

FAMILY RALLY DAY!

September 2023



Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Rally Day Sept. 10 after Worship

About the Cover

We have been wracking our brains trying to figure out how we can possibly write about all the work our congregation has accomplished over the summer, and plans that our council, staff, and committees have made revolving around children's ministry, community service, and progress with our building. Then we thought, why tell everyone when we can *show* them? Hop over to page 22 and read about Rally Day! Spoiler alert: you will not want to miss church on September 10th!



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Pastor's Article

Pr. Ben Colahan | 530.895.3754

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

People of Faith, THANK YOU! You've probably noticed that we've had an explosive growth of young children at Faith Lutheran over the past year! The presence of these children in our midst is thanks to you.

Many of the new parents at Faith have come out of the pandemic realizing how important it is to raise children with the support of a spiritual community. As I talk to these parents, I hear three main reasons as to why they worship with us, and they all have to do with you.

The first reason is that you live out the message of Jesus they find in the gospels. So many parents seeking a spiritual community for their children want a church that is rooted in Jesus, and lives out the message they see Jesus preaching: a message that is honest about human sin but confident of God's grace, a message of love and service to our neighbors. Families who come to Faith experience a congregation that will teach their kids that God's love is for everyone, not just people who live up to a specific check-list. Your welcome of the LGBTQIA+ community is the number one reason parents have given me for why they want to bring their kids to Faith. They are also quick to mention the ways that they see you, the people of Faith, serve our neighbors in need.

The second reason is that you make their kids feel welcome. Kids are inherently wiggly. Parents are incredibly self-conscious of the ways their children are disruptive. I sure am! But you reassure parents that you want to see their kids on Sunday morning and create space for children to praise God in the ways that they do.

The third reason is you have provided strong children's programming. So many parents have said they keep coming back because their kids want to go to Sunday school with Ms. Dani, our Director of Family Life. I encourage you to read her article about the many ways she has been ministering to children and families this past month. But it's not Dani alone who makes children's education happen. She relies on you for ideas,

resources, and most of all, your presence. She also makes a great team with our director of Worship and Music, Luke Nicolay and our Office Manager, Michael Nicholson-Dick who together organize worship experiences and means of communication that make sense to this generation of parents. Having a highly skilled staff has been an investment, one that you have made, and which is showing its value.

Faith Lutheran is unique among the churches of Chico. We boldly affirm that Christ's love is for everyone, we create space for kids in worship, and we have programming and education for all ages. No other Chico church does all three.

Our congregational council held a retreat this past month. At it, we affirmed that we want to make the most of this movement of the Spirit among children at Faith. To do so, we'll be using our energy and resources in new ways in the coming year.

Serving children in our community: The second Sunday in September is traditionally when we hold *God's Work, Our Hands*, a Sunday when we worship God not in our building, but through service to our neighbors. This year our goal is to expand on the relationship we started with Citrus Elementary School when we gathered school supplies for their teachers. We'll be doing a joint *God's Work, Our Hands* Sunday with Bidwell Presbyterian on October 8th at Citrus Elementary. There, we will fix up their gardens and playground, paint, and celebrate the fellowship we have in Christ.

Develop children's music: We have already had two Sundays in which we explicitly invited the children of our community to help us lead worship. We want children's participation in worship to grow even deeper. One of the main ways that we are preparing to do so is through children's music. Luke is talking with parents about teaching children traditional Christian songs in Sunday school, which eventually they can share in worship. Luke is also preparing a children's chime orchestra. Within one month this congregation has already purchased the chimes he needs to make this happen. Thank you!



Expand Sunday school room: We are literally outgrowing our current Sunday school space: praise God! We have prepared a second room for Sunday school, but now even that won't be enough: praise God! So we are working on fixing up a third room for Sunday school.

BEFORE PICTURES (SEE OCTOBER'S EDITION FOR AFTER PICS!)



Nursery

Formerly chair storage. The room will be painted and decorated with items for babies and families. Has direct bathroom access in worship building.



K-1st Grade Room

This is our current Sunday school space. It will now be dedicated to K-1st graders.



