

The Official Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church of Chico, CA



May 2025

FAITH TALKS

Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Congregational Annual Meeting May 18th @ 11 a.m.

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About the Cover

The New Jerusalem is described in the Book of Revelation as a holy city coming down from heaven, prepared by God as a dwelling place for God's people. It symbolizes the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise — an eternal home of peace, beauty, and righteousness where God lives among them. This vision offers hope and assurance of a future free from sorrow and death.

Invitation to Join the

Equipping Ministry

by Dottie Erhardt, Equipper



The Equipping Ministry at FLC caringly facilitates the invitation to all members into active ministry so that each person may feel empowered to go out into the world and serve using their passions and unique gifts.

At our monthly, hour-long meetings, we discuss ways to connect those who attend worship to the broader church and Chico community. Each of us has God-given gifts and passions. We want you to have the opportunity to make connections with those gifts through service and fellowship. This is why we host Rally Day, our ministry showcase, and provide information about our ministries at the Welcome Table.

Being part of the Equipping Team the past few years has been a joyful experience. I have felt the enthusiasm of the team as we brainstorm and plan together. Our meetings remind me of a steaming pot of vegetables loaded with spices – the aroma filling the air. Ideas tossed in freely. Stirred with a ladle of love. Aaaah! It is good!

Be a part of helping others explore the different ministries of Faith. We invite you to join our meeting on the 4th Tuesdays of the month. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 27 at 5:15 p.m. Find out more about this opportunity to serve. Please come and be a part of the Equipping Team for an evening and learn more!

~Dottie Erhardt for The Equipping Ministry Team

The Greatest Gift Project:



Sky Sample (with son Darby, spouse Oscar)

MacKenzie Wilson

Christian Leech (with daughter MacKenzie)

For the month of May, the Special Olympics of Butte County will be our "The Greatest Gift Project".

Mission: Special Olympics Butte County, SOBC (parent company Special Olympics Northern California) is a volunteer organization providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with disabilities. This gives athletes opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in sharing of skills and friendships. The vision is to provide sports training programs and athletic competition for all athletes within the county. Special Olympics athletes have a variety of sports they can choose from in Butte County such as basketball, swimming, bocce ball, track & field, softball, golf, and bowling.

Why it Matters: Most of the equipment and uniform needs are already met by SOBC. When the athletes compete in regional tournaments, volunteers purchase healthy snacks and drinks for day-long tournaments and weekend-long summer games. This is something we can help with. The competitions take place out of town, last all day and only lunch is provided. With physical activity and warm temperatures, the athletes need healthy snacks and drinks to get them through the day.

How Can You make a Difference: You can help by picking up a few items from the list below on your usual shopping trips. Bring them by our church on Sunday morning or during the week.

The beauty of this campaign is, *a little is a lot!* Picking up a few items at your convenience will not overwhelm you from donating to the campaign the month to follow.

Chips Variety 1 oz. Bags

Gatorade 12 oz. Regular or Zero – NO RED

Goldfish Crackers

Soft Granola Bars – NO NUTS

Nature's Bakery Fig (blueberry, raspberry, etc.)

Nutri Grain Bars

Waters

(All items need to be individually wrapped; no perishable items please!)



Pastor's Article

by Pr. Ben Colahan

Throughout the season of Lent, we explored what it meant to be in search of a promised land. This Easter season, we'll consider what a promised land actually looks like for Christians. For followers of Jesus, the promised land is not a place in the middle east, but a shared reality lived in Jesus.

The most complete depiction of our final destination in Christ comes from the Book of Revelation. Revelation is a book that many people approach with trepidation. It is filled with images of destruction. But ultimately, Revelation is a book that promises the victory of love. Revelation was written as a letter of hope to early Christian congregations experiencing persecution under the Roman Empire. When the world order is aligned against you, the world falling apart sounds like good news. But Revelation isn't just about the end of the world as we know it; Revelation is the promise of the new world that the Holy Spirit will usher in: the City of God.

Each Sunday in Easter, we will read a portion from the Book of Revelation. Most of our readings will focus not on the old world ending, but on the City of God that Christ brings. It is a city full of people of every tribe and every tongue. It is a city with a wall, but whose gates are never closed. It is a city without a temple, for the Lamb of God is present for all to worship directly. It is a city with a river on whose banks the Tree of Life sprouts leaves for the healing of the nations. This is our promised land.

