

The Official Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church of Chico, CA



August 2025

FAITH TALKS

Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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About the Cover

“When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Luke 14:12

On the cover, you'll see the ministers of Faith serving at the Torres Shelter and Safe Space. Safe Space's cooling center will be on site in the fellowship hall during the hours of 1pm-8pm each day through August 11th. Ask how you can get involved! Or, ask about serving up to once a month at the Torres Shelter. The church pays for the groceries, and teams buy, cook, and serve meals to guests there.



CHILDREN + YOUTH NEWS

JOSH EDWARDS, DIR. CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

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VBS at Faith Lutheran

At Faith Lutheran, our upcoming Vacation Bible School, "Deep Dive: Exploring God's Faithfulness," is more than just a fun event for kids. It's a special opportunity to bring our church and community together for a day full of learning, laughter, and connection. We're hosting it on Saturday, August 2 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM, and we can't wait to welcome children and their families.

Kids need spaces where they can grow in their faith while still having fun, and VBS does exactly that. Through the story of Jonah and the Big Fish, children will discover how God is with us no matter where we are or what we've done. They'll hear how God gave Jonah a second chance, and they'll be reminded that His love never fails.

This event is designed with kids in mind, combining creativity, music, movement, and storytelling to make the Bible come alive. Children will craft, sing, act, play, and enjoy moments that will stick with them long after the day is done. It's also the perfect break in the middle of summer. On a hot day, there's nothing better than some water games, so we'll have a fun and refreshing time outside to cap off the day.

What makes this day extra special is that it isn't only for kids. Families are encouraged to join in the fun. Whether you stay and volunteer or come back for our closing celebration, you'll be a part of something joyful and welcoming. We'll also be serving lunch and making sure each child goes home with a few special surprises and memories.

This is a simple and meaningful way to help kids feel loved, supported, and connected to something greater. Whether they come from our congregation or from the neighborhood, every child is welcome.

We hope you'll bring your kids or invite a neighbor to join us. Let's come together and dive deep into faith, friendship, and fun this summer.



Family Service at Faith Lutheran

There's something incredibly powerful about seeing children step into leadership, especially when it happens in the heart of our worship. On Sunday, August 3 at 9:30 AM, our sanctuary will be full of energy, smiles, and a few joyful surprises as the children of Faith Lutheran lead us in a special family-centered worship service.

This service is more than a cute moment (though it will certainly be full of those). It's a meaningful opportunity for our kids to grow in faith by practicing it out loud. Whether they're greeting at the door, reading scripture, leading prayers, helping with music, or even acting out parts of the message, these young voices will remind us that worship belongs to every generation.

We invite everyone to come and be part of this joyful morning. Bring your family, invite a neighbor, and come ready to worship with fresh eyes and open hearts. Let's fill the pews and lift the roof with praise as our kids lead the way!



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



SUNDAY NIGHT PRAISE

PR. BEN COLAHAN

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For the past 6 months, our council, staff, and a ministry team have been asking the question: how might we share Christ's love with people who, for whatever reason, will not attend our existing worship service. To answer that question, we have visited four growing and vibrant congregations in the area, each with very different worship services. We have also been talking with people that we know who we think would appreciate Faith Lutheran, but who say they aren't interested in our current service.

In visiting these other congregations, I was struck by the variety of musical styles and moods in places attracting young families. We visited a service that felt like a talent show in the best possible way; worship was inviting one group after another to come to the front of the church and offer their own style of music as a praise to God as the congregation cheered them on. We worshipped at a church where there were only three musicians, a singer, a drummer, and a guitarist/pianist. This simple team created poignant and prayerful music of praise that both uplifted the heart and left me with a sense of peace. One service felt like a rock concert, with strobe lights, fog machines, and an incredibly talented band who turned the volume up to 11 to pump up the congregation to praise God. We also visited an Orthodox church covered in icons, resounding with ancient chants, and full of young families.

We asked ourselves what was working well in these other spaces, but also what we could offer that was lacking. We came to four major conclusions. 1) What seems to be working well in other congregations is a less complex liturgy that doesn't require a church background to understand; what we can offer is a service that still grounds people in ancient tradition. 2) What seems to be working well in other congregations is music focused on praising God through a lead vocalist, keyboard, guitar and drums; what we can offer is an intimate experience of praising God in which the focus is not on the musicians but the message of the music. 3) What seems to be working well in other congregations is an emphasis on family ministry; what we can offer is a ministry that welcomes and affirms the variety of shapes in which families come. 4) We noticed that in other cities there are many congregations offering worship times that allow for people who travel, work, or have children's sport on Sunday morning; in Chico, we only saw two congregations doing this.

