

The Official Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church of Chico, CA



June 2025

FAITH TALKS

Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Contents

- 3. Letter from the President
- 4. Greatest Gift Project: P.A.T.H.
- 5. Pastor's Article: Pentecost:
The Gift of Language Ever Changing
- 7. Directory Update
- 8. Ongoing Events
- 10. Special Events
- 12. Letter from Bishop Jeff
Johnson, Sierra Pacific Synod
- 13. Financial Report
- 14. Council Minutes
- 15. Roses (Thank Yous)



About the Cover

You are looking at a triptych - - a medium in which three panels are hinged together and meant to be opened for display. This particular triptych features the Pentecost, and is located at Janskerk (St. John's church), Belgium.



Letter from the President

Jill Bentler, Outgoing Council President

I am writing this as I am still basking in the glow of our annual meeting celebration - and what a celebration it was! We have so much to be grateful for over the past year and so much to look forward to in the year(s) to come!

The annual meeting is a signal that our fiscal year is coming to a close and a new one will begin. Along with that change also comes the change of council. Five council members are remaining (Mark Kimmelshue, Elise Gladu, Candy Munson, Kathleen Pappani, and Dawn Stafford) and I thank them for their continued service to our congregation. They will be joined by four new council members: Faye Johnson, Chris Brown, Kate Ory, and Cheri Sandberg. I believe they will create a very strong and dynamic body that will serve our congregation well! Retiring from the council this year are Mary Schweder, Leanne Chrisman, Elaine Lund, Alyssa Manes, Steve Hall and myself. Thank you to all of you for your boundless enthusiasm and desire to make Faith Lutheran the best it can be!

Being the Faith Lutheran Council President has been a huge blessing, one I had no expectation of when I said yes to taking it on. Three days before the annual meeting two years ago I unexpectedly lost my mom. It was a terrible blow and I was still in shock at that meeting. This congregation rallied around me and supported me so lovingly and I am so grateful to you for that. Being president grounded me and gave me something meaningful to do as I worked through my grief. Your cards, hugs, messages and love have sustained me and reminded me that I have family here at Faith too.

"So what's next?" "Are you just going to relax?" "You're going to have so much free time!" These are the questions and statements I've been hearing lately. My idea of relaxing is working in the yard so yes, I'll definitely do a lot of that! Rick and I also have plans to spend a lot of time at our cabin this summer. But the most important question is, "What's next?" I don't know the answer to that yet but I'm thinking on it! There are so many wonderful opportunities to serve at Faith, especially as we work on adding a second service and plan for more small groups. I am eager to see where I fit in next and looking forward to being a part of something else meaningful at Faith. Most importantly, I am looking forward to being with all of you as we grow together in Faith.

The Greatest Gift Project: P.A.T.H.

4



For the month of June, “The Greatest Gift Project” will be collecting goods to benefit the Chico State PATH Scholars Program. This is a program that supports the educational goals of current and former foster youth, as well as unaccompanied homeless youth. **PATH** is an acronym for **P**romoting **A**chievement **T**hrough **H**ope. Staff provide personalized financial aid services, counseling, advising, and tutoring services, and connect students with resources on campus and in the community (<https://www.csuchico.edu/fosteryouth/>).

MISSION:

As part of Faith Lutheran’s “The Greatest Gift Project”, we are collecting items to support the PATH Scholars Welcome Basket Program.

We both invite and encourage our Faith Lutheran family to pick one or more of the following items and bring them to worship to be placed at the manger located in front of the Worship Center just beneath the altar starting Sunday June 1st and continuing through the month of June.

