

The Official Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church of Chico, CA



December 2025

FAITH TALKS

Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

12/24 Christmas Eve Pageant 4pm, Candlelight Service 9pm

12/25 Christmas Day Service 9:30am



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About the Cover

Advent is a liturgical season that begins at the end of November (after Christ the King Sunday) and goes until Christmas. After Advent Season comes Christmas Season which lasts until Epiphany on January 6th. The color for Advent is blue as a representation of expectation and hope... like awaiting a blue dawn!



PASTOR'S ARTICLE

PR. BEN COLAHAN

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This past month, we had 19 new members officially join Faith Lutheran Church! Between them, those 19 members also have 7 children who have become a part of our shared life in Christ. As new members, they have committed themselves to living out their faith with us, finding ways to use their God-given gifts for our common ministry, and proclaiming the good news of Jesus through word and deed. As a congregation, we also made a commitment to them, to pray for them and support them in their life in Christ.

Every December, we tell the story of the Holy Family looking for a place that will welcome and make room for them. These families have come to us looking for a place of welcome. May we make room on Sunday mornings to greet them and ask them about their lives. May we make room throughout the week to invite them over for dinner or out for community events. May we make room in our prayers to give thanks for these families and ask God's blessings upon them. For truly, they are a blessing to us.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan



Tony White - lilaw86@gmail.com

Tony works in I.T. and lives with his partner, Joe, and their 16 year old daughter, Lilah. He is a big fan of comic books, Dungeons and Dragons, and good stories. Tony joined FLC because he wants to grow his faith and build a relationship with God.

Joe Bernes - ingsocjoe@gmail.com

Joe was born and raised in El Paso, TX to parents from Mexico. His first language was Spanish. He moved to Sacramento with his partner, Tony, in 2013, and to Chico in 2020 with their daughter, Lilah. Joe and Tony both work in tech and feel excited to have found community here at Faith.

Barry Baker - barrybakerman@icloud.com

Barry moved from Newport, OR to Kelly Ridge in Oroville to be close to his son, Joshua, and is new to the area. Barry lived in Sacramento for 42 years before moving to OR, though, and is excited to return to hotter weather. Barry enjoys kayaking, drawing, watercolor, and listening to music, and plays the guitar, keyboard, and Djembe. He's been enjoying Time Out for Art and Tables for 8 at Faye Johnson's home.

Michael Nicholson Dick - faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com

Michael is our office manager of 7 years and enjoys games, adventures, spending time with friends and family, and finds fulfillment in serving those who need it most. He has officially become rostered, and is excited to share that he is applying to seminary with the goal of taking online classes while he continues to work here. He was raised in Sutter, Plumas, and Butte Counties, and lives in Chico with his husband John, 2 cats, and lizard.

Cheri Longaker - cheri.longaker@gmail.com

Cheri was raised in Missouri. Her parents took in 302 foster children. Cheri made early childhood education her career, including home childcare, Missouri Uni instructor, Peace Corps volunteer, Migrant Head Start, and Program for Infant Toddler Care. She is joining with her husband, David.

David Longaker - cheri.longaker@gmail.com

David is a former submariner (USS Alexander Hamilton SSBN 617). After his time in the Navy, he worked as an early childhood educator with Migrant Head Start and subsequently with PITC, Partners for Quality. David is also an amateur musician.

Rocio Leal - leal@icloud.com

Aaron Koch - herrkoch@gmail.com

Rocio and Aaron have two wonderful children, Camila and Mateo, and live out in the country with their little gang of 6 chickens, 2 cats, and a golden retriever. Life is always busy and fun with jobs, PTO, Little League, and the kids' sports and activities that keep them on their toes. They love the nurturing and welcoming community at Faith.

Zachary England - zengland11@hotmail.com

Zachary grew up in Red Bluff where he was raised by his great-grandmother. He enjoys hiking, kayaking, backpacking, hunting, and can usually be found outdoors in his spare time. Zachary graduated from CSU with a degree in Political Science and is now going back to school. He has an 8 year old German Shepard/Husky mix named Tika who likes to go to the lake or snow with Zachary.