Elementary Room

Room 3 is being transformed! A door was installed between it and the Sunday school room. The room was just painted light blue!

Nursery attendant: With the rapidly increasing number of rooms for Sunday school, we also need to increase the number of adults supervising our children. Thank you to all of you who have been answering Dani's call to teach Jesus' love to the little ones on Sunday morning. We will be inviting more of you who have a gift for teaching and caring for children to pass on the Faith on Sunday mornings. We also recognize that when it comes to infants, what they need is not Sunday school teachers, but caretakers. Infants aren't going to learn about God's love through a story or craft, they are going to experience God's love through being held and fed by someone they know and trust. We want parents of infants to be able to leave their baby with a consistent person that they know and trust. So in addition to having a rotation of nursery volunteers, we are also preparing to hire a nursery attendant to be present each Sunday in our nursery, before, during, and after worship. We expect this to increase our annual budget by \$5,000.

Bathrooms: Kids need to use the bathroom. Currently, our education wing has just one toilet in it. It is a toddler toilet. When this campus was built, the plan was to send kids out of the classrooms over to the fellowship hall to use the restrooms there. Best practices

no longer permit us to send children outside to another building by themselves. To that end, we are planning to move the nursery into Room 9, which has a direct connection to the women's restroom in the fellowship hall. We are also investigating the possibility of adding a second toilet to the current nursery room and converting the existing toilet in a stand alone ADA compliant "family restroom" with doorways leading to both the existing nursery and to the courtyard. This would not only double the number of toilets available in the education wing on Sunday morning, it would provide the only bathroom on campus where a parent, spouse, or caretaker could accompany someone in a wheelchair to use the restroom. It would also allow outside groups who use our classrooms throughout the week to have restroom access without opening up the doors to the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We are currently getting bids for this project under the guidance of property manager Joel Zimbelman.

Thank you again for making Faith Lutheran a community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone. In the coming months, you'll hear me in worship share more about the ways we are raising up the next generation to be in love with Jesus. You'll hear me invite you to be a part of this transformative moment for our community through serving in Sunday school, giving financial support for both one-time projects and the staff who are guiding these ministries, and most of all, sharing Christ's love for all God's children.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan





Faith Family News

Dani Vogel, Director of Family Life | 530.895.3754

Friends of Faith, we have had an amazing two years of rapid growth in our children's ministries. This is because of you all. When we make our baptismal covenant with families, we promise to help raise their children in a faith-filled community, to help put the scriptures into their hands, and to support their families through the years. Already we have done so much to commit to this promise.

As you've seen over the summer, we've connected our littlest Lutherans to seasoned church folk. Between Art Play (who has created beautiful pieces for our church home and our own homes), learning and growing together through family worship services, Preschool Playgroup, Sunday school, and Vacation Bible School, our numbers continue to grow. Our building now contains giggles and fun multiple days a week.

Developmentally Engaging Arts and Crafts for All Ages



With this growth comes certain realities. To best meet the needs of our growing population, we've had to expand to 3 rooms for Sunday morning. We've been serving 27 children regularly over the summer, and those 27 children range from ages 1-10. 1-year-old children require vastly different things than our 10-year-olds, which is why we are splitting into 3 rooms for Sundays. This means that we can do developmentally appropriate, active and imaginative Bible story lessons and activities with our friends in preschool through 5th grade.

Nursery Space: We are adding a dedicated nursery space for babies and toddlers, and it is our hope that through your generosity, we can staff it with a paid attendant in addition to having volunteer support. Parents may drop off their children in the morning and allow them to stay for the duration of worship and fellowship time. Parents will be welcome to stay with their children in this space, or to leave them there with the attendant and volunteer/s until they are ready to depart.

Sunday School: We'll be splitting Sunday school into two rooms in order to offer different developmentally appropriate activities and spaces for our kindergarten-5th graders. This includes larger blocks, manipulative toys, Lego projects, books for free time reading, and of course, plenty of space for our stuffed animal companions! Many of you have already contributed towards purchasing the items needed to make these transitions, and we are continually blessed by your generosity. It truly is a gift getting to work alongside you all, doing such wonderful work in teaching kids about the Bible, and helping them to connect to the larger church.