- Cleaning supplies (disinfecting wipes, laundry soap, dish soap, sponges, scrub brushes, etc)
- Hygiene products (toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, body wash, feminine hygiene, etc)
- Towels, linens, pillows, blankets
- School Supplies
- Gift Cards (Target, Walmart, gas, groceries, eateries near campus)

WHY IT MATTERS:

Each fall and spring new students arrive to Chico State and move into either apartments or the residence halls. Without family support and adequate financial resources, these students often find it difficult to buy items they need to stock new residences from scratch. A small gift like this welcome basket shows these students that we care about them.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- You can help by adding a few of the above items when you are doing your regular shopping and bringing them to church on Sunday morning or during the week.
- Spread the word to family, friends and neighbors and invite them to share in the giving community that we know Faith Lutheran is.

Every donation, big or small, helps uplift and support current and former foster youth, as well as unaccompanied homeless youth at Chico State



Pentecost: The Gift of Language Ever Changing

by Pr. Ben Colahan

Verily, 'tis true that the generations ago bespoke a tongue noisome to the ears of modern men. Cool peeps nowadays DM in a whole new lit language to flex their rizz.* Language changes.

Peeps: Short for "people." | DM: Direct Message, like a text. | Lit: Exciting, awesome. | Flex: to show off. | Rizz: short for "charisma." (Cool people nowadays speak in a whole new interesting language to show off their linguistic skills.)

In June, we celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to proclaim the gospel in various languages to people gathered from all over the world so that "each one heard them speaking in the native language of each" (Acts 2:6). Language may change, but the good news of Jesus Christ never does. Yet in every nation and every generation, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to proclaim that good news in a way that people can understand.

In 1611, The King James Version (KJV) of the Bible gave the English language the scriptures in a language that the common person could understand. In 1952, the National Council of Churches, a council of 37 denominations in the United States, recognized that the English language had changed to such an extent that the KJV was no longer accessible to many English speakers. To that end, the National Council of Churches commissioned the Society of Biblical Literature, the oldest and largest learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible, to develop a new translation for the English-speaking world. This new translation was called the Revised Standard Version (RSV). The RSV became the standard translation for the Bible used in academic settings as well as in most mainline denominations.

In 1989, this translation was further revised to form the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), which we use in our worship today. In its explanation for the update in 1989, the preface to the NRSV states, "in the tradition of the King James Bible, [we are introducing] such changes as are warranted on the basis of accuracy, clarity, euphony, and current English usage, . . . as literal as possible, as free as necessary." It also stated the Bible's message "must not be disguised in phrases that are no longer clear or hidden under words that have changed or lost their meaning; it must be presented in language that is direct and plain and meaningful to people today."

At the end of June, we will be hearing in worship a new translation of scripture in the tradition of the RSV and the NRSV. This new translation is called the New Revised Standard

Version Updated Edition (NRSVue). It reflects both advances in Biblical scholarship and a recognition of changing language.

Between 1947 and 1956, hundreds of well-preserved Jewish religious texts from around the time of Jesus were found in caves near the Dead Sea. These are known as the Dead Sea scrolls. Over the last 75 years, scholars have slowly been translating these texts. As they do so, scholars gain a more precise understanding of what specific words meant during Jesus' lifetime. For instance, in the Christmas story according to Matthew, the NRSVue now uses the term "magi" instead of "wise men." This reflects that Greek actually uses the term magi, a category of person who studied the stars and searched for esoteric knowledge. It also reflects an understanding that ancient Greek, like modern Spanish, will describe an entire group of people as male if at least one person in the group is male. By using the word "magi," the NRSVue leaves open the possibility that some of the people who brought Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh were women.

In the last decades Scholars have also found more copies of ancient Biblical texts. This is important, because ancient books of the Bible were copied by hand. Occasionally, there are slight differences between copies. The more and older copies that scholars find, the more confident they can be in which differences were a result of scribes making mistakes or later additions. It is important to note that the vast majority of these differences make no difference to the message of Jesus or our theology. However, because every word of scripture is precious, the NRSV and the NRSVue both list major differences in ancient manuscripts in their footnotes. One of the changes that you may run across in the NRSVue vs. the NRSV is what difference is included in the main translation versus the footnote. For instance, on May 18th, we read from the NRSV Rev. 21:3, which concludes "God himself will be with them." The NRSV contains a footnote stating that some ancient manuscripts also add to the end of the verse, "and be their God." In the NRSVue the main translation concludes Rev. 21:3 by stating, "God himself will be with them and be their God." It then has a footnote that informs readers that some ancient manuscripts lack "and be their God."

