

MAR 2024



FAITH TALKS



WORSHIP SUNDAYS 9:30 AM AT
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, CHICO, CA

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Art by Gayle Palyg



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Easter Altar



Flower Cross



WHERE GOD WALKS IN THE COOL OF THE DAY

BY PASTOR BEN

When we hear the word “paradise,” many of us associate it with heaven, clouds, and angels. But the word “paradise” is a Greek word that literally means “an enclosed pleasure garden.” The Garden of Eden (Eden meaning “delight”) was literally a paradise, an enclosed garden given to us by God for our care and enjoyment. Paradise was a garden where God walked with humans in the cool of the day (Gen 3:8). The Garden of Eden was a paradise where we could enjoy both creation and God’s presence. For the Hebrew people, living in a hot and arid climate, there was no greater joy or promise of life than a well-watered and protected garden.



In February, we heard how human sin caused us to lose paradise, to leave God’s garden. But human sin has consequences beyond our own species. In the story of Noah’s flood, human sin causes devastation to all the plants and animals of the world. As we move to Holy Week, however, we will hear how God’s plan to save humanity from sin and death includes those same plants and animals. The resurrection is good news for all of creation.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem by riding a donkey down the Mount of Olives. This past year, I had the great joy of walking that same path, and I was amazed to realize 1) how many olive trees there still are, and 2) how many graves Jesus walked passed. Jewish belief holds that the first people to rise from the dead will be those buried on the Mount of Olives. As a result, Jesus’ Palm Sunday procession towards his own death and resurrection was done through a garden of dead awaiting resurrection. This Holy Week, we too will journey with Jesus through gardens from death to life. Our regular procession will wind its way through our columbarium, that beautiful garden at Faith which holds the remains of the loved ones we will see again on the day of resurrection.

On Good Friday, we will hear Jesus promise the Good Thief, “today you will be with me in paradise,” (Luke 23:43). It is a promise to the thief, but it is also a promise to creation. The paradise that God made so long ago, that garden where God walked with us on Earth, will be restored in Christ. Our Good Friday service will once again feature multi-sensory prayer stations, but this year will include a prayer station where you can plant a seed in the earth. May the seeds we plant in earth and watch rise to new life be reminders that even when our loved ones are buried in the earth, they will rise with Christ to new life.

On Easter Sunday, our sanctuary will become a garden. The artistic vases and vines that have been growing at the edges of the sanctuary will finally bloom with a riot of color and life. We will once again see the cross transformed through flowers. But this year, instead of inviting people to purchase flowers for Easter, we want to invite you to bring flowers and plants from your garden. So many of you have gardens where you live out what God first instructed us to do: to tend God’s garden. Please bring flowers that you nurtured and grew. We would love both cut flowers in vases or potted plants. Be sure to label any vases or pots so you can pick them up the next week. You can bring the flowers either before worship on Easter morning, or between 1pm-5pm on the Saturday before.

Part of the tradition of purchasing flowers has also been a way to remember loved ones in whose honor the flowers are given. I want you to still remember loved ones through the flowers that you bring. Instead of printing their names in the bulletin, write their name on a card and place it in the floral arrangement. On Easter, as we behold our sanctuary become a paradise, may we take time to admire the flowers and the names written among them, and give thanks for the garden of love that God has given us.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan





WORSHIP & MUSIC

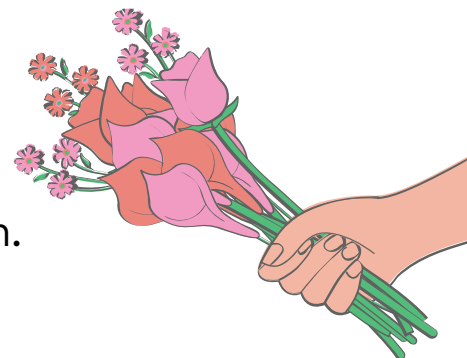
LUKE NICOLAY, DIR. WORSHIP & MUSIC

MUSIC PRACTICE

Handbell Choir Practice - Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Contemporary Music Practice - Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.



FLOWERS FOR EASTER

On Easter Sunday, our sanctuary will become a garden. The artistic vases and vines that have been growing at the edges of the sanctuary will finally bloom with a riot of color and life. We will once again see the cross transformed through flowers. But this year, instead of inviting people to purchase flowers for Easter, we want to invite you to bring flowers and plants from your garden. So many of you have gardens where you live out what God first instructed us to do: to tend God's garden. Please bring flowers that you nurtured and grew. We would love both cut flowers in vase or potted plants. Be sure to label any vases or pots so you can pick them up the next week. You can bring the flowers either before worship on Easter morning, or between 1pm-5pm on the Saturday before.