Holly - hollyorognen@gmail.com

Holly lives in Chico with her husband Mike (owner of The Cookie Shoppe), and 2 dogs, Han and Rey—yes, named after Star Wars! Their smart and handsome sons, Max and Josh, live nearby, along with Holly's wonderful mom, Judy who is also a new member! Holly was born in Canada, went to college in WA state, and did a stint in New Zealand. Holly is a technical project manager and loves reading, hiking, yoga, traveling, and celebrating holidays.

Judy Sitton judysitton@gmail.com

Judy lives in Chico with her faithful furry friend, Chewy, and feels blessed to be surrounded by family and friends. Judy has a B.A. and Lifetime Teaching Credential from CSU, Chico, pursued graduate studies in Counseling, and was honored to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from her alma mater. Her career began in education and counseling and grew into the world of technology, where she co-founded Bi-Tech Software, Inc. with her beloved husband of 48 years, Gary, who passed away in 2015. Judy is invested in community service and is actively involved with the Gateway Science Museum, Enloe Medical Center, and several local philanthropic organizations and boards.

Eileen Wayne - eileenmwayne526@gmail.com

Eileen was raised in the Finger Lake area of beautiful, upstate New York. She is a wife, and mother of two adult daughters. After a long and fulfilling nursing career, Eileen is semi-retired and continues to work part time as a private duty nurse. She is also a diehard Bills fan. Faith is a special place that feels like home to her.

Amy Duncan - amyd65@hotmail.com

Amy lives in Magalia with her husband, Joe, and children, Joe and Rose. She and the family enjoy hiking, camping, road trips, dancing, and karaoke. Amy works at Butte College and serves on the board of directors for Achieve Charter Schools. She is passionate about volunteering and fundraising for the kids' school and Scouts. Amy looks forward to growing in faith and building friendships with the faith family of God.

Joseph Duncan - ddarthduncan@yahoo.com

Joseph is a cub master for Pack 316 in Paradise. He loves hiking, camping, and crabbing. He has two children, Rose and Joe, and is joining Faith Lutheran with his wife, Amy.

Rebekah Cruse - bekstn88@gmail.com

Rebekah is a mom of 3, married to a traveling lineworker and new to Chico, currently enrolled at Butte. Through years of traveling and ultimately ending up in California, Rebekah feels Faith Lutheran closely aligns with her convictions, and she looks forward to learning and growing in love with the congregation.

We would also like to welcome the following new members:

- Danielle Hayes thedcolette@gmail.com
- Chuck Prior priormachine@yahoo.com
- Tammy Prior tammyprior7@yahoo.com
- Jeff Swenson jeffreyswenson50@hotmail.com



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

DAWN STAFFORD, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Faith Family! Have you heard that we have a new service on Sunday evenings? Sundays @ 5 premiered on October 19th and has been going on for 6 weeks. This service offers a different structure than the 9:30am service. It is filled with music, movement, prayers, and spiritual reflection. I have heard people say that it offers more of an uninterrupted time with God and that it fills their soul in a different way than the 9:30am service.

From the beginning Daun Weiss has been organizing and directing all of the music for the Sundays @ 5 service. Daun has been working 15-20+ hours each week on research, music planning, organizing which musicians, having rehearsals and performing at the service. Her expertise and willingness to take this on has been invaluable and we are extremely grateful! Daun has organized all of the music and musicians through December but she will not be here to lead the services so Christine Buckstead will be directing the music in December. We are also so thankful for Christine's willingness to lead!

As of January 1st we do not have a leader for the music at the Sundays @ 5 service but we want to continue with the Sundays @ 5 service. After talking with Luke, Daun, Pastor Ben and many others the Council has voted to hire a part-time director of music for the Sundays @ 5 service. This person would work up to 20 hours per week organizing and directing all of the music for the evening service.