From these observations, the council decided to set a vision for a Sunday night praise service. This service would be at 5pm on Sunday evening and would have a streamlined liturgy, with an emphasis on singing praises to God and preaching. Communion would happen less frequently, about once a month. A small band of 3-5 people would lead an intimate experience of contemporary music with theological depth. To maintain our sense of connection to our historic legacy, the aesthetics would focus on an ancient reverence for the cross. Instead of spotlights on musicians, we would use lights, fabrics, and candles to create a visual focus on the beautiful cross that hangs in our sanctuary. I've included a picture from the Taize community in France as an inspiration.



Our hope is not to create two services that members must choose between, but to create an additional opportunity for our existing members to enrich their spiritual life. This Sunday night praise service is meant to be distinct enough in both mood and time that we hope people will consider attending both services, if not every Sunday, then when they could use a re-set on Sunday evening before they begin their week. Most importantly, we hope this Sunday night praise service will give our members an opportunity to invite those friends and family members who have been reluctant or unable to come to our current service.

While we are excited to offer this opportunity for worship to Chico, we have many details to consider first. We have not yet set a start date. Over the next month, council members will be inviting various ministry teams to meet and help us think through the logistics, implications, and practical needs for what it would take to offer such a service. When you are invited to such a meeting, please come and help us plan how we might offer a truly excellent service of praise and proclamation for the people of Chico who do not yet know Christ's love. And if you are excited by this possibility, please don't wait for the council to reach out to you, let me know how you'd like to help us more fully be a community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan



RETREAT RECAP

DAWN STAFFORD, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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Hello everyone! The council and staff have recently returned from the annual retreat. What a great time we had rejoicing in fellowship with each other, reflecting on the church year that just ended, and brainstorming, planning and discussing ideas for the upcoming church year. It was a wonderful and restful time being together.

The 2nd Service Committee has been attending various church services that offer a different structure of church than the service that we have at Faith. The council heard a report from the committee about their thoughts and reflections from attending these other church services. This led to a lot of discussion about the elements that are important when adding an additional service, what the structure would look like and the needs of the community we are wanting to serve. We will be continuing these discussions as we move forward.



As I listened to the thoughts, ideas and stories that were shared at the retreat, I began to see blessings. The first one is how blessed we are as a church family that we are growing, and that we have a need for an additional service. The second one is how blessed we are to be surrounded by so many people with the gifts and passion to see a vision, and to be able to implement that vision into reality. The third one is what a huge blessing it will be to offer a different type of worship service that can meet the spiritual needs of some people in our community who are looking for a church to call home but just haven't found the one that fits.

As we move forward with a vision for an additional service, I hope you will join me in praying for strength and guidance for all of the people involved in bringing the vision to reality.

Yours in faith, Dawn



Bill Kees, Emily Puerta, Beth Bradley

August's Mission: To provide school supplies and for students at Rosedale Elementary School. Rosedale has 565 students Grades K-5. For over 10 years Faith Lutheran has provided different schools in Chico with school supplies. Last year we began our relationship with Rosedale during God's Work Our Hands. It is the one school in Chico that has what is called 2 way immersion in learning. Chico Unified School District's Two-Way Immersion Program groups native Spanish speakers with native English speakers in the same classroom. Ideally, one-half of the students are Spanish speakers and one-half are English speakers. Positive interaction between groups ensures that our students learn from each other. As friendships build, children become excited about working and playing in two languages.

Why it Matters: We choose to provide these supplies because there is always a need for more supplies than what is budgeted. This is a need that goes on through out the school year. When students and teaches don't have to worry about the supplies that support the teaching, then they can focus on learning.

How Can You make a Difference: You can help by picking up a few items from the list below on your usual shopping trips. We would ask you pay attention to specific items like pencils and dry erase Expo markers. Bring them by Faith on Sunday morning or during the week during the month of August:

GENERAL CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:

- Printer paper
- Construction paper
- Cardstock (variety of colors)
- Paper clips
- Hand sanitizer
- Clorox disinfecting wipes
- Kleenex
- Pencils boxes
- Mechanical pencils
- Pencil Eraser tops
- Fine point dry erase markers
- Post it notes
- Notebooks (wide rule, 1 subject)
- Sand timers

BRAND SPECIFIC SUPPLIES:

Our wonderful teachers request these product brands due to quality and project specific uses. Thank you for understanding!