Throughout the season of Easter, we remember our unity with followers of Jesus in every nation by proclaiming the words of the Nicene Creed. When Roman Emperor Constantine became a Christian, we wanted the tenants of his new faith clarified. In the year 325, Constantine invited bishops from across the known world to gather in the city of Nicaea, in present-day Turkey. The bishops developed the Nicene Creed, a statement of faith to which nearly every major Christian tradition adheres. This year marks the 1,700-year anniversary of the Nicene Creed.



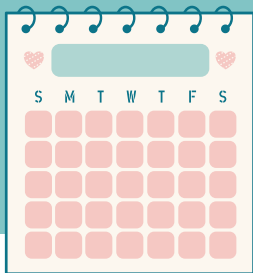
Yet sin is always present in the church. Christians have managed to turn this great unifying statement of faith into a source of division. In the year 1014, Latin speaking Christians in Rome added one Latin word to the Nicene Creed, filioque, which in English means "and the Son." This change can be seen in the italicized words of this sentence from the creed: "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son."

This addition was done to emphasize that God the Father and God the Son share the same being through which the Holy Spirit flows. However, Greek speaking Orthodox Christians took this to mean that the Roman church believed God the Son caused the Holy Spirit. This disagreement was partly an issue of translation between Latin and Greek. However, this disagreement also became about who had the ability to determine the faith of all Christians: ecumenical councils in which all bishops from around the world gathered or the pope? On top of this, cultural and political differences between Latin speaking and Greek speaking Christians began to pile up, resulting in the Great Schism of 1054 in which Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy formally denounced each other and split. This break in the church has still not been restored.

As a reforming movement that started within the Roman Catholic Church, Lutherans inherited the practice of including the filioque, the additional words "and the Son" in the Nicene Creed. However, this past summer, representatives of the Lutheran World Federation met with representatives of the Orthodox Church. The Lutheran World Federation acknowledged that the words, "and the Son" were a later addition to the Nicene Creed. Furthermore, the Lutheran World Federation has asked Lutheran congregations to cease including those words in the creed. Though ending the use of the filioque will not instantly result in unity with our Orthodox Christian siblings, it is an act of good faith to show that we as Lutherans yearn for Christian unity.

This Easter season, when we say the Nicene Creed, notice that we now say, "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father." Though this may seem a small thing, it seeks to heal a great wound in the Body of Christ. May it be one of many steps we take to live into that promised land of the City of God where the multitudes of every nation worship together at the feet of the Lamb.

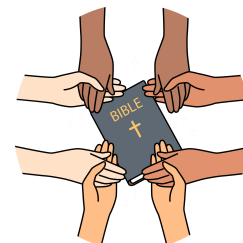
Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan



Ongoing Events

MONDAY PM BIBLE STUDY | EVERY OTHER MON, 5:30 PM, ROOM 7

April 7th and 21st, grow in faith, and use Martin Luther's techniques for reading scripture to ask the questions that matter most to them. Childcare can be available if arrangements are made with Director of Children and Youth Joshua Edwards ahead of time.

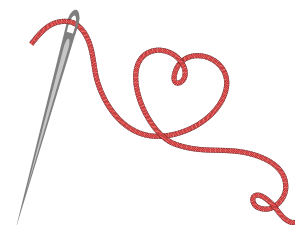


TIME OUT FOR ART | MONDAYS, 1-4PM, ROOM 6

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.

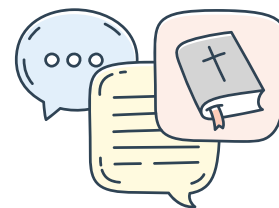


CENTERING PRAYER | TUESDAYS, 4-5PM ONLINE

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 | TUESDAYS 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.



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 | 3RD 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!



Handbell Practice
Wed's @ 4:00 PM



Choir Practice
Thu's @ 5:45 PM



Contemporary Practice
Thu's @ 7:15 PM



Special Events



CANDY MUNSON PREACHING MAY 4

We are blessed to spend Sunday, May 4th with Candy Munson. She will preach for us, and Bill Kees will preside.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY, SAT. MAY 10, 9am-3:30pm

For those who registered to attend Synod Assembly, we remind you that Faith Lutheran Church will be hosting the regional on-site Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly here at Faith Lutheran on Saturday, May 10th.



