

The Official Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church of Chico, CA



July 2025

FAITH TALKS

Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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About the Cover

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

Luke 11:9-10



Pastor's Article

by Pr. Ben Colahan

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But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. – Jeremiah 29:7

We are citizens of God's kingdom first, and citizens of earthly nations second. But God tells the Jewish exiles in Babylon that even as they desire to return to their true home, they are to seek the welfare of the place in which they find themselves and to pray for it. Their well-being is intertwined with the well-being of the place in which they live, even if it is temporary.

July is a month to reflect on what it means to be an American. I love this country. As a child of an immigrant, I know first-hand what a privilege it is to live in the United States. What I love most about America is that we are a nation defined not by ethnicity or loyalty to a monarch, but commitment to a set of values: that all are created equal and endowed with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As a nation, we continually fall short of these American values, but they are the goal towards which we strive and the measure by which we judge ourselves. And as a nation, we have committed ourselves to a process of pursuing those values; this process is our constitution. Our constitutional democracy requires a commitment to valuing our neighbors as people and our democratic process for its own sake over and above the outcomes of the democratic process. This is where our faith is essential.

In Christ, we commit ourselves to the radical idea that each human being is a beloved child of God; that each person is loved and valued by God for no other reason than that God made them. In June, we heard the Apostle Paul write, "There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). This Christian commitment, that for all our worldly divisions we have a deeper unity in Christ, is what our nation desperately needs right now. We face great challenges as a country, but we cannot address them unless we can recognize each others' full humanity and engage in constructive conversation across differences.

During the month of July, I invite you to engage in patriotic improvement through Christian discipleship in five ways:

1) Each Sunday, we will include in our prayers of intercession our president, Donald, our governor, Gavin, and our bishops, Jeff and Elizabeth. Naming those in authority within congregational weekly prayers has been the practice of Christian churches for centuries. This practice goes back to 1 Tim. 2:1-2, which states, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity." Praying for those with power is not endorsing their actions, but asking God to guide their actions.

2) Join us for a potluck after worship on Sunday, July 6th. It's easy to demonize someone who is different from you when they are a faceless category or demographic. Breaking bread together reminds us that this country is actually composed of human beings with whom we share the vast majority of life in common. So bring a dish, sit with someone who you don't know well, and give thanks that America is composed of such good people.

3) Learn how to talk about divisive topics with grace. Our nation desperately needs to learn how to hold constructive conversations about complex issues with people of differing views. Leanne Chrisman participated in a Northern California Rotary Civil Discourse workshop, put on by the Berkeley Rotary Club, designed to help people do just this. Leanne will bring this practice of intentional listening to those with whom we disagree, reflecting back what we have heard, and articulating our own perspectives in our fellowship hall after worship on July 20th.

4) Remember that in our baptism we are one in Christ. After worship on July, 27th, head down to 5 Mile Park and remember your baptism! Bring a picnic lunch, water, sunscreen, and a swimsuit. We'll have time to socialize, but we'll also get in the water! 5 Mile is a perfect place to play in the creek if you have mobility challenges; it's wheelchair accessible. I'll lead a thanksgiving for baptism and through some serious splashing, we'll remind each other that in these waters we are one in Christ.

5) Care for the most vulnerable in our community. Starting July 28th, Faith Lutheran will host a cooling center in collaboration with Safe Space. Each day, from 2pm - 8pm, our fellowship hall will be open to anyone who needs to get out of the heat. In years past, I've been struck by the diversity of people who end up in our fellowship hall. Not only are there unhoused people who come in; senior citizens and young families who can't afford their PG&E bill find comfort and safety at Faith Lutheran during these weeks. Contact Safe Space or Faith's office to find out how you can support this ministry. We care for our country by caring for the people in it.

May we seek the welfare of our country and pray for it. May we be children of God first, and Americans second. May loving Jesus make us better at loving our nation.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

STARTING JULY 28 AT FLC

Extreme Heat Cooling Center



Due to extreme summer temperatures, Safe Space has operated a local cooling center in Chico since 2021. By utilizing our existing network of community partners, we provide ice, water, and an air-conditioned space for those in need. Our cooling centers run from July to mid-August and are a collaboration with the City of Chico and 211.

July 28 - August 11



Letter from the President

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Dawn Stafford

Hi all! I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and my family in case we haven't had the opportunity to meet. I am Dawn Stafford and my husband, Jon, and I have 3 beautiful daughters, Nikkole, Kortney and Kendall, 1 wonderful son-in-law, James, and an AMAZING granddaughter, Everly. We have been attending Faith for just over 6 years.