- Ticonderoga pencils
- 8 pack crayola crayons
- Washable crayola markers
- Expo Brand Dry erase markers chisel tip
- Elmer's glue sticks





PERSPECTIVE: TGGP

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KIM SCHWEDER, ORGANIZER, THE GREATEST GIFT PROJECT



As I was arranging the abundance of durable goods at the foot of the manger beneath the alter (and this month, through the generosity of our people, the manger was lost!) I was approached by someone asking me if our members might be lowering their giving to our general ministry budget in order to support ***"The Greatest Gift Project"***. An excellent question that deserves an answer.

Lyal Shaller, a well-recognized church leadership author and consultant out of the late 70s and early 80s called the concept "second pocket giving".

As our church family steps into exciting new opportunities to further expand the footprint of Faith Lutheran to our surrounding community—like ***"The Greatest Gift Project"***, mission trips or outreach events—you may wonder: Will giving to a special project take away from our regular tithes and offerings?

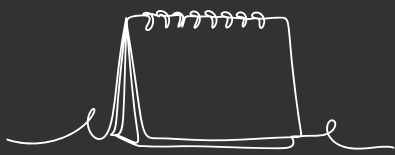
The answer is: not at all.

In fact, churches often find that special projects **inspire greater generosity** without affecting general giving. Here's why:

- **Different Buckets:** Most people give to special projects from separate funds—like savings set aside or bonuses—In the case of "The Greatest Gift Project", most just add one or two items to their regular shopping cart or find a slightly used product from their home.
- **Clear Purpose:** General giving supports our day-to-day ministry. Special projects are one-time opportunities to make a specific impact.
- **Increased Engagement:** When people see a clear goal and feel part of something meaningful, they often give more—not less.
- **Open Communication:** We're committed to transparency. You'll always know where your gifts are going and how they're making a difference.

We cannot say "thank you" enough to our daring and courageous leaders who have stepped up to lead groups for our various campaigns in recent month. Let's continue to give faithfully to our regular ministries while also stepping up for the special opportunities God places before us.

Thank you for your generosity and heart for the mission! MORE TO COME!



SPECIAL EVENTS

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Vacation Bible School

Saturday, August 2 from 9am-1:30pm

Our one-day Vacation Bible School is happening Saturday, August 2 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM and we'd love for your children or grandchildren to join us! This year's theme is "Deep Dive: Exploring God's Faithfulness" as we dive into the story of Jonah with music, crafts, games, and water play. Kids ages 3 to 13 will learn how God's love never fails, all while having a blast. Lunch is provided, and it's totally free! To RSVP, just email: joshfaithlutheran@gmail.com or call (530) 895-3754.

Family-Led Worship Service

Sunday, August 3rd

We invite everyone to come and be part of this joyful morning. Bring your family, invite a neighbor, and come ready to worship with fresh eyes and open hearts. Let's fill the pews and lift the roof with praise as our kids lead the way!

Wilderness Worship: Salmon Hole, Wednesday, August 6th, 3:30pm - 7pm

Celebrate the promises of baptism and the beautiful work of the Creator through a trip to Bidwell Park's iconic Salmon Hole. Named for the Salmon who still swim there, Salmon Hole is a deep tranquil pool of water in the Big Chico Creek. It requires a 20 minute hike and steep descent down the side of a cliff to reach. Pastor Ben will lead a baptismal remembrance at Salmon Hole. Though the water at this location is calm and free from undertow, attendees should be both confident on slippery rocks and strong swimmers. Please pack water, snacks, sunscreen, hat, swimsuit, and shoes for both hiking and going in the water. Meet at Faith's parking lot at 3:30pm and please RSVP to either the office or Pastor Ben.



August Sermon Conversations Post-Worship:

Pastor Ben spends a week crafting a sermon that he hopes will move your heart to recognize your own sin and trust in God's grace. He invites you to reflect with one another and with him how the sermon affected you. Stay in the sanctuary after worship each Sunday in August to discuss together questions such as: What happened to you as you listened to this sermon? What did you hear that you are eager to share with another person? For what and/or for whom does the sermon prompt you to pray?



ONGOING EVENTS

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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.



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.



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

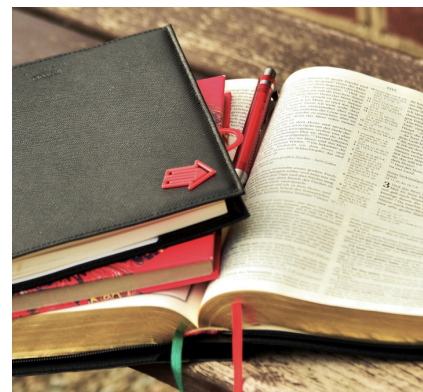
Centering Prayer reads the Gospel for this coming Sunday. This practice helps one to more fully engage times of worship each week. It also invites anyone who comes to be renewed in faith.