Dani Vogel, Dir. Family Life



Music Time with Mr. Luke



President's Article

Jill Bentler, Council President

Dear Faith Family, hello! I am grateful, humbled, and excited to serve as your council president: grateful for the opportunity to serve and give back to this congregation that has given so much to me and my family over the years, humbled to be entrusted with this position and all that it entails, and excited because we have so much good happening here at Faith and it just keeps growing!

First, introductions are in order. My name is Jill Bentler and I am married to Rick Bentler. We both are semi-retired; Rick was a lineman with PG&E and I taught elementary school off and on over the years in between raising children. We both continue to work in our fields part time. We moved to Chico in 1996 with our two very young children, Ben and Elizabeth, and in our search for a church home we found Faith Lutheran. The welcome we received from the congregation then is a hallmark of Faith Lutheran to this day. As time went on we added two more children, Abby and Peter, to our family through adoption, and they were also welcomed by this congregation with open arms. These days my children are spreading their own wings and soon Rick and I will be empty nesters.

Growth and Change

When we moved into our current home 20 years ago we had three children. Our new home had three bedrooms and while having two children share a room seemed logical the differences in our daughters' ages made this impractical and we converted a den into a bedroom. All was well for a number of years, even after our son Peter joined the family, sharing a room with his sister Abby. Being 12 months apart in



(From left) Abby, Ben, Peter, Jill, Rick, Joan, Elizabeth

age this arrangement worked well for a couple of years. Until it didn't. We tried having the boys share, but a five year old and a 14 year old are from different planets. So we converted the dining room into a bedroom and peace was restored. Faith Lutheran is having similar growing pains, thanks be to God! Our Sunday school is growing and we are blessed to have this good problem. We are blessed also to have the space to accommodate this growth, but with necessary and practical changes that need to be made. Pastor Ben's article has details about the changes that need to be made and I am excited to see them put into action.

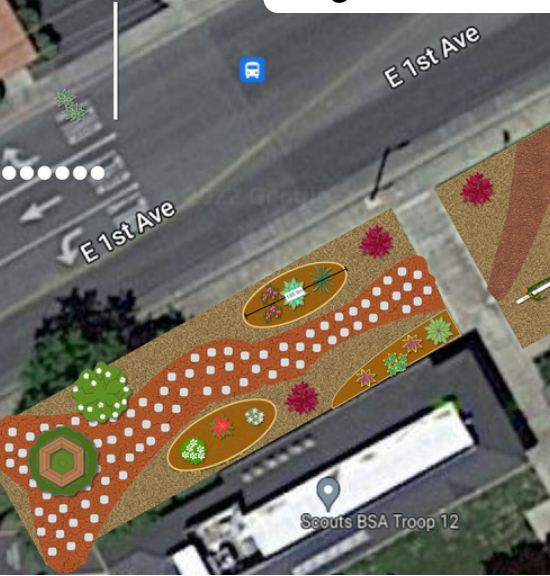
Change and Growth

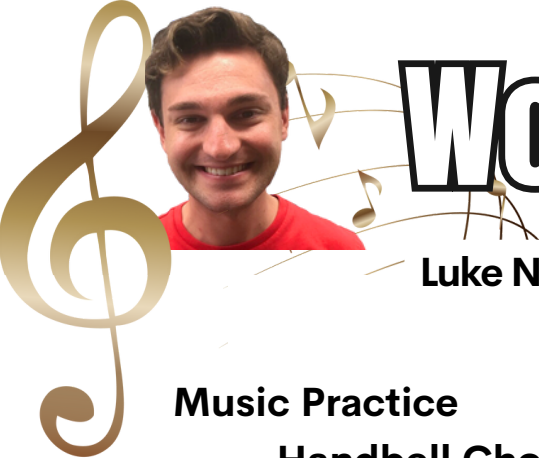
Over the past several months we have witnessed the changes happening in the front yard of our church. The grass has been removed, new irrigation has been placed all around the church, and just last week a decomposed granite path was installed. Soon the arroyo will be finished and weed mat and rock will complete the hardscape. The final part of this project involves growth: living, growing trees, shrubs and plants. I would like to invite the congregation to be a part of this growth by sponsoring our new plantings. In September, cards with various trees and plants printed on them and the cost to purchase them will be available at Sunday service. Choose your plant and place your pledge in the offering plate and in October we will have a planting party.