MOTHERS DAY BAKE SALE & BOUTIQUE SUN. MAY 11 at 11AM

Join the Quilters for their annual Mother's Day Boutique and Bake Sale! This event will take place on Sunday, May 11th after worship in the fellowship hall. Money raised provides scholarships for graduating high school seniors and those entering college/trade school, as well as paratransit tickets that help people get to church.

SERVICE FOR DARLENE HOLLMANN SAT. MAY 17 at 11AM

Darlene's service will take place on Saturday, May 17th at 11AM with a reception to follow. Helping hands and hearts are welcome in serving refreshments after the service. If you're interested in joining our team of those who provide funeral lunches, let us know and we'll connect you.



MEMORIAL DAY, SUN. MAY 25

On Sunday, May 25th, join us for a special prayer, and treats during coffee hour in memory of those who have given their lives in service to our country.

Congregational Annual Meeting



On May 18th, we will have our annual congregational meeting. This gathering of all the congregation members is the highest decision-making body within Faith Lutheran. It is a time to look back and celebrate all that we have accomplished in the past year. It is also a time to lay out our vision for the coming years and to vote on decisions that are necessary to accomplish that vision. Those decisions usually involve deciding on who will serve in the congregational council and determining the operating budget for the coming year. This year, we will have an additional decision to ask the congregation: whether to embark on a capital campaign.

Faith Lutheran had its first worship service in 1950 and finished building the first sanctuary in 1952. 35 years later, Faith began to plan a new sanctuary. The building we have now was finished in 1990. That was 35 years ago. Our building does incredible ministry. The sanctuary holds worship and public concerts. The fellowship hall provides space for community meals and shelter. The classrooms host Sunday school, support groups, and scouts. Even the parking lot is the site of a food bank.

After 35 years of serving others, our facilities need to be serviced. The roofs of all three buildings need to be replaced. Multiple HVAC units, also 35 years old, are on their last legs. The pillars that hold up the breezeway in front of the offices are crumbling. The fellowship carpet shows evidence of every event from the past 35 years and the appliances in the kitchen are making death rattles.

At the annual meeting we will talk about these and more needs and introduce a team who has agreed to organize the capital campaign. We are still getting bids on the various projects needed, so while we don't have an exact dollar amount yet, we expect the total cost will be several hundreds of thousands. The goal will be to raise that amount over a three year period. However, some needs, like the roof and the HVAC units, likely can't wait three more years.

To that end, the council will propose seeking a line of credit known as a construction loan. In a construction loan, while we would be approved for a large amount of money, we would only withdraw the amount we need for each specific construction project when we are ready for that project. This means that we would only pay interest on the specific amount that we withdraw for the specific project.

For instance, the council will ask the congregation to approve seeking a \$600,000 construction loan from the Mission Investment Fund, a ministry of our denomination that provides capital for exactly our situation. We would not pay interest on any of that until we use some to replace the roof, which will likely be around \$150,000. Once we use the \$150,000 to pay the roofing contractor, we pay interest only on that \$150,000. If the capital campaign raises the money quickly, we can pay back that amount to the Mission Investment Fund and no longer pay any interest.

We know you will have questions. We encourage you to come both to the Annual Meeting on May 18th after worship, but also to the budget conversations before worship on May 4th and May 11th at 8:30am.

We have received an incredible treasure of a church from the generations that preceded us. Now it's our turn to pass that treasure on to the generations yet to come.

A graphic with a yellow top half and a dark blue bottom half. On the left, the text "BUDGET PREVIEW" is in large white letters, and "8:30 AM SUNDAYS MAY 4 + MAY 11" is in smaller white letters below it. On the right, there is an illustration of a woman in a red top and black skirt standing next to a large clipboard labeled "BUDGET". The clipboard has a checklist with several items, some marked with checkmarks. There are also some gold coins and a small blue bag at the bottom of the illustration.

**BUDGET
PREVIEW**

**8:30 AM SUNDAYS
MAY 4 + MAY 11**

A graphic with a background image of a church interior. Overlaid on the image is the text "CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING" in large white letters, "SUNDAY, MAY 18TH AFTER WORSHIP" in smaller white letters, and "CELEBRATIONS & THANKS VOTE ON UPCOMING BUDGET PLUS BREAKFAST AND DOOR PRIZES" in black letters. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH" featuring a colorful cross and a chalice.

**CONGREGATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING**

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH AFTER WORSHIP

**CELEBRATIONS & THANKS
VOTE ON UPCOMING BUDGET
PLUS BREAKFAST AND DOOR PRIZES**



FINANCIAL REPORT

by Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 3/31/25

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$452,983.94	\$378,992.50	83.67%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$442,738.02	\$373,468.98	84.35%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$10,245.92	\$5,523.52	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2024		\$16,135.61	
Net Revenue through 3/31/25		<u>\$5,523.52</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u><u>\$21,659.13</u></u>	

Shown above, both income and expenses are below budget, which leaves a positive income of \$5,523.52 as of the end of March.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com



Tuesday, April 22, 2025

COUNCIL MINUTES

by Alyssa Manes, Council Secretary

Council Meeting Notes April 22, 2025, Faith Lutheran Conference Room

Members present: Pastor Ben Colahan, Jill Bentler, Steve Hall, Mark Kimmelshue, Alyssa Manes, Elaine Lund, Leanne Chrisman, Elise Gladu, Candy Munson, Dawn Stafford. **Guests present:** Bob Bay. **Members Absent:** Mary Schweder, Kathleen Pappani.

Call to order and reading of the covenant, and welcome

Devotions and prayer: led by Elaine Lund.

Approval of minutes from March: Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes.

Financial report: presented by Mark Kimmelshue. Discussed finances through the end of March.

Staff reports: emailed ahead of time

Facility rekey report/update: we will be getting the campus rekeyed in the next month or so.

Cal OES Grant Update: presented by Leanne Chrisman. Faith Lutheran received a decent score but did not receive a grant at this time.

Capital Campaign Updates: We want to make it a once-in-a-decade ask, and need council approval to expand the scope of the campaign. Motion made, seconded, and approved to expand the scope of the capital campaign project to include, but not be limited to, projects like new kitchen appliances, repairing the columns on the office building wing, upgrading safety features like security cameras and egresses, updating the fellowship hall with things like new flooring and sound dampening.

Discussion led by Mark Kimmelshue to talk about the funding part of the capital campaign. There is an ELCA-connected "Mission Investment Fund" that could give us a construction loan. We would only pay interest on the portion of the money that we're using. We can talk with people about the loan when we talk about the budget in the pre-annual meeting financial meetings that the congregation will be invited to attend. Motion made, seconded, and approved to ask the congregation to approve Faith Lutheran seeking a \$600,000 construction loan through the Mission Investment Fund.

Annual Meeting Planning: Annual meeting is May 18. Elaine helped organize and will recruit council members to help with setup/food prep/food serving/clean-up. We'll have door prizes again.

Proposed 2025-2026 budget: Reviewed and discussed budget draft. Several things will be fine-tuned, corrected or changed before the budget draft put before the congregation. Those changes include making sure current and projected salary for Family Life Director position is accurate, adjusting personnel benefits as needed to match salary, increase in benevolence fund for synod dean travel, increasing synod benevolence to support the synod and ELCA national church, moving the budget for proposed loan interest to a different part of the budget, increasing funding for the Torres shelter, increasing the budget for the equipping ministry. Motion made, seconded, and approved to approve the budget draft with the increases and adjustments as mentioned.

Council Updates: five new members will be joining council: Kate Ory, Faye Johnson, Cheri Sandberg, Karsen Bradley, and Chris Brown. New officers: Dawn Stafford will be president, Elise Gladu will be secretary, and Faye Johnson will be vice president.

Synod Assembly: Saturday, May 10th at Faith Lutheran. Synod voting will be happening June 14th and November 1st. Congregation will need to approve representatives; Dawn and John Stafford are interested.

Put it in the plate and Action items – no further discussion.

Closing prayer and adjournment



Roses



Martha McDermott for teaching her class on how to prevent falling.

MacKenzie Wilson for hosting Alphabet Soup.

Our Lenten Ecumenical Service partners.

Annette Jefferson for organizing soup for Lenten suppers.

Candy Munson for hosting *Welcoming the Stranger*.

Everyone who donated/stuffed Easter eggs.

Everyone who came to/helped with Trunk and Hunt.

Cinnamon roll makers and cinnamon roll buyers who support the Rancho Santa Marta ministry.