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.



"SPIRITUAL SEEKERS" BIBLE STUDY

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

Join us for a peaceful and uplifting Bible Study on Thursday mornings. All are welcome and the studies are provided. The next studies will be focusing how we are "Crafted in Christ" which will lead us into the fall studies "Where 2 or More are Gathered" and "After Certainty". We will come together to reflect on God's Word, share in fellowship, pray for one another and find inspiration for our daily lives. For more information, please contact Mary Schweder at 714-814-3737.



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, AUGUST 1ST, 15TH FROM 3-5PM

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!





FINANCIAL REPORT

MARK KIMMELSHUE, COUNCIL TREASURER

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Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 6/30/2025

	Budget	Actual	Percent
	To Date	To Date	Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$590,317.36	\$532,705.96	90.24%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$590,317.36	\$516,163.58	87.44%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$0.00	\$16,542.38	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2024		\$25,632.42	
Net Revenue through 5/31/25		\$16,542.38	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$42,174.80	

The figures above are for the fiscal year end. Congratulations, we ended the year with a positive cash flow of \$16,542.38.

Thanks for your continued support!!!!

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com



Roses



Tim Tipton for removing the garbage disposal and attempting to fix the phantom leak in the drain on the kitchen sink.

Ted Sandberg for preaching and Bill Kees for presiding.

Bill and Carolyn Kees for hosting and facilitating the book drive, with a thank you to all others who donated books as well.

Thomas Demarco for the end of his parole and for the start of his life in Texas.

Mary Schweder for organizing nametags.

Laurae Dunn for providing and upkeeping the whiteboard calendar you see each Sunday during worship.

Judy Struck for organizing the Independence Day Weekend Potluck, and for all who attended.

Judy Struck, Janine Rush, Diane Fellner, Laurae Dunn, Bill Kees, Joel Zimbelman, and Margaret McMillan for taking care of the office while our manager was attending to family out of town, and Mary Schweder for helping to organize these substitutes.



Thank-You's to Faith

world relief

Faith Lutheran Church Chico
667 E 1st Ave
Chico, CA 95926-3571

7 E. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
T 443.451.1900 | F 443.451.1955
worldrelief.org

May 23, 2025

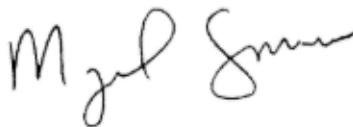
Dear Faith Lutheran Church Chico,

Thank you for your gift to World Relief in the amount of \$906.00.

Because of you, families fleeing conflict find safety. Children without homes find hope. Communities devastated by disaster begin to rebuild. Your donation helps provide life-saving aid, restore dignity, and fuels long-term transformation in the most vulnerable places around the world.

We invite you to stay connected. Follow our stories, share our mission, and consider becoming a monthly donor in the global movement of compassion. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 1.800.535.5433 or email us at donations@wr.org. From all of us at World Relief, thank you for your generosity.

For change that lasts,



Myal Greene
President and CEO
World Relief

Gracias To Our Friends



SERVING THE CHILDREN at
Rancho Santa Marta, Mexico



*You are a blessing to
Rancho Santa Marta
a warm, dependable presence
Someone who encourages and cares about
the children in Mexico.*

Please consider sharing the needs of our children with your
friends and community.
If they feel led to give, donations can be made through our
website or by mail at:

Bethesda Teaching Ministry

**P.O. Box 20028
El Cajon, California 92021**

WEBSITE

Please visit our website at
www.ranchosantamarta.org.

There's lots to explore!"

**Your support makes a difference in the lives
of the children at Rancho Santa Marta.**

Dear Friends,

June 25

*On behalf of the Directors Rod
and Tina, the staff, and the
Board of Rancho Santa
Marta, please know how deeply
we appreciate your partnership.
Children with special needs
require intentional,
compassionate care. Because of
your generosity, we can offer
them a home with love and
support, an education, and the
opportunity to grow in faith and
trust in the Lord.*

**MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU. WE ARE
GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GIFT.**

*We enjoyed your visit to Santa
Marta. Come again!
Rod & Tina*

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
667 E. 1ST AVE.
CHICO, CA. 95926

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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

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