Because I am a teacher, I always feel like this time of year is the beginning; a time of excitement and hope, newness and growth. I am grateful and excited to be a part of this congregation as we welcome newness and growth together.

Jill Bentler, Council President

Progress! From outlines to tilling to a complete path. Next step: foliage!





Worship & Music

Luke Nicolay, Dir. Worship & Music | 530.895.3754



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Music Practice

Handbell Choir Practice - Tuesdays at 5pm

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 5pm

Contemporary Music Practice - Thursdays at 6:30pm

Chime Update: Thanks to the kindness and generosity of all of you here in the congregation at Faith Lutheran Church, we have numerous folks who have chosen to donate money to purchase the hand-chimes. In fact, because of your generosity a 3rd octave is being donated! This will expand the 2 octave set from 25 hand-chimes up to 36! The children of FLC, the handbell choir, and myself want to thank all of you who donated to make this a possibility. We are all very excited to begin learning how to use the chimes (which you can see and play on Rally Day, September 10th!) and will be playing for and with you in the early Fall!

Max Gillespie's Baptism: Join us after worship on September 3rd as we baptize Max Gillespie in the Big Chico Creek! Meet in the parking lot of Sycamore Field in lower Bidwell Park using South Park Drive.



New Members Class: Are you interested in becoming a member of Faith Lutheran? Are you curious about where the Lutheran tradition comes from and what it teaches? Then sign up for the New Members Class with Pastor Ben! Class will be after worship (11am-12:30pm) in room 7 near the play structure. The class will last five weeks and at the end, if you decide you'd like to officially join, we'll have a celebration to introduce you on Reformation Sunday, October 29th. You are welcome to take the class even if you do not want to officially become a member, but just want to learn about our church. If you're interested, please contact the office for details.



Community Service

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Michael N-D | 530.895.3754

Citrus Report - School supplies were donated to Citrus Elementary school last month! Pastor Ben and Alex Jia dropped off the supplies together in early August. Thanks to your generous spirit, together, we were able to gift stationary, arts and crafts, soccer balls and other play-equipment, and so much more!



Iris Giveaway - Some of you may have gone home with iris bulbs after church recently. Bob Marshall gifted the bulbs to the quilters, and the quilters shared with us. Chico Housing Action Team is building Everheart Village, and we gifted CHAT bulbs as well to make these new homes come to life with color. "Everhart Village is an innovative shelter project collaboration between CHAT and Butte County Behavioral Health. The village will provide sleeping cabins for 20 individuals who are existing BCBH clients and who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless." CHAT is looking for volunteers who can help with construction, carpentry, plumbing, and general contracting.

Disaster Relief - In one week, \$1,200 was raised for the disaster relief fund created by Bishop Nagler of the ELCA's Pacifica synod to provide support for wildfire victims. We would like to thank Bishop Nagler for his organization of this relief fund. Gifts are used to support emergency relief efforts on the Hawaiian Islands of Maui and Hawai'i in response to the August 2023 wildfires that have claimed lives and destroyed homes and businesses.





God's Work, Our Hands Sunday - Once a year, ELCA churches forego traditional worship to minister in the community instead. This hands-on ministry can take any form that fits the participating congregation. In recent years, we've cleared out trails, picked up litter, cleaned the creek, and helped other churches re/build after disaster. Usually the second Sunday in September is when we hold

God's Work, Our Hands, but this year we'll be doing a joint God's Work, Our Hands Sunday with Bidwell Presbyterian on October 8th at Citrus Elementary. There we will fix up their gardens and playground, paint, and celebrate the fellowship we have in Christ.