We want to continue to grow this service, build connections with people, and reach more people in the community. We are thinking about serving food after the service once a month to build community with the people at the service. Josh will be organizing a team of people to reach out to the community and promote the service. Things like putting out flyers in the neighborhood, handing out information at the farmers' markets, and mailing postcards. We will need a committed team of people to work on this outreach committee. If you are interested in being a part of the outreach committee please contact Josh or reach out to the office.

We also need volunteers to support this service. We are in desperate need of ushers, greeters, nursery attendants and parking lot ministers. If you are willing to volunteer in any of these positions please contact Luke or the office.

We launched Sundays @ 5 with 2 goals in mind. The first goal was to reach new people especially people who are looking for a different type of worship experience and the second goal was to shift people from the morning service in order to make room for more people at the morning service. After 6 weeks we have seen new people attending and also people attending that could not make it to the morning service but more than 1/2 of the people attending are also going to the morning service. We feel we are succeeding at reaching new people but would also like to see the service grow by reaching out to more people. Our 2nd goal of making room at the 9:30am service has not been successful and in the near future we will need to address this as we are running out of room in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. This is a problem but it is a great problem to have because it means that more people are finding Faith Lutheran and learning about God's love.

I encourage you to try out a Sundays @ 5 service if you haven't already and I really encourage you to invite your family, friends and neighbors to try it out too!

Yours in Faith,
Dawn

GOD SIGHTINGS

CARYL QUINONES



Remember when Pastor Ben went on sabbatical? He invited us to join him in checking in at night to notice where we had seen God that day. This Advent, let's get back to collecting God Sightings as we go about our day. Think about it: you can SEE God (a big smile on a child's face), TASTE God (oh my, that was delicious), SMELL God (incense filling the room), HEAR God (in the music of the bell choir) and FEEL God (sense of the Holy in the sunset). Everyday see how many sightings you can "collect," perhaps keep track of them in a journal (journals available at church on Sunday). Bring the ones you would like to share with others to worship on Sunday mornings in December. Write your sightings on a star or circle and stick them on the poster on the south wall of the sanctuary. We'll post inspiration in the E-blast from week to week starting in December. As we SEE, TASTE, SMELL, HEAR, and FEEL God and our hearts fill with GRATITUDE, let's remember to tell God thank you and be a "sighting" of God's love for others in our everyday living!

ADVENT GIVING TREE

ELAINE LUND



We have a Giving Tree in the back of the sanctuary again this year! The gift tags have items requested from students and families from Rosedale Elementary School in Chico. We have given presents and gift cards to Rosedale students and families for several years now and they are SO appreciated. This year's uncertainty with jobs and food will undoubtedly make our gifts even more appreciated! Please take a tag off the tree and sign the sheet next to the tree with your tag number and name. We appreciate the gifts wrapped but can easily wrap them for you. The gifts must be returned to the tree by Wednesday, December 17, so we can get the gifts to Rosedale before the Winter break starts (December 19, 2025) Thank you so much for your love and generosity toward families in our community! (Questions? Please call Elaine at 530-514-2178.)

LESSONS AND CAROLS

LUKE NICOLAY

Happy Advent dear friends! Please join the choirs and bell choirs of St. John's Episcopal Church and Faith Lutheran Church for a **festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 14th at 5 PM**. This is the 4th annual celebration. This year the festival will take place at St. John's Episcopal Church which is located at 2341 Floral Ave in Chico. Come and enjoy some fun music and stay after for some light refreshments. If you have any questions, please contact Luke via email at lukenicolay1@gmail.com.



CRECHES AND COOKIES

JANINE RUSH



When decorating your home for Christmas, do members of your family eagerly search for the box containing those special figurines depicting Mary and Joseph, shepherds, Wise Men, and, of course, Baby Jesus? Too, while trimming the tree and hanging the garland, does the delightful aroma of baking cookies waft through the house?

Well, on **Sunday, December 21**, we are asking everyone to bring their favorite Nativity Scene as well as their favorite homemade holiday cookies, breads or other treats to be shared during coffee hour. Please bring your items on disposable plates.