Jon and I grew up Methodist but we didn't settle into a church after we were married. Over the years we would attend Willows Methodist Church from time to time with Jon's parents. Our daughters expressed interest in attending church and they chose Faith Lutheran. I was looking for a church but I was also looking for a community. Somewhere that felt like extended family...like home. We definitely found community and family at Faith Lutheran! From our first time attending as visitors, to becoming members during the pandemic, and all the Sundays since my family has felt the love and support from all of you.

When I was first asked to serve as council President I will admit that I was hesitant. I wasn't sure if I had been part of the Faith family long enough to take on such an important role. After a great conversation with Jill Bentler and one with Pastor Ben, I felt confident that this is what I was being called to do and I accepted the nomination. When it was announced that I had been elected to serve as President I was overwhelmed, in the best way possible, with so many kind words of support and encouragement. I am truly grateful and humbled by all of your love.

I am looking forward to leading this year's council with grace, faith, love and by trusting in God. Thank you for this opportunity.

Yours in faith,
Dawn



*the
Greatest
Gift*



TGGP for July Facilitated by: Kate Ory, Rich Ober, Malinda Ard

For the month of July, Faith Lutheran's Greatest Gift Project will support the **South Chico Community Assistance Center (SCCAC)**: a local, all-volunteer nonprofit providing essential food and supplies to neighbors in need.

SCCAC runs a full-choice food pantry on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month, serving more than 7,000 people each year. More than just groceries, the pantry offers dignity, support, and stability during times of hardship.

One guest shared: "Right now, I don't have any income for food, so this is putting food on the table."

What We're Collecting: This month, SCCAC has a special need for baking supplies. Please consider donating:

- Small bags of flour and sugar
- Small bottles of cooking oil
- Other shelf-stable food (canned goods, rice, pasta, peanut butter)
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine hygiene)
- First aid items and paper goods
- Reusable grocery bags

Starting Sunday, July 7, bring donations to Faith and place them at the manger in front of the sanctuary. Your gift—whether one bottle of oil or a full bag of groceries—helps feed a neighbor, ease a burden, and offer hope.



NEWS FLASH: The money for the shipment to the Kiure medical clinic in Matuga, Tanzania has been raised!! A huge THANK YOU to all of you who made contributions and prayed for this project. Thank you to the Women's Quilting group for the baby quilts that are being sent along with the shipment. Drs. Itikija and Esther are thrilled to know of this special gift of quilts from Faith. Project SAVE is preparing the shipment and have 12 pallets of medical supplies and equipment (photo...the smaller boxes with orange labels are the quilts) ready to go along with large pieces like hospital beds, exam tables, baby bassinets, etc.

In the meantime, the next step is to raise the money for customs in Tanzania. There are two ways to make a donation to the customs costs:

- Donate to the GoFundMe account: <https://gofund.me/b5b2870c>
- Donate directly to Chico Project S.A.V.E.

Thank you all for donating to May's Greatest Gift project! Special Olympics provides year-round sports for adults with disabilities. The practices and most of the competitions are held in the hot months. Your generosity took the burden from the coaches and volunteers to provide hydration and snacks to the athletes. Faith Lutheran Church donated 5 packs of water, 4 packs of gator-aide, 3 boxes of multi-flavor chips, 19 boxes of granola bars, and 3 boxes of goldfish. Thank you again for showing our church has generosity and passion for others. You did this by putting needed items at the altar, giving it back to Jesus!





Torres Shelter

Bonnie Pulliam

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Sally Boice and I signed up to shop and cook for Faith's monthly Torres Community Shelter dinner this June. It seemed doable at the time we signed up but as the day approached we both had grave doubts about cooking (in an industrial kitchen no less) for 130 people even with Elise Gladu's guidance and cookbook! What had we signed up for?

Clutching our recipes for ham and potato casserole, peach dump cake and hearty fixings for a salad, we navigated the US Chef Grocery Store buying an immense amount of food with the Faith Lutheran credit card. We made several calls in the process to Elise for confirmation. It seemed like sooo much food!

Sally, along with her husband Jim and son Alex, joined Glenn and me at 3pm to get the 5 hotel pans of dessert into the oven while we made five pans of casserole. Gabriel, the kitchen manager, was there to offer help with oven logistics and serving. We arranged for a Faith crew of Christian Leech, Carol Hall, Mary Schweder and Mary Cannon to meet us at 4 for salad prep and serving at 6.

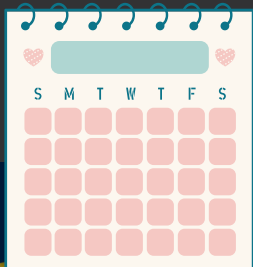
It all went swimmingly....no need for all our worries! The clients even clapped for our dinner at the end! The best part was a Torres crew did the dishes and pans!

Faith serves dinner on the first Tuesday of every month. We currently need July-November team leaders! Please consider signing up. It truly is doable with Elise's easy to make recipes and some Faith helpers! We also will help anyway we can! You can do it!