Home & Heart is a housing solution that matches adults in Butte County who have a room to share with individuals in need of affordable housing. While they prioritize services for older adults, the program is open to all eligible adults who have room to share (home providers) or those seeking affordable housing (home seekers). Home share participants receive support throughout the life of the match including mediation or assistance with negotiating the living together agreement as needed.

Home & Heart is in great need of home providers. If you feel your living situation could improve with companionship, help around the house, or even sharing the cost of rent to ease your financial burdens, we highly recommend considering Home & Heart.

This is helpful for home providers and seekers. Rent costs are at an all-time high in Chico, and homeshare situations like Home & Heart ease the burden for students and young people who may otherwise only be able to live in apartments or dorms with multiple roommates, which isn't a situation that works well for everyone.

If you would like to talk more about Home & Heart, visit Michael at the church office. He can answer your questions and help you make connections to the awesome folks managing the organization.



Equipping Ministry

Steve Hall, Equipping Chair

Spiritual Gifts + Conversations

Ephesians 4:11-13: so Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for the works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Did you know that you are part of the priesthood of all believers? Which means it is important to connect people to their God-given destiny, or their giftedness. Did you know that the largest group of people available and equipped to help in any ministry, will not volunteer to do so on their own? The discovery process means that people need to be detected and identified as passionate or gifted, and then invited to respond to a specific opportunity to serve.

We have a team of 6 people who form the Connecting Conversation team and have begun to ask folks to take a "Gifts Assessment" to discover their gifts, talents, and passions that may connect them to the ministries of Faith. The New Testament lists 20 spiritual gifts that God has bestowed upon us through the work of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of spiritual gifts is twofold: 1) to unify Christians in their faith and 2) to produce growth within the church, both numerical and spiritual. After taking the assessment, we enter the individual's gifts into our database, Elvanto, contact them, and connect them to ministries that match their gifts here at church and in the community.

Faith has published a booklet called "Equipped To Serve" that lists all the ministries and the gifts related to these ministries. Many times, through conversations, we find out other "interests" a person will have, and we can also add that to the database. What does this mean?



When ministers are looking for someone that has certain gifts and or interests, they can go to Elvanto to see who might have those gifts and personally INVITE them into their ministry! For example, someone ministering at the Torres Shelter or Safe Space can go into Elvanto and see other parishioners who enjoy cooking, baking, or service, and invite them to serve. It is so important, especially for newcomers, to get people connected to church and fully engaged in ministry.

This fall, the Connecting Conversation Team will invite you to fill out a Gift Assessment during Coffee Hour. It takes 8-10 minutes to fill out. You will also have an opportunity to set up a date to have a one-on-one conversation with one of our team members. We will follow up with you, letting you know what your gifts are and entering them into Elvanto. You may make connections to new ministries you haven't considered before, or rediscover old ones that rekindle your passions. Our goal is to place the right people, in the right places, for the right reasons, at the right time!

Mary Schweder, Equipping Team, Conversations & Connections

MEET STEVE, EQUIPPING CHAIR

Kim Schweder has spent the last several years organizing and chairing the Equipping team. We can't thank him enough for laying the groundwork for this incredible ministry. We give thanks that Kim continues to participate while taking a sort of "sabbatical," passing on the reigns to Steve Hall, council Vice President and current Equipping chair.

Steve was born in Hoisington Kansas and grew up living in numerous states and also 3 plus years in Germany. He attended high school in Roseville CA, Sierra College in Rocklin and then Chico State where he graduated with a degree in Physical Education.. Three years later a Master's degree was earned from Azusa Pacific University. Steve had two distinctive careers. Coaching college football for 17 years and then working for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals for 24 years. Steve is married to Carol Hall (36 years). Both are retired and have two children together.



Steve will preach on September 17th while Pr. Ben is at Synod Assembly electing a new bishop.

Do You Already Serve Outside Faith?

The Equipping Team is making plans! Part of those plans involve recognizing the many people who are part of our Faith community who already donate countless hours other than Sunday worship and make huge dents impacting our community.