Creches will be displayed on decorated tables in the Fellowship Hall, and we're asking that you arrive a bit early and set up your Nativity Scene prior to worship. If there is a story behind your crèche, please type it up and set it in front of your display.

Sharing family creches and homemade cookies was a practice at Faith Lutheran that was observed in the past on the Sunday before Christmas, and we wanted to resume this very fun, delicious tradition. We look forward to seeing everyone's Nativity Scene and sampling yummy delights. If you have questions, please contact Janine Rush at 530-774-5647.



EMBER DAYS

BILL KEES

Saturday, December 20, 2025 9:30 am - Noon

Faith Lutheran Church, 667 E First Avenue, Chico, CA
Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary

Ember Days are the times during the year that have come to focus on the beginning of the four seasons (winter, spring, summer and fall). Historically they have focused on the blessings of nature. The church began using these days as a way to say that the seasons of the year are a gift of God.

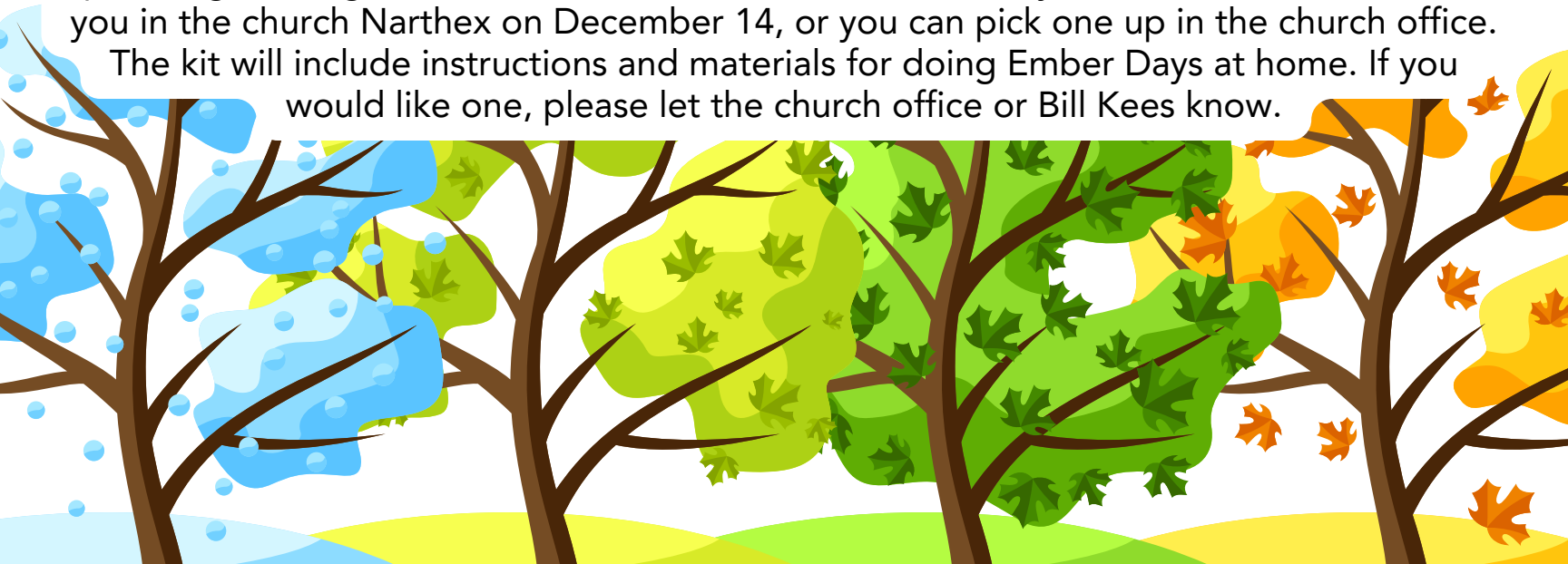
In this time we will engage practices that help us to reflect on where our life has been and how we desire to move forward. This year the practices we will engage are the Labyrinth, Journaling/Poetry and Prayer Collage.