The NRSVue also reflects changes in how we speak of people. One of the main changes is in using people-first language. This means emphasizing that an individual is a person before whatever adjective is used to describe them. For instance, the NRSVue changes "slave woman" to "enslaved woman" (Galatians) and "demoniacs, epileptics and paralytics" to "people possessed by demons or having epilepsy or afflicted with paralysis" (Gospel of Matthew).

While these changes are helpful, I want to stress that there is nothing wrong with the NRSV. I do not plan to run out and replace all my bibles with the updated edition. However, if you use the Bible App, or read the bible online, you will be forced to change to the NRSVue. This is because the National Council of Churches is requiring all users of the digital copyright of the NRSV to change to the NRSVue. We will follow suit and, at the end of June, you will hear

the NRSVue on Sunday mornings. For your personal study, I encourage you to use a variety of translations. For your personal devotion, pick a translation that speaks to you. The Holy Spirit is present in every translation today, just as the Holy Spirit was present in every language on the day of Pentecost.

Speaking of language constantly changing and acronyms increasing, I encourage you to come to the workshop that will be held after worship on June 1st. It will be a presentation put on by the Stonewall Alliance in preparation for our annual outreach at Chico's Pride event. It is specifically designed to help give you language to better understand, welcome, and love the LGBTQIA2S+ community. The Holy Spirit will be there, too.

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Ben Colahan

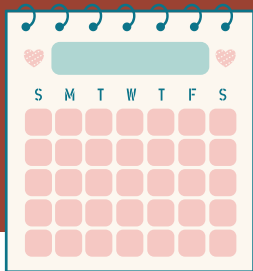


DIRECTORY STATUS

The very last day in which to turn in photos and update your contact info is Friday, June 13. Changes cannot be made after that date.

**If you have questions, please call Michael at the office,
(530) 895-3754 or email him at
FaithLutheranInChico@gmail.com**

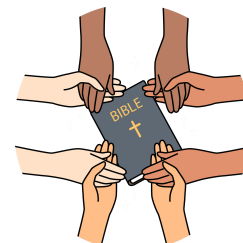




Ongoing Events

MONDAY PM BIBLE STUDY | 1ST & 3RD MONDAYS, 5:30 PM, ROOM 7

Grow in faith, and use Martin Luther's techniques for reading scripture to ask the questions that matter most. Childcare can be available if arrangements are made with Director of Children and Youth Joshua Edwards ahead of time.

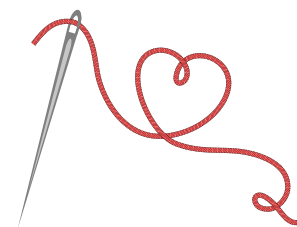


TIME OUT FOR ART | MONDAYS, 1-4PM, ROOM 6

Bring an art project of your choosing, or, delight in a group project. We start with a devotion, and spend the next hours creating together.

QUILTERS | TUESDAYS FROM 10AM-3PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Anyone and everyone with a knack for craft and creation is welcome to come to the church on Tuesday mornings and join our quilting group for a lively blend of fellowship and projects that serve the community.

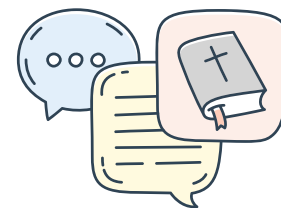


CENTERING PRAYER | TUESDAYS, 4-5PM ONLINE

Centering Prayer reads the Gospel for this coming Sunday. This practice helps one to more fully engage times of worship each week. It also invites anyone who comes to be renewed in faith.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY | TUESDAYS, 5-6PM ONLINE

How does the pastor go from the Bible passages assigned each week to the Sunday morning sermon? Come find out and be a part of the process! Study the upcoming Sunday's Bible passages with Pastor Ben. We will talk a little about history and context, then focus on using Martin Luther's techniques for understanding how the bible addresses the needs and concerns of our community today.



SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP | WEDNESDAYS AT 9AM, ONLINE

The Spanish-Speaking Group is perfect for those learning the language and those who are already fluent. Discuss upcoming scriptures, enjoy group conversation, and broaden your Spanish conversational skills. This group meets online on Wednesdays from 9-10 AM.



THU. MORNING BIBLE STUDY | 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS, 10AM, ROOM 7

Join us for a peaceful and uplifting Bible Study every other Thursday at 10am in Room 7. Together, we will reflect on God's Word, share in fellowship, and find inspiration for our daily lives.



GRIEF SHARE | THURSDAYS 2-4PM, ROOM 7

Grieving is normal and natural – it is not a sign of weakness or a lack of faith. Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? If so, we invite you to join our GriefShare group. GriefShare is a Christ centered support group that is a safe and welcoming place to help adults who are grieving the loss of a family member or friend.



CONTEMPORARY MUSIC PRACTICE | THURSDAYS 5:30 PM

Contemporary Musicians will continue to meet throughout the summer on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir and Sanctuary Choir are on summer hiatus and will resume in August.



FOOD BANK | 1ST & 3RD FRIDAYS FROM 3-5PM, PARKING LOT

Food for all, no documentation requires. Please bring sturdy bags if possible. We share a parking lot with Mangrove Medical Center, so please do not come early; we need to leave space for patient parking.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS | 2ND SUNDAY OF MONTH, 5PM, ROOM 6

Calling all adventurers! Join Malinda Ard and Kate Ory for 5e D&D on the third Sundays of the month. Each session is a one-shot, meaning the story is completed start to finish that night. Please RSVP in advance!



Special Events

SENDOFF FOR TRISH AND RON

Sunday, June 1st during Worship

Tricia Homesley and Ron Heath are moving to Texas. To give thanks for their years of sharing our walk in Christ at Faith, we will give them a Farewell and Godspeed Blessing on Sunday June 1st.



LGBTQ+ EDUCATION WORKSHOP SUN. JUNE 1, 11AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

In an open learning environment, come curious and compassionate to a Stonewall training at Faith Lutheran Church. Ever wondered what all those LGBTQIA2S+ letters stand for? Is there an LGBTQ+ person in your life who you'd like to better understand? Join Stonewall's Education

Coordinator, Shelby (she/her) to explore gender identity and sexuality so we can together grow our capacity to be better neighbors. This workshop will take place in the Fellowship Hall on June 1st, the first day of pride month, at 11:00 a.m. Make sure to grab some sweet treats and coffee from the coffee cart on your way in!

DONATE COLORFUL TREATS!

If you have some tasty sweet treats you'd like to bake, buy, and donate, we would love them! If you have a key to church, you can drop them off in the kitchen on Saturday, or you can bring them the morning of Sunday, June 1st to the kitchen. Jill and Rick Bentler will put them out on the coffee cart after worship.

WEAR BRIGHT COLORS!

We invite you to come to church wearing your favorite colors, color combinations, rainbows, glitter, sparkles, or whatever makes you feel bright and shiny.



REMINDER: SOME STAFF AND PARISHIONERS WILL BE AT RANCHO SANTA MARTA

Sat. June 7 - Sat. June 14

Pr. Ben, Joshua Edwards, and a handful of other parishioners will be in Baja, Mexico during this time, helping to build buildings for a school/orphanage.

VOLUNTEER WITH FAITH AT THE



**DOWNTOWN
FESTIVAL
JUNE 7TH, 2025**

Crafts, Community, and Alliance

Sign up using the link or by calling the office!

DOWNTOWN PRIDE FESTIVAL ~ Helpers Wanted!