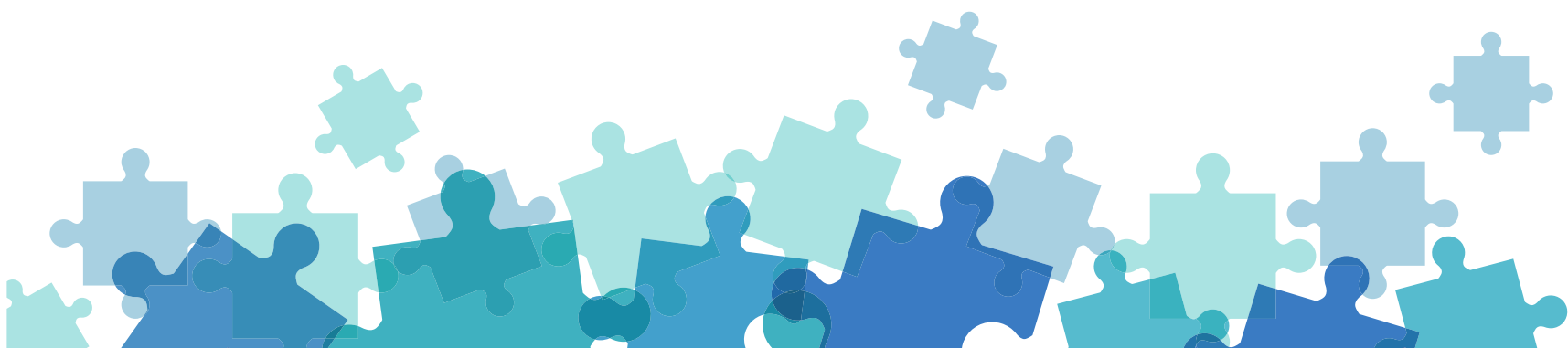
Your Equipping Team wants to hear from you about your personal ministries. Do you volunteer with the City of Chico, police, shelters, or elected office? Are you a part of Rotary, Lions, or other civic service groups? Do you serve food at Torres or Jesus Centers or in parks? Do you bring meals to neighbors or visit shut-ins regularly? Do you sponsor a child overseas or regularly support a mission organization? Do you regularly donate blood? If you think it "might" be service, it probably IS a service, and we would love to know about it. We know that many of you have personal ministries and for that, the leadership at Faith is very proud and thankful.

This is all for a future project which will be disclosed soon! Our team would like to hear from you. Here are a few ways you can let us know what service you're currently invested in:

- Contact our ministry's chair, Steve Hall (contact info on pg.14)
- Just simply write us a note and drop in the offering plate on Sunday
- Call the office or pay Michael a visit
- Reach out to ANY Equipping Team member

As a faith community, we at Faith Lutheran Church want to celebrate and recognize those of you who give regularly and faithfully, donating your valuable time. We look forward to revealing this project to you soon, and hearing about all the wonderful ways in which you serve our community!

Kim Schweder, Equipping Ministry



Small Groups

Dani Vogel | 530.895.3754

Just Older Youth, Seniors (JOYS) | every-other Monday from 10-11:30am, Room 7

Starting on September 11th, we will meet twice a month to read, review and discuss "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World" by Dali Lama, Desmond Tutu and, Douglas Carlton Abrams. We delight in welcoming all Older Youth to join our group! Please contact Dani at the office to learn more about the reading material or meeting times.

NEW

Tuesday Morning Bible Study | every-other Tuesday from 9-10am in Room 7

Starting on September 12th, deepen your relationship with God and your siblings in Christ through studying scripture. This Bible study will meet every other week on Tuesday mornings at 9-10am in Room 7. Our time together will begin with a check-in of highs and lows from the past two weeks. We will then work our way through a book of the Bible asking, "How does this point out the brokenness in my reality?" and "how does this reveal God's grace in my reality?" Our time together will end by praying for each other's needs. Childcare will be provided. To participate, please contact Pr. Ben.