BEYOND WAYS TO PRAY

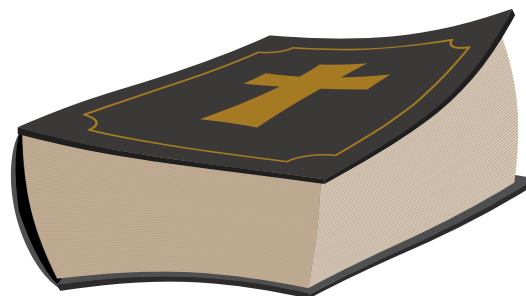
Discover new ways to strengthen your relationship with God. To help you find a way that allows you to connect more regularly and deeply with God, on Sunday mornings after worship, we'll have a class on spiritual practices. Feb. 18th through March 24th, each Sunday different members of the congregation will present a different way to communicate with God that you can try out during the week

3/3: Confession and self-inventory

3/10: Gratitude and Psalm praying/writing

3/17: Spiritual Fruits

3/24: Walking the Labyrinth



HOLY WEEK



Maundy Thursday, March 28th, 7pm: A poignant dinner party featuring communion and foot/hand washing to remember Jesus' mandate from the Last Supper to love one another.

This spring, we'll be doing something different for Maundy Thursday. We want to invite you to a dinner party in which we will dine in the way that Jesus' disciples did. To carry out our vision for this service, we are asking for the loan of table cloths, candle sticks, and dishes. We'd love to have you bring in items that were passed down by important women in your lives. We will be celebrating the meal in potluck style, and encourage you to bring a recipe that has been passed down over the years. Please RSVP with Dani by Mon. Mar. 25.



Good Friday, March 29th, 7pm

A solemn worship service to journey with Jesus to the cross through multisensory prayer stations.

Easter Egg Hunt, Sat. March 30th, 10am-11am at the Jesus Center Farm

An Easter Egg Hunt for children at the Jesus Center Farm (2819 Hegan Lane).

Holy Saturday Prayer Stations, 1pm-5pm at FLC

An open time for individual contemplation at the prayer stations and labyrinth in the sanctuary; flowers can also be brought during this time.

Easter Sunday, March 31st, 9:30am

A joyous worship service celebrating Jesus' victory over death.

GOOD | *well*

3 VITAL QUESTIONS

Transforming Workplace Drama

Drama is often present when we don't realize it. In fact, dissatisfaction at work, home, or church can often derive from dynamics at those places that undermine all the positive culture and projects we engage in together. This course simply describes our base line operating systems and how we can inadvertently be focused on problems when in fact we are better off focusing on outcomes. Join an interactive day-long experience to build a new muscle resulting in more satisfaction in your communities, higher producing teams, and more streamlined paths to meeting your desired outcomes. This class is taught by Laura Cootsona, former director of the Jesus Center. Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to participate. The cost is \$60, which covers book costs and includes lunch. Please RSVP with the office.

Date: May 4th, 9am-4pm.

Time: 9am-4pm.

Cost: \$60

Hosted by: Laura Cootsona

**Drama
Llama!**



“3VQ has equipped me with a framework and vocabulary that help me approach challenging situations with hope and inspiration. While I don’t always handle these moments with perfect grace and dignity, looking back, I see significant growth and learning. Each experience, whether smoothly managed or not, contributes to my journey, helping me honor who I am and my aspirations in the world.”

— DILLON RANEY

Consultant



SERVICE & REWARD

JILL BENTLER, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Over 15 years ago I signed up to be on the national bone marrow registry. I was nervous but hopeful that I could help someone with a life changing donation. From what I understand it is actually rare to get a call that you are a match with someone and as time went by that proved to be true. I continued to donate blood and platelets over the years and sort of forgot I was on the registry. Then one Friday last spring I received a letter in the mail, my marrow might be a match for a young man potentially needing a transplant! My heart hurt when I realized this young person was about the same age as some of my own children. I prayed for the young man's health, I prayed for God to give his family strength, and I prayed that I was a good match for him as I waited the weekend to speak with a coordinator. On Monday I received good news and bad news in that phone call. The good news was the young man had decided to pursue other treatment options first (often donations from a stranger are a last resort). The bad news was I was no longer eligible to donate due to medications I had just begun taking one week prior. I rejoiced that the young man still had treatment options but I was devastated that this opportunity had been taken away from me.