Sat. June 7 from 11am-4pm

In ministry to our neighbors, Faith Lutheran Church will have a booth at Stonewall Alliance's downtown pride festival on Saturday, June 7th, 2025. We invite Faith Lutheran members to be at that booth with us, helping with crafts, conversation, and simply being supportive. No planning is needed: we have purchased lots and lots of hand fans, and kids and grownups

alike can sit at our booth and decorate a fan...or, take a pre-made one! Help setting up and tearing down is welcome, and the registration form allows you to sign up for either. If you'd like to donate hand fans, we'd love that! You can donate fans with different colors and patterns, or plain white ones for decorating. We are asking folks to take on about an hour at a time, although we appreciate more or less time - all time shared at our booth is welcome! You can register for a shift by registering via the E-blast or by calling the office. If you have any questions, please let Michael, office manager know by emailing him at FaithLutheranInChico@gmail.com or by calling the office at (530) 895-3754.

LYNETTE STENSRUD PREACHING FOR PENTECOST

Sunday, June 8th

We are blessed to have our financial secretary and long-time Faith member, Lynette Stensrud, preaching for us on June 8th while Pastor Ben is serving at Rancho Santa Marta. This is Pentecost Sunday; we encourage you to wear red for the fire of the Holy Spirit.



STAFF AWAY TIME FOR JUNE

Pr. Ben will be in Rancho Santa Marta from Saturday, June 7-14; he will be on vacation from Monday, June 23-Sunday, June 29 and will return Monday the 30th. **Michael, office manager**, will be on vacation from Saturday, June 14-Sunday, June 22 and will return Monday the 23rd. **Luke Nicolay** will be on vacation from Monday, June 16 - Thursday, June 26.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH - Thursday, June 19th

In observation of Juneteenth, the office will be closed on Thursday the 19th and will reopen on Friday the 20th.



REV. TED SANDBERG PREACHING

Sunday, June 8th

We are blessed to have our basist and retired baptist minister, Ted Sandberg, preaching for us on June 29th while Pastor Ben is visiting friends and family in Oregon.

Letter from Bishop Jeff Johnson

Sierra Pacific Synod



Sierra Pacific Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Office of the Bishop

May 13, 2025



Dear Pastor Ben Colahan and the People of Faith Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ!

On behalf of all who participated in our first in-person Regional Assembly this past weekend, I want to offer my deepest thanks for the extraordinary hospitality you extended. From the moment we arrived, we were met with warmth, energy, and a spirit of welcome that made the entire gathering a joy.

Your beautiful facility was the perfect setting for worship, workshops, and conversation. The sanctuary was inspiring and grounding, the workshop spaces comfortable and well-appointed, and the technology support seamless—truly everything we could have hoped for. The music lifted our hearts, and the entire event flowed with grace thanks to the care and coordination of your team.

Please extend my gratitude to Michael, Luke, Erika, Mary, Judy, and all the volunteers whose behind-the-scenes work together with the Bishop's team and the Conference Deans made everything run so smoothly. Their joyful service was a ministry in itself.

I was especially moved by the video introducing your Parking Lot Food Pantry—what a powerful witness to your ongoing commitment to community. It's clear that Faith Lutheran is a congregation alive with purpose and compassion, and I am deeply touched that you found the time and energy to open your hearts and your space to your siblings in the synod.

You are living witnesses to the way of collaboration and generosity that defines our shared calling. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

With gratitude and blessing,

+Jeff

The Rev. Jeff R. Johnson, (he/him/his)
Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
bishopjeff@spselca.org | 510-559-2777





Financial Report

by Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 4/30/2025

	Budget	Actual	Percent
	To Date	To Date	Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$492,398.15	\$450,708.27	91.53%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$491,931.13	\$423,478.88	86.08%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$467.02	\$27,229.39	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2024		\$16,135.61	
Net Revenue through 4/30/25		\$27,229.39	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$43,365.00	

April was a good income month increasing net income to \$27,229.39. This will help us move through the Summer months in which historically giving slows a little bit. Thanks for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com



Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Council Minutes

by Alyssa Manes, Council Secretary

Members present: Pastor Ben Colahan, Jill Bentler, Steve Hall, Mark Kimmelshue, Alyssa Manes, Elaine Lund, Leanne Chrisman, Mary Schweder, Elise Gladu, Candy Munson; Upcoming council members present: Faye Johnson, Cheri Sandberg, Kate Ory. **Members absent:** Kathleen Pappani.