Who, What, When, Where, Why: Women of the Bible Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm in Room 7

How much of what you think about women in the Bible comes from legend as compared to scripture? Find out in this weekly class starting September 13th what the Bible actually says about our spiritual foremothers. The class will run for 6 weeks, each week focusing on a different woman from the Old Testament and will return again in spring. Facilitated by Sherrill Heinz and Penny Melvin.

NEW

Men Toasting Martin | Every Sunday at 3pm at Secret Trail Brewery

Apply the sermon from each week to your own life. This group meets Sundays at 3pm at Secret Trail Brewery to share life and beverage.

ROSES

- Safe Space for hosting the Cooling Center not only at FLC, but at many other churches in Chico throughout summer. Favi Comacho, Linn Brownmiller, Meridith Woods, and Christian Leech for being greeters with Safe Space. Everybody who donated items to the cooling center and helped in any capacity. A special thank you to the Men's Breakfast group for their food donation.
- Oscar Sample and Margaret McMillan for leading music for our monthly worship service at Prestige Assisted Living.
- All those who donated school supplies to Citrus Elementary.
- Margaret McMillan picking up and dropping off "blue bags," nonperishable goods donated to the Chico Food Pantry.
- Bob Bay, Alex Jia, and Dani Vogel for painting the new Sunday School room, and all the people who helped move worship chairs out of the new nursery. Jill Bentler for personally cleaning the new nursery.
- The children and families who have led our family-led worship services.
- Each and every one of you who donated supplies to the new Sunday school rooms.
- Everyone who purchased hand chimes so that our children can participate in music.

**Margaret & Oscar at
Prestige Assisted
Living**



Family-Led Worship



**School Supply
Blessing**



River Float

It is an ancient and noble tradition of Chico to float down the Sacramento River in an innertube while chatting with your friends and rejoicing in the goodness of God's creation. On Sunday, September 10th after Rally Day, we'll do just that! We'll carpool from Faith Lutheran at 2pm and launch from the Irvine Finch Boat Ramp near Hamilton City about 2:45pm (so bring your swim trunks and suits to Rally Day!) We will float for about an hour and a half to Scotty's Landing, where we will have the option to have dinner. Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, Sept. 6th. Please let us know if you have a truck/van which you could use to transport people/innertubes. Please bring a swimsuit, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. We encourage those who do not want to float to join us at Scotty's Landing at 5pm for fellowship.



Council Minutes

Alyssa Manes, Council Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Notes from Council Retreat August 11-12 Lake Almanor, CA

Present: Pastor Ben Colahan, Mark Kimmelshue, Alyssa Manes, Steve Hall, Jill Bentler, Elaine Lund, Martha McDermott, Sharon Prindle, Mary Schweder, Sky Sample, Dani Vogel. Absent: Leanne Chrisman, Pat Snyder.

- 1) Welcome, introductions, ice breaker games.
- 2) "The Art of the Ask" led by Mary Schweder. Tips on things to do and to avoid when inviting others to partner in ministry. "Equipped to Serve" booklet has a list of current ministry opportunities (available for viewing on Faith Lutheran's website under "Resources" tab).
- 3) "Congregational Structure, What Is and What Can Be" led by Pastor Ben. Reviewed big picture, "A community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone." Discussed duties of council. Reviewed that there are many people and teams who serve and the roles they play. Suggested that teams could be invited to come report to council, and when the update is put in the minutes, the rest of the congregation would also be informed of what is happening around the church. Elaine and Jill volunteered to make a form to help groups provide updates and to invite them a few at a time over the next several council meetings. Suggested that we reiterate that all who are interested are welcome to attend council meetings (don't have to be a member).
- 4) "How to Pray Publicly" and time for prayer led by Pastor Ben. Common topics of prayer, stages of prayer, prayer samples, tips for praying in public.
- 5) Equipping Team discussion led by Mary Schweder. Vision: to know what our gifts are (Ephesians 4:11-13). Ask how the church can serve people, and how people can serve in the church, try to match the right person to the right place at the right time. Make

sure people know they are valued when they serve. Desire to meet with those in the congregation to help discern their gifts in order to help match them with ministries that they are suited for, and to follow up that discernment with conversations. Talked about Elvanto software and how it could be used to help coordinate ministry opportunities. Discussed wanting to know more about who can see the gifts and other information about individuals once it is put in Elvanto, wanting to connect people but also honor privacy. Council members all took a gift assessment evaluation.