You may arrive at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall for snacks and tea. At 10:00 we will begin in the Sanctuary to receive instructions about the different practices. Before we move into the practices, we will have a time of guided meditation. We will then choose what practices we will step into to help us listen to what we want to let go of and what we hold onto. As we do this, we are invited to notice God's invitations in what we hold onto and what may be new and different ways to be and do. At 12:00 we gather in the Sanctuary to conclude our time. You may share how you experienced the time and if you noticed any invitations.

Please join us in this time. And if you can't join us . . .

NEW THIS YEAR, we will have "Ember Days in a Box." If you are unable to attend the in-person gathering on December 20, we will have Ember Days in a Box kits available for you in the church Narthex on December 14, or you can pick one up in the church office.

The kit will include instructions and materials for doing Ember Days at home. If you would like one, please let the church office or Bill Kees know.





KITCHEN KORNER

JANINE RUSH



As you may have heard and/or seen, much has been happening in Faith Lutheran's kitchen over the past few months! First the freezer went out, then the stove (installed when the new sanctuary was constructed approximately 36 years ago) developed gas line issues and burner/oven pilots blew out, until it was finally determined that the stove was no longer safe and should be replaced. Thanks to Molly and Dave Barnum and their neighbor, Scott Dilg, president of Ginno's Kitchen & Appliance Center, a new, larger freezer was purchased and thereafter, two Wolf stoves with electronic ignition and convection capability were installed to replace our very old commercial stove. Backsplashes and griddles for each stove are on order and will be installed upon arrival.

In addition to new appliances, new blue aprons were donated and Char Miller and Stephanie Edwards machine embroidered Faith's initials on the front! These are beautiful additions to our kitchen, and are worn for special all-church functions. When you see these special ladies, please tell them "Thank you!"

That's it for this month! If you have questions regarding the kitchen, please reach out to Janine Rush at 530-774-5647.

POINSETTIAS FOR PURCHASE

Each and every year, we adorn our sanctuary with an array of beautiful poinsettias. Each year, their bright leaves make our Christmas and Christmas Eve services. You can purchase a poinsettia for \$10 a piece with the option of dedicating them to somebody you love who has died, or somebody who you celebrate. Some examples are, "in loving memory of my sister," or "in celebration of our new grandbaby." A list of the dedications will be published in the upcoming newsletter. You can buy as many flowers as you would like.



SOUP SUPPERS & HOLDEN PRAYER



Faith Lutheran Church welcomes you to our annual Advent Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer services. At 6:00 p.m. we invite you to delight in warm soup, bread, and fellowship. At 7:00 p.m. we will begin a short, 20 minute service of congregational singing based on the Biblical songs of Mary and Simeon from Luke, and Psalm 141. We love breaking bread and sharing soup together. You can sign up at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday to bring either, or give us a call at the office and we'll let you know what slots are available. We look forward to sharing this time together.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

The fabulous, fun, Faith Lutheran tradition continues!

Enjoy this free, all-ages community event and invite the whole family!

Enjoy chili, cornbread, and warm drinks with live music and holiday crafts!

Make sugar cookies, swags and snowflakes!

Decorate the sanctuary, trim the 12-foot tree, and assemble a nativity scene!

Make rosemary wreaths, Yule logs, felt snowmen, and fill aromatic lavender sachets!

If you would like to lead a craft, you can sign up to do so on Sunday morning after church.

Signups are at the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the office at (530) 895-3754 during office hours, M-F, 10am-Noon/1pm-4:30pm.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Pageant

Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 PM

Kids will be performing "Heaven and Nature Sing," a telling of the Christmas story where the whole congregation can participate too. Kids can arrive starting at 3:45 p.m. and pick out a character and costume. All children are welcome to participate!



Christmas Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24 at 9:00 PM

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is a special service centered around reading scripture and sharing communion, featuring traditional Christmas hymns, the FLC Sanctuary choir, handbell choir, and organ music in the twinkling candlelight.



Christmas Morning Service

Thursday, December 25 at 9:30 AM

A small, casual Christmas service will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Day. Pajamas welcome!