More recently I signed up on an app called "Be My Eyes." Simply put, I have made myself available to assist a person who is visually impaired. The calls are typically video calls and usually fairly simple; perhaps helping someone with matching their socks or reading directions. On Valentines Day I received my first call from a gentleman named John. John explained that he needed help sorting some flowers by color. In that one-minute phone call I helped a stranger with a simple (for me) task, taught him the meaning of the word "variegated," and met his sweet dog. It was only a brief moment in time but my heart felt full. I helped John but honestly, I think I got more out of that call than he did.

There is a juxtaposition in volunteering; we do it to help our fellow man but in doing so we are rewarded. “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ... You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7, 11).

During this season of Lent at Faith Lutheran we are being asked and encouraged to cheerfully give of our time. The Equipping Team has worked hard over the past several months preparing a huge list of different ways we can volunteer in our community. Each Sunday leading up to Lent we have been presented with resources and organizations needing our support. I have been uplifted by the positive response to this effort. Many of you already generously donate your time in our community and yet continue to look to do more.

Another way people in our congregation give of their time is closer to home. Here at church many of you work tirelessly completing the many tasks that keep things running smoothly; filling candles with oil, folding bulletins, pulling weeds, taking communion to the homebound, praying for the sick, cleaning up after events, teaching Sunday School, and sharing the Word. By no means is this a complete list! Perhaps you feel called to give of your time in some other way. You may have noticed the rolling bulletin board at church these past several weeks, on it are some of the many ways you can be involved at Faith Lutheran.

At the culmination of Lent, the Equipping Team will tabulate the many hours we donate here at home and in our community. I am excited to see those numbers because I already know that we are going to be astounded. I have no doubt of your generosity because I see it already. And even though Lent will end I know that that generosity will continue. I am grateful to this community at Faith for all that they give of themselves and I am lucky to be among you.



Our congregation was recently asked to host an extra week of shelter for the homeless by Safe Space. We had already “done” our two weeks earlier in the year and it would have been easy to say no. The carpets had already been cleaned, furniture had been restored to its original location and there were other events on the calendar. But I didn’t hear any negatives. Instead, I heard, “How can we make it work?” and “Why not?” and my favorite comment of all, “That is what we do. We help when needed.” And that is what you all do; you help when needed. We are all needed to do God’s work and I thank you for your generosity.

Jill Bentler, Council President



Back in September, we spruced up the paint, asphalt, and gardens at Citrus Elementary. We also planted daffodil bulbs, and now that spring is approaching, the flowers are in full bloom!





FAITH FAMILY NEWS

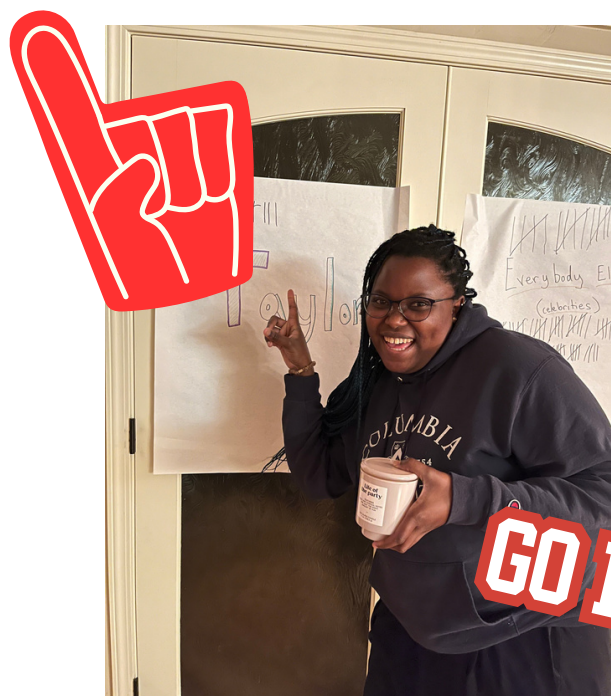
DANI VOGEL, DIR. FAMILY LIFE

It has already been a busy spring here at Faith Lutheran! This Lent, the children of Faith are collecting spare change for Lutheran World Relief's World Hunger project. Funds raised will go towards feeding those in need across the world. Our children have decorated offering boxes to collect coins in throughout the season of Lent. They will bring their boxes to church on Sundays to present during the offering.