6) Growing Sunday School Needs presented by Dani Vogel. The number of children attending at Faith Lutheran is increasing, praise God!, adding 1-3 kids per month since April. Need to make a plan to safely and comfortably provide for all the children; proposed the following: Suggest converting the old Prayer Room into an infant/toddler room, with bathroom access to the existing women's restroom. Costs for conversion would be minimal. Down the road, costs may include adding a sink to the room and moving the outside gate, and possibly adding an awning. Suggest hiring a nursery attendant. Suggest hiring through a third party that does background checks. Suggest shift of 8:30-11:30 on Sundays (3 hours/week). Motion was made to move infants and toddlers to old prayer room and hire a nursery attendant with an annual budget of \$5000 – Elaine/Mark/passed.

7) Other council business, led by Pastor Ben. Michael in the office requested video camera security for the courtyard. Motion was made to let Michael get the needed camera(s) – Mark/Sky/passed. Discussed current bathrooms and need for more toilets (and/or accessible toilets, and kid-friendly toilets) as the children's ministry expands. Looked at drawing of proposed added bathroom and foyer to go in the north part of room 1-2. Wondered if proposed bathroom remodel would give us the additional toilets we need for longer-term growth, and how to adapt an ADA toilet for use by children. Motion was made to get a new bid to get the needed ADA bathroom and also a second bathroom that is kid-friendly – Ben/Sky/passed. May do God's Work, Our Hands at Citrus in conjunction with Bidwell Presbyterian on October 8. Make September 10 another family-led worship day. Set date for next council meetings. 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30, next meeting September 19 at Faith Lutheran conference room.

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Manes, council secretary



Financial Report

Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 7/31/2023

	Budget	Actual	Percent Of Budget
	To Date	To Date	
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,846.23	\$48,700.06	113.66%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$45,624.67	\$47,802.78	104.77%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$2,778.44)	\$897.28	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2022		\$24,419.71	
Net Revenue through 6/30/2023		\$897.28	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u>\$25,316.99</u>	

The figures shown above are for the month of July, which is the first month of the new fiscal year. As shown, we had a better month than what was budgeted. This is encouraging. Let's work to continue this.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

Rally Day!

Kick off the fall with a celebration of the ministries happening at Faith! Following a family-led service on September 10th, you can...

- Take a tour of our newly opened Sunday school rooms, and learn about upcoming plans to improve our facilities for the youngest of God's children.
- Try your hand at the chimes that children will be learning to use in our newest music group.
- See the landscaping in front of the church and learn what we'll be planting.
- Get crafty with a group art project.
- Sign up for two new Bible studies that are starting the week of Rally Day, or chat with folks from some of our ongoing small groups.
- Interact with a hands-on community service display to learn about the places we serve and organizations we serve with. This includes the upcoming *God's Work, Our Hands* project at Citrus Elementary.
- Visit our Chapel room and learn about the ways we can make this a healing space for ministers and care receivers.
- Grab a coffee and some refreshments at the Welcome Table.
- Help your littles solve the Equipping Ministry's puzzle-puzzle, a scavenger hunt with prizes!
- Most of all, take time to get to know and celebrate this community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone.



Design a Button!

Design a button for God's Work, Our Hands! Remember, we're fixing up Citrus Elementary's gardens and playground as well as painting. Tear off the back page and turn in your art at church on Sunday (offering plate or welcome table) or at the office anytime it's open. Mr. Michael will make these into real buttons for everyone who participates on our day of service! Make sure your art stays in the circle or it might get cut off. This project is for creative people of ALL ages!



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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



To protect the privacy of our parishioners,
some contact info might be omitted in the
online version of this newsletter. Give
Michael at the office a call, and he'll get you
connected to whoever you need!

PRIVACY