**Funeral for Bill Augros,
Tuesday, December 2 at 1:00 p.m.**
A rootbeer float reception will be held in the fellowship hall to follow.

Advent Workshop Saturday, December 6 from 2:00-6:00 p.m.
Enjoy this free, all-ages community event with chili, cornbread, warm drinks, live music and holiday crafts! Sign up to lead a craft at the back of the church.

Advent Soup Suppers & Holden Prayer, Wed. December 3, 10, 17 w/ Soup at 6pm, Service at 7pm

At 6:00 p.m. we invite you to delight in warm soup, bread, and fellowship. At 7:00 p.m. we will begin a short, 20 minute service of congregational singing based on the Biblical songs of Mary and Simeon from Luke, and Psalm 141. If you are called to bring soup or bread, please sign up at the back of the sanctuary.

ELCA World Hunger, Sunday, December 7 after Morning Worship

The ELCA supports food and education ministries around the world. Learn how your denomination is saving lives and how you can support this ministry.

Safe Space Presentations, Sun. December 7 after EVENING Worship & December 14 after MORNING worship

Faith Lutheran Church will be hosting Safe Space Winter Shelter from January 18-February 1. Learn what Safe Space is, how it operates, and the impact it has on people's lives. You will be invited to help welcome our guests through serving meals.

Parents' Night Out, December 12

We're excited to offer a special Parents' Night Out on Friday, December 12th from 4:30pm – 8:00pm! This is a great opportunity to enjoy a relaxing dinner or get some Christmas shopping done while your children have a fun, festive evening with us. We'll have holiday activities, games, and even spend some time practicing for the Christmas program. We hope this gives you a little extra breathing room during this busy season!

Lessons and Carols, Sun. Dec. 14 at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal, 2341 Floral Ave.

Come and join the choirs of St. John's and FLC as we prepare for the birth of Christ! This event is free and open to the community. We will take a free-will offering that will go to help support the music programs at St. John's Episcopal and Faith Lutheran.

Faith Lutheran Giving Tree (Last Day: Wednesday, Dec. 17)

Gift tags have items requested from students and families from Rosedale Elementary School in Chico. This year's uncertainty with jobs and food will undoubtedly make our gifts even more appreciated! Please take a tag off the tree and sign the sheet next to the tree with your tag number and name by Wed. Dec. 17.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays, Thursday, December 18, 4-5:30pm in Room 7

The holidays can be hard, and we are here to offer encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the challenges of the season for adults who have lost a loved one.

Ember Days**Saturday, December 20, 9:30am-12pm**

Ember Days are the times during the year that have come to focus on the beginning of the four seasons and the blessings of nature to say that the seasons of the year are a gift of God. We will engage practices that help us to reflect on where our life has been and how we desire to move forward. This year we will have "Ember Days in a Box." If you are unable to attend in-person we will have kits available for you to take home. Please let us know if you would like one.

Creches & Cookies, Sunday, December 21

On Sunday, December 21, we are asking everyone to bring their favorite Nativity Scene as well as their favorite homemade holiday cookies, breads or other treats to be shared during coffee hour. Please bring your items on disposable plates. If there is a story behind your crèche, please type it up and set it in front of your display.

Children's Caroling, Sunday, December 21, Time TBD

December 21 will be our Annual FLC Kids Christmas Caroling. We will meet at the church parking lot and caravan from house to house caroling to our elderly members who cannot physically attend church or are otherwise home-bound. Prepare for this event by practicing the classic Christmas carols with your child/ren at home. (*Deck the Halls, Jingle Bells, Joy to the World, Away in a Manger, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, We Wish you a Merry Christmas...*) Day of, bring jingle bells, glow sticks, wear festive accessories and bring plenty of snacks and water. If you have questions, please contact Beth Bradley or the church office. Time TBD.