Julie Limper for presenting about her pilgrimage.

Jill and Rick Bentler for picking up new folding chairs/tables.

Don Heinz for graciously hosting his class on Walking the Stations.

Kate Ory, Caryl Quinones, and Elise Gladu for hosting prayer journaling.

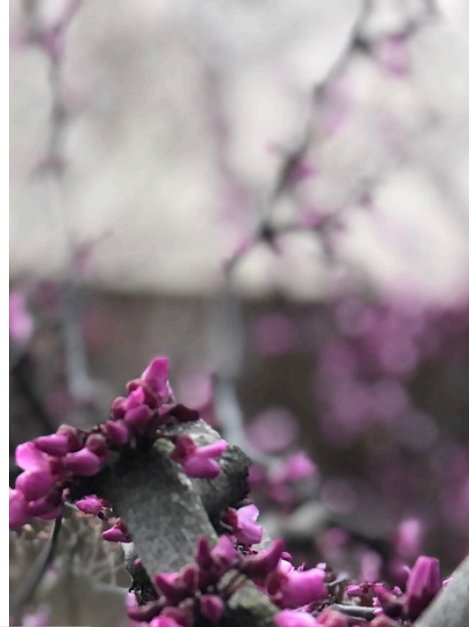
Raquel Krach and Greg Massa for inviting families to visit their lambs.

Marge Troester and Michael Lawrence for hosting the blood drive.

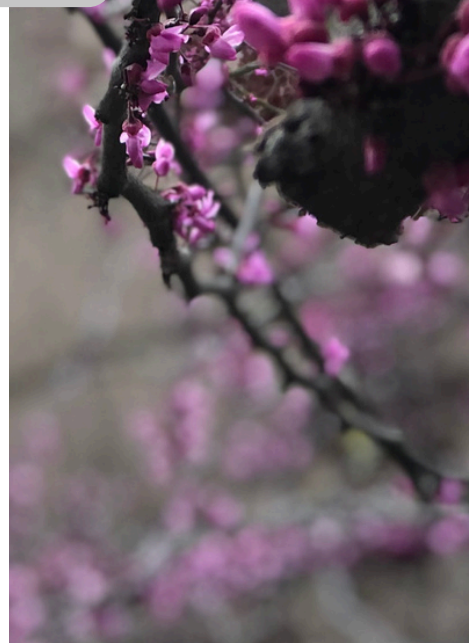
Annette Jefferson for organizing Lenten Soup Suppers.

Jill Bentler, Linda Zimbelman, Chris Brown, and Molly Barnum for weeding the flower beds.

EVERYONE who made Easter possible! From Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services to Easter Trunk and Hunt to Easter Sunday itself, we were all wowed. Well done!



Spring has sprung at Faith Lutheran!



A big thank you to Judy Struck for nurturing God's floral creations right here at church.



Trunk & Hunt Recap

Josh Edwards, Dir. Children & Youth Ministries



Faith Lutheran's Easter Trunk & Hunt was a huge hit! It's not every day you feel like climbing up on the roof to make an announcement, but that's how excited I was about this year's Easter Trunk & Hunt. And it turns out, it was for a good reason! Faith Lutheran hosted one of the biggest Easter events in Chico, and hundreds of people from the community came out to join the fun.

The event came together thanks to amazing volunteers who helped make everything run smoothly. From the moment it started, our parking lot was packed with families, kids, and tons of smiling faces. Every decorated trunk had games, prizes, and activities, and kids loved running from car to car collecting treats.

The local organizations that joined in brought something extra special. The Mobile Library Bus let kids pick out free books (about 200 were given out), and the fire truck was a huge hit. Plenty of kids got to hop in for an experience that they will remember forever. We also had a bounce house and some great food from Pita Pit, Lili's Brazilian Bistro, and Antojitos De Los Buenos. There was something for everyone.

And then there was the egg hunt. Before we even said "go," there were kids lined up and ready. Over 4,000 eggs were hidden inside and outside the church, and watching the excitement on their faces made all the work totally worth it.

What really made the day special was seeing how many new families came out to experience Faith Lutheran for the first time. It was a great reminder that our church is for everyone, and events like this help us connect with the wider community in a meaningful way.

Oh, did we mention we made the front page of the Enterprise-Record? That just shows how much this event meant, not just to us, but to the whole community.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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

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