~Bonnie Pulliam



Special Events



SUNDAY JULY 6TH, AFTER WORSHIP

INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND POTLUCK

Please bring a dish based on your last-name

- A - E: Salad
- F - M: Main Dish
- M - Q: Dessert
- R - Z: Veggie Dish

HOMEGROWN LAY LEADERSHIP SERIES SUMMER 2025

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JULY, 7:00-
8:30PM

LAY PREACHING
AND
PROCLAMATION



INDEPENDENCE WEEKEND POTLUCK

Sunday, July 6 after Worship

Give thanks for the people who make up our nation by sharing a meal with them!

CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, July 20 after Worship

Our nation desperately needs to learn how to hold constructive conversations about complex issues with people of differing views. Leanne Chrisman participated in a Northern California Rotary Civil Discourse workshop, put on by the Berkeley Rotary Club, designed to help people do just this. Leanne will bring this practice of intentional listening to those with whom we disagree, reflecting back what we have heard, and articulating our own perspectives in our fellowship hall after worship on July 20th.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

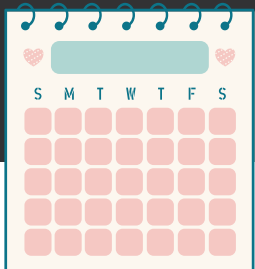
Sunday, July 24 after Worship

After worship on July 27th, head down to 5 Mile Park and remember your baptism! Bring a picnic lunch, water, sunscreen, and a swimsuit. We'll have time to socialize, but we'll also get in the water! 5 Mile is a perfect place to play in the creek if you have mobility challenges; it's wheelchair accessible. Pastor Ben will lead a thanksgiving for baptism and, through some serious splashing, we'll remind each other that in these waters we are one in Christ.

LAY PREACHING & PROCLAMATION

Sunday, July 24 7:00-8:30 p.m. Online

Our synod is hosting a series of workshops for practical skills of lay Christian leadership. All the workshops are free on Zoom. July 24th, from 7-8:30pm Pastor Ben and Andrew Lavin will co-lead a workshop on preaching for lay people. We encourage you to attend this and all the other workshops! Use this QR code, or call the office.



Ongoing Events

MONDAY EVENING 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

1:00-4:00 PM, 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.



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS, 10AM, CONFERENCE ROOM

Join us for a peaceful and uplifting Bible Study on Thursday. Our next sessions will be on Prayer focusing on being "Persistent", "Waiting with Patience and Hope", and discovering the "Power" of prayer. These studies will take us through July 2025 and we are now planning for our fall session. These studies have been written by Rev. Gladys G Moore an ordained pastor in the ELCA. We will come together to reflect on God's Word, share in fellowship and find inspiration for our daily lives. All are welcome!



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

FRIDAYS, JULY 11 & 18 FROM 3:00-5:00 PM

Food for all, no documentation required. 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

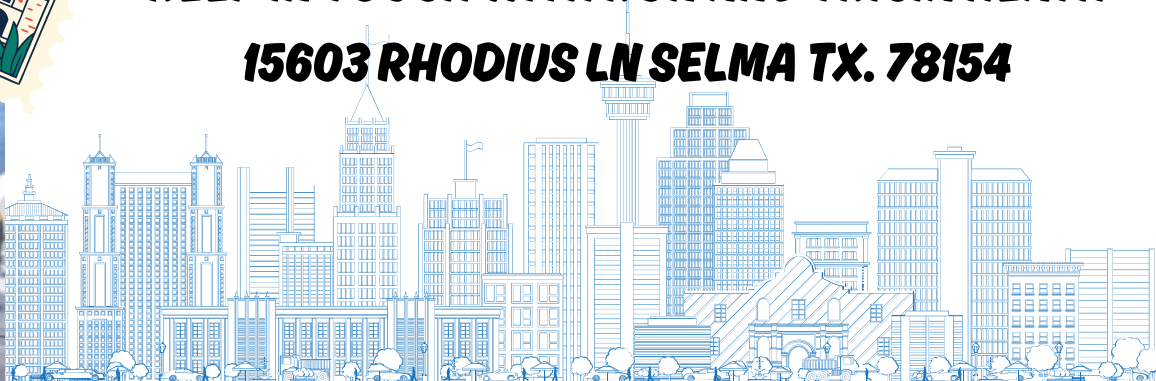
2ND SUNDAY OF MONTH, 5PM, ROOM 6

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!