Christmas Eve Pageant, Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 PM

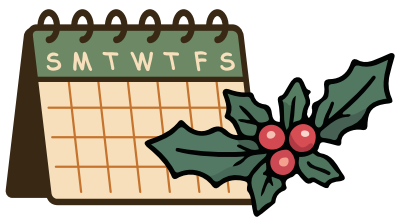
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Christmas Morning Service, Thursday, December 25 at 9:30 AM

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ONGOING EVENTS

Sundays

- Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- Dungeons & Dragons (5e) on 2nd & 4th Sundays of Month, 5:00 p.m. Room 6 (Kate Ory, Malinda Ard)
- Sundays @ 5 Service in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

Mondays

- Inviting Silence at 7:00 a.m. in the chapel (part of office wing) (Bill Kees)
- Time Out for Art in Room 6 from 1-4:00 p.m. (Caryl Quinones, Sherrill Heinz)
- Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting in Room 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays

- Quilters in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 AM to 2:00 p.m. (Char Miller)
- Centering Prayer on Zoom from 4-5 p.m. (Bill Kees)
- Pastor's Bible Study on Zoom from 5-6 p.m. (Pr. Ben)

Wednesdays

- Spanish Conversation Group on Zoom at 9am (Clark Colahan)
- Inviting Silence at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel (part of office wing) (Bill Kees)
- Handbell Practice in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)

Thursdays

- Spiritual Seekers Bible Study on 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room (Mary Schweder)
- Afternoon Games at 1200 Park Ave. Clubhouse from 12 to 3:00 p.m. (Elise Gladu)
- Choir Practice in the Sanctuary at 5:45 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Gambler's Anonymous at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
- Contemporary Music Practice in the Sanctuary at 7:15 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Troop 12 in Room 7 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Chris Brown)

Fridays

- Men's Breakfast at Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo at 8:00 a.m. (Howie Stensrud)
- Bulletin Folders in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. (Laurae Dunn)
- Food Bank, 1st & 3rd Fridays in the Parking Lot from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Lisa Roehling)



December 1-31, 2025



This December, we're gathering warmth and care for our neighbors at the 6th Street Center for Youth. Throughout the month, The Greatest Gift Project is collecting jackets, warm clothing, and tarps to support youth experiencing housing insecurity during the coldest season of the year.

Most-Needed Items:

- Warm jackets (all adult sizes, especially M–XL)
- Hoodies & sweatshirts
- Thermal shirts and pants
- Beanies, gloves, scarves
- Tarps (new or gently used)



Bring your donations all December long to the collection spot at the manger under the altar. Your gifts make a real difference. A warm coat, a dry tarp, a pair of gloves—each one helps young people in our community feel seen, supported, and protected this winter.

Thank you for sharing warmth and compassion through The Greatest Gift Project



THE GREATEST GIFT ~ THANK YOUS

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SKY SAMPLE, CHICO ANIMAL SHELTER

Thank you all for your generosity in gifting four large boxes, five large filled paper bags, and one small box of art supplies to Little Red Hen. This will provide adults with disabilities the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. Your donations brought happy smiles and excitement when all the art supplies were dropped off! And they were happy to get Bob, the paper mâché donkey, back!

Not to downplay Faith Lutheran's generosity which was awesome we were able to get a Thrivent grant as well. In asking Little Red Hen what would benefit the program the most they requested a Zoom H4 recording equipment recorder.

Providing four-track audio recording equipment will enhance both video and podcast projects, empowering adults with disabilities to develop and showcase their communication, creativity, and self-expression.

Through planning, recording, and producing their own video content and podcasts, participants will strengthen their communication skills in a supportive, low-pressure environment. They'll engage in meaningful discussions about the arts and explore how creative expression supports personal and professional growth. By using microphones, this type of mixer, and recording software, participants will learn to find their voices, organize their ideas, and structure thoughtful conversations. Filmmaking and podcasting also encourage teamwork, active listening, and confidence as individuals share insights into various art techniques and the inspiration behind their creations.

Reflecting on their artistic journeys and sharing them publicly fosters a sense of pride, purpose, and inclusion—transforming the arts into both a therapeutic and empowering experience. Thank you Faith Lutheran Church.