We have a number of educational opportunities including our Spiritual Disciplines class going on here at Faith. The class is meeting Sundays at 11AM during Lent and working their way through different spiritual discipline practices. Chat with Caryl Quinones or Sherril Heinz for more details.

We invite you to start up a small group of your own based on interests, hobbies, demographics, or educational interests. If you would be interested in leading a small group, chat with me for more details.

Stay tuned for some youth group fundraisers for the Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.



GO RED TEAM!





GARDENING GAMES

The theme for our scriptures this Lent is "God's Garden." To help us connect the stories we hear on Sunday with our lives, Faith Member Elise Gladu is hosting a gardening activity each Sunday in Lent gear towards children, but open to all ages. The location for these activities will be Elise's property, which is also the location of the Jesus Center Farm. It is a wonderland of opportunities to see how the Holy Spirit brings forth life in our backyard. As we learn about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, plant a tree! When we hear about Jesus' anointing, make an anointment out of herbs you pick yourself. Please RSVP for each week either on Sunday morning, or by contacting the office.



LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

Are you counting your volunteer hours? Through Lent, make sure to tell Steve -chair of the Equipping Team- how many volunteer hours you've spent inside and outside the church. We as a congregation are pooling our hours to see if we can volunteer 1000 collective hours during Lent!



DENISE AND RUTH PREP
FOR SUNDAY



SHERRI VOLUNTEERS
WITH ENLOE



SENDING MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT TO COUNTRIES
IN NEED



KIM, ADELIO, DIANNE,
SUZANNE, MARK, KARI...

AND MIXON, SERVING AT
CHICO ANIMAL SHELTER



RON AND FRIENDS
VOLUNTEER AT PROJECT
S.A.V.E.

As of February 21st, we have already accumulated 223 hours for church volunteering and 127 hours for outside volunteering. That's a total of 349 hours! What a fantastic start to this project!

Count your hours if you do anything to help at church whether you are driving members to doctor appointments, singing in the choir, folding bulletins, hosting coffee hour, meeting with other members or council, or anything else related to church. Also track all of your non-church-related volunteer hours, like volunteering with Project SAVE, an animal shelter, or Enloe.

You can report your hours in one of two ways. While attending church, use the form we will be handing out to record your hours. You can place it in the collection plate. The second way to report your hours is to email Steve Hall at jshall2323@gmail.com including the total hours you volunteered. If you email him, please let him know which hours are for volunteering inside vs. outside of church. **Please send pictures of you doing the service!**



COUNCIL MINUTES

ALYSSA MANES, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
FLC Conference Room

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

Call to order, reading of the covenant, and celebrations.

Devotions and prayer, led by Leanne Chrisman

Ministry reports:

-Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, and Small Group Ministries presented by Dani Vogel. Would love to have more adults from church involved in the growing children's ministry on Sunday mornings.

-Worship Ministry and Music Ministry presented by Luke Nicolay. May consider including in monthly rotation an a capella hymn and guitar-led song. Could use help advertising events that happen at the church to increase exposure so more people can enjoy the musical guests who visit us.

January council minutes approved.

Financial Report presented by Mark Kimmelshue. We have \$64,700 in the general fund, and we are doing much better this year than we have the past three years. Financial report approved. We are in the process of preparing the budget. Right now information is being collected. We will do our best to provide several opportunities for the congregation to look at and ask questions about the budget before we vote on approving it at the annual meeting.

Staff Reports presented by Pastor Ben.

-A request from Michael to make [a classroom] dedicated to art and [designate a classroom] for organized storage. We will gather more information before proceeding.

Lenten Service Project report presented by Mary Schweder. There were more people serving in and for the church compared to serving outside the church.

Finalized Job Description for Director of Family Life. Discussed and approved job description.

Bathroom Remodel presented by Jill Bentler. The contractor who gave us a quote in the fall is willing to do the work for the same bid. We don't yet have all the money we would need to cover the cost with some buffer. Discussed pros and cons of remodeling to have new toilet area versus working with what we already have. Advantages would include more than one toilet available during Sunday School time in the Sunday School area, and also having a toilet available to groups that rent our room space which doesn't require them to first enter the fellowship hall area. Suggested having the building committee team look more into bids/options, and would seek/welcome input from others.