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH RON AND TRICIA HEATH

15603 RHODIUS LN SELMA TX. 78154





Financial Report

Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer

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Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 5/31/2025

	Budget	Actual	Percent
	To Date	To Date	Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$535,454.30	\$490,238.64	91.56%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$541,124.25	\$461,722.35	85.33%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$5,669.95)	\$28,516.29	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2024		\$16,135.61	
Net Revenue through 5/31/25		\$28,516.29	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$44,651.90	

Income in May continued to exceed budgeted amounts with a positive cash flow of \$1,286.90 for the month, yielding a positive cash flow of \$28,516.29 at the end of 11 months of this fiscal year.

Thanks for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com



Council Minutes

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Alyssa Manes, Council Secretary (Outgoing)

Council Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2025

Members present: Pastor Ben Colahan, Jill Bentler, Mark Kimmelshue, Alyssa Manes, Elaine Lund, Mary Schweder, Elise Gladu, Candy Munson, Dawn Stafford

Members absent: Steve Hall, Leanne Chrisman, Kathleen Pappani

Call to Order, Welcome

Devotions and prayer led by Pastor Ben. He read a selection from C.S. Lewis' Screwtape Letters, and challenged and encouraged the council to continue thinking of others and how we can create ways for people to encounter Christ.

May 2025 minutes were approved

Financial Report presented by Mark Kimmelshue. Report was reviewed, explained, and discussed. Motion passed to correct a date typo on page 4 of the report. Financial report accepted with typo correction.

Staff Reports presented by Pastor Ben. Personnel team will be asked to help create a safety plan for when visitors to the office become threatening.

Old Business: None to discuss.

New Business: Signers/counters: Some people who currently count the giving on Sunday are becoming check signers (executive team), and we want to proceed in a transparent way. Discussed. Motion passed to say that members of the executive team, who sign checks, can also be counters. Capital Campaign Transparency: Discussed having an oversight team to help keep tabs on capital campaign fund. Motion passed to have an audit team for the capital campaign who will report quarterly.

Put it in the Plate: Some checks written over the past five years are outstanding. Discussed ways to handle that. Torres Shelter outreach had a new team and Elise got good feedback about her binder with grocery list and recipes; grateful things went smoothly for the new team and hopeful that more teams will form.

Action Items: none. Closing prayer and adjournment



Roses



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Jerry Sherrill and Kortney Stafford for leading Sunday School while Josh was away.

The safe return of those who served in Rancho Santa Marta.

Judy Struck, Diane Fellner, Joel Zimbelman, Elise Gladu, Laurae Dunn, and Sherrill Heinz for being in the office during our manager's time off.

Rev. Dr. Don Heinz, Lynette Stensrud, and Ted Sandberg for preaching.

Bill Kees for presiding twice in June.

Jerry Sherrill for organizing the Sunday School room.

All those who contributed to and served at Chico Pride.

The bell choir for their last and wonderful musical offering of the summer.

Shelby Herbert with Stonewall Alliance for hosting the LGBTQ+ Education Workshop.

All those who donated to the Greatest Gifts Project for Chico Project SAVE.

The marriage of Courtney Hart and Trevor Herrmann.

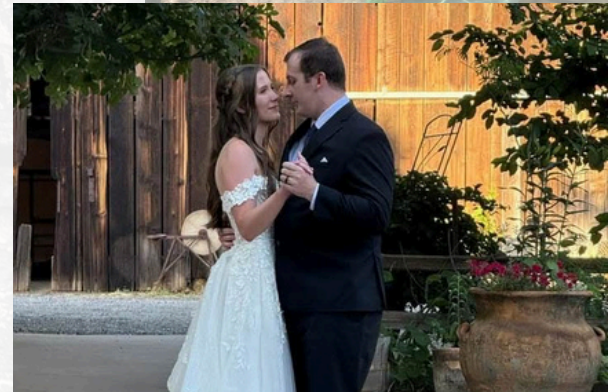
The Torres Shelter Dinner Team.

Leanne Chrisman and Karen Kimmelshue for facilitating the Memorial Day observation.

Bob Bay for repairing the stove and doing maintenance on site.

Everyone who spoke to their representatives on Lutheran Lobby Day.

Outgoing council members who have served, respectively, over the last 1-2 years: Jill Bentler (president), Steve Hall (vice president), Alyssa Manes (secretary), (and the following at large members) Elaine Lund, Mary Schweder, Leanne Chrisman.





**DOING GOD'S WORK WITH
OUR HANDS AT**



RANCHO SANTA MARTA



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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 | Property Mgr. Joel
Zimbelman | President Dawn Stafford | VP Faye Johnson | Treasurer Mark
Kimmelshue | Secretary Elise Gladu | Council Members at Large: Candy
Munson, Kathleen Pappani, Kate Ory, Cheri Sandberg, Chris Brown

***A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE WITH
A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE***

Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 10A-Noon & 1PM-4:30PM

Website: chicofaithlutheran.org

Email: FaithLutheranInChico@Gmail.com

Phone: (530) 895-3754

