)

Golf Pencils

Watercolor sets (36)

Crayola Colored Pencils (36)

Playground Needs

These items can all be found on Amazon. If you're reading this newsletter digital, you can click on the items and go straight to Amazon! If you are reading the paper version, please email the office and we'll email you back a list of links.

Gator Dodge Balls (12)

Mikasa Tether Balls

Rainbow Mega Balls , 4 pack

Gopher Performer Rubber Basketballs

Gopher Performer Plus Soccer Balls

Book Lists

New Teacher Classroom Book Lists

2nd Grade Classroom Book List

New Special Education Teacher Class Supply list





Safe Space Cooling Center

Safe Space will be hosting their cooling center at Faith Lutheran Church from Sunday, July 23rd to Sunday, August 6th. Folks without access to air conditioning will be able to come to our church's fellowship hall and relax in the cool air, safe from the summer elements. The shelter will run during the hottest hours of the day from 2pm-8pm. The shelter will not be open during the nighttime.

If you have a group that typically meets in the fellowship hall, please call the office so that we can help make alternative arrangements. There are a few places on campus that can accommodate most groups. If you would like to volunteer with Safe Space, let us know and we'll connect you to their staff.

Staff Away Time

Michael will be away starting on Thursday, June 29th, and will return on Monday, July 10th.

Luke will be away starting on Monday, July 3rd, and will return on Monday, July 10th.

Pr. Ben will be away starting Monday, July 10th and will return on Monday, July 24th.



Food Security at Faith

Faith Lutheran participates in the blue bag program; bring nonperishable goods to the office, and we'll stick them in special bags.

Every other month, the bags are delivered to the Chico Food Pantry.

You can drop off your nonperishables anytime!

And remember, the Food Bank hosted by Contra Costa and Solano Counties comes to our parking lot on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 9:30am-noon. No ID necessary, food for all.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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