Staff Advisory Teams presented by Mary Schweder. Following the idea of having council liaisons involved with the many ministries at Faith, which seemed difficult to implement well, there was a new idea to try to meet some of the same needs by providing an advisory team for each staff member. Teams would consist of 3-5 individuals from the congregation and 1-2 council people. The goal is to share excitement, plan, problem solve, and collaborate to help the staff. Staff would decide how/how much to use the advisory team. Motion to adopt advisory teams was approved.

Solar Update and FLC energy consumption presented by Elaine Lund. Our solar system is working. Elaine volunteered to help with facilities to help monitor energy use. It was suggested to maybe make a binder in the office with energy statements so that they're easy to find/reference. We want to make a monthly payment (or at least set money aside monthly) toward our true-up. Brainstormed ways to help keep our heat from escaping buildings.

We wondered if the ladies who make quilts could make insulated window coverings, or if we could run fans to circulate air in the sanctuary when we are running the heater to move the hot air from up high.

We will discuss chapter 7 of **Rich Church, Poor Church**, at the next meeting.

Discussion of options to deal with failing heater part of the HVAC that serves rooms 5-8. Compared the choices to replace just furnace, for \$8k, or replace whole system for \$15k. The problem with repair is that part of it is still old and that the two systems are different (would that mean problems down the road?) We will look into it more.

Spring Clean Up coming up March 23rd.

March Council Meeting Date will be March 19.

Closing prayer and adjournment.



ANSWERS TO PAGE 19'S GUESSING GAME

IF YOU HAVEN'T TRIED TO MAKE A GUESS, POP OVER TO PAGE 19 AND GIVE IT A GO BEFORE YOU TURN THIS PAGE UPSIDE DOWN TO FIND THE ANSWERS!

#1 CAROL GRANDY | #2 DAVE BARNUM | #3 WESLEY LAVIN



FINANCIAL REPORT

MARK KIMMELSHUE, COUNCIL TREASURER

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 1/31/24

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$360,693.45	\$339,544.90	94.14%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$319,372.67	\$300,184.72	93.99%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$41,320.78	\$39,360.18	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2023		\$25,381.31	
Net Revenue through 1/31/24		\$39,360.18	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$64,741.49	

The General fund continues to maintain a good balance, due to large giving in December and January. Continued strong giving is needed and encouraged as we move through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com



Roses



Elise Gladu for organizing Gardening Games at the Jesus Center Farm on her property.

Bobby Jo Valentine for playing and singing for us both at worship and for putting on a concert.

Linda and Scott Rice for hosting the young adult Sportsball Party.

The Stafford family and Candy Munson, who both have new grandbabies!

Each of the organizations who came and and/or provided volunteer info for the Lenten Service Project. And of course for the Equipping Ministry with a special thank you to Steve Hall for organizing this project.

All those who subbed for Sunday School and for the office while Dani and Michael had time away.

On Sunday, February 11th, the Quilters had their annual Valentine's bake sale and boutique. The Quilters host a few of these holiday-themed events a year in order to raise money for two amazing causes: the first is to purchase paratransit tickets that help folks who cannot drive get to church. The second is to fund a Faith Lutheran Church scholarship for graduating, high school seniors who are about to attend trade school, junior college, university, or any form of higher or continuing education. Congratulations to the Quilters for raising a grand total of \$1,083!



USING THE CLUES BELOW, CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHO THESE THREE MYSTERY PARISHIONERS ARE?



This retired elementary school teacher loves colorful clothing. They are known for giving away cinnamon rolls, helping prep for worship on Wednesdays, and their avid participation in Blessing of the Backpacks.

This Niners and Giants fan attends games (and plays golf) with their spouse. They are a sacristan, communion server, and also serve at coffee hour. They recently started volunteering for project S.A.V.E. with Ron Heath.



This dapper dude is interested in machines, and has a favorite pair of sandals. They enjoy going to church with mom and dad, especially when they get to see uncle Ben!

ANSWERS ON PAGE 16!

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STAFF & COUNCIL

Pastor Ben Colahan | Office Mgr. Michael N-D | Dir. Worship & Music Luke Nicolay | Dir. Family Life Dani Vogel | Bookkeeper Jeanette Joslyn | Financial Secretary Lynette Stensrud | President Jill Bentler | VP Steve Hall | Treasurer Mark Kimmelshue | Secretary Alyssa Manes | Council Members at Large: 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

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