Call to Order, Reading of the Covenant, Welcome

Devotions and prayer led by Leanne Chrisman. Reflections on how prevalent unkind/unhelpful comments are in social media, as pointed out by Ecclesiastes 7:9 "anger resides in the lap of fools." Leanne attended a Civil Discourse training which she found really enlightening and helpful. Challenge: pause before voicing your opinion. Colossians 3:12-14 a call to clothe ourselves with kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and above all love.

April 2025 minutes were approved

Financial Report presented by Mark Kimmelshue. April was a really good month and we are grateful. Financial report approved.

Staff Reports presented by Pastor Ben. Memorial Day is coming up and Don Heinz will preach.

Old Business: None to discuss.

New Business: The HVAC unit for rooms 5-8 was not working during Synod Assembly May 10. We thought we'd have to replace the whole unit but we were able to replace a broken part instead. Annual Meeting Reflections were shared. Discussed our appreciation for all the things that went well and brainstormed ideas to help next year be better. Council retreat planning will be coming up. Safe Church Notes presented by Leanne Chrisman: We applied for a safe church grant. We didn't get the grant but were able to identify some safety needs and how we could address them.

Put it in the Plate: Pride booth coming up June 7th. Still looking for team leaders for Torres Shelter meals (first Tuesday of the month; Elise has recipes and the Torres Shelter allows food prep in their kitchen and will do the cleanup). Rally Day – this year is the 75th anniversary of Faith Lutheran. Brainstormed options for Rally Day.

Action Items: none, Closing prayer and adjournment.



Roses



Dottie Erhardt for sharing about her stations of the cross.

Sandy Wright for her leadership in music, Candy Munson for preaching and hosting her art class, and Bill Kees for presiding.

Marge Troester and Karen Avis for hosting the tostada luncheon for Rancho Santa Marta.

Jerry Sherrill for facilitating Sunday School and for trimming tree branches.

The staff at the Sierra Pacific Synod, Dean Janet, Faith Lutheran volunteers, and leaders from all 30+ visiting congregations who made synod assembly happen right here at Faith Lutheran.

The Tuesday Quilters for hosting their Bake Sale and Boutique which raised \$1,059 for student scholarships, and another thank you to all who supported that ministry!

Leanne Chrisman, Karen Kimmelshue, and Janine Rush in their help and organization of the Memorial Day observation.

All who helped with the congregational annual meeting including article authors, the council for making breakfast, Elaine Lund for hosting the door prizes and all those who donated incredible items, and every last setter-upper and tearer-downer.

Those who helped with and provided lunch for Darlene Hollmann's funeral.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to the Ecumenical Soup Suppers and Worship this year! Collectively we raised \$904 for World Relief. Founded in the aftermath of World War II, World Relief is a global Christian humanitarian organization that partners with local churches and communities to develop sustainable, locally-driven solutions to some of our world's most urgent problems. Thank you for your generosity.

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STAFF & COUNCIL

Pastor Ben Colahan | Office Mgr. Michael Nicholson | Dir. Worship & Music
Luke Nicolay | Dir. Youth & Children's Ministries Josh Edwards | Bookkeeper
Jeanette Joslyn | Financial Secretary Lynette Stensrud | President Jill Bentler
VP Steve Hall | Treasurer Mark Kimmelshue | Secretary Alyssa Manes
Council Members at Large: Elaine Lund, Mary Schweder, Leanne Chrisman,
Elise Gladu, Candy Munson, Kathleen Pappani, Dawn Stafford

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