-Sky Sample



The staff at the City of Chico Animal Shelter would like to express our sincere appreciation for your most generous donation.

It is our desire to provide the best level of care possible for all of the animals that come within our care and oversight. Your contribution will go directly to assist in that mission.

On behalf of the shelter staff,

Sincerely, *Bma*



FINANCIAL REPORT

MARK KIMMELSHUE, COUNCIL TREASURER

Faith Lutheran Church

General Fund Finances as of 10/31/25

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$168,930.18	\$150,180.71	88.90%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$210,233.56	\$191,743.83	91.21%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$41,303.38)	(\$41,563.12)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2024		\$40,894.62	
Net Revenue through 10/31/25		(\$41,563.12)	
Ending General Fund Balance		(\$668.50)	

The above figures represent the General Fund activity for the first 4 months of the current fiscal year. As shown there was a negative balance in the General Fund of \$668.50 as of 10/31/25. This has been alleviated with income of \$33,841.15 in the first three weeks of November. Historically the months of November, December and January are our biggest income months.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

DIANE KNIGHT, CHAIR



CAPITAL Campaign Update:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the capital campaign is able to report the following updates. 😊

Over the past two months the kitchen freezer and new ovens have all been replaced. The parking lot has been resurfaced and restriped. (I don't know about you, but it is SO nice to see the beautiful white lines)! AND the roof is in the process of being replaced. Although we have a long way to go, we are off to a strong start.

Through Sunday, 11-16-25 we have received the following pledges and donations:

16 donors without pledges totaling \$ 9,142.31
 66 donors with pledges totaling \$488,932.00 (This number includes donors without pledges)
 Funds received to date: \$110,799.00

We wish to thank everyone for their commitment to the future of our campus and serving such an amazing FAITH community. Together we have the opportunity to inspire our ministry for generations to come. I personally am so proud to be a very tiny part of this legacy. In the big scheme of things, whether I have one year or 100 years to live, this is one of the legacy's that I will be happy to support and watch come to fruition. 🙏

With deep gratitude,
 Diane Knight



COUNCIL MINUTES

OCTOBER 21, 2025, CONFERENCE ROOM

ELISE GLADU, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Members Present: Pr. Ben Colahan, Dawn Stafford, Faye Johnson, Mark Kimmelshue, Candy Munson, Cheri Sandberg, Chris Brown and Kate Ory. Members Absent: Kathleen Pappani and Elise Gladu.

- CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 pm
- READING OF THE COVENANT
- WELCOME - Celebrations, appreciations, and prayer requests
- DEVOTIONS/PRAYER
- BOOK DISCUSSION – “Planning Small Groups With Purpose” (Chapter 2). Brainstormed a list of people who may want to serve on the “C Team”.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES for September, 2025 meeting – Adopted as stated
- REPORTS
 1. Financial Report presented by Mark Kimmelshue – adopted as stated
 2. Capital Campaign/Loan update presented by Mark Kimmelshue
 3. Staff Reports presented by Pastor Ben
- Discussion on hosting the winter shelter for Safe Space in January or February of 2026. Motion passed.
- Discussion on hosting a flu vaccine clinic on a Saturday or Sunday. Motion passed.
- Discussion on the excess funds remaining from the 75th celebration and how they should be used. Motion passed.
- Discussion on the Sundays @ 5 service and how council can help at the service. Arrive by 4:15 - Council will check in with Luke – check-in volunteers prior to service. After service put away candles and pillows. Lock-up and check facility as needed.
- Discussion on projects for GWOH. Pastor Ben shared some ideas that Kate Ory and Candy Munson had. Kate and Candy said they will collaborate and present some ideas at the next meeting. Target date for 1 service project would be November 30, 2025.
- Discussion on the possibility of hiring a part-time person for Sundays @ 5 service to coordinate the music and musicians. Luke will present some more information regarding what it entails for time and possible costs. Further discussion to be at the November meeting.
- Started the discussion on council overseeing the ministries. The Constitution states that the ministries shall be overseen by council. The book we are reading also mentions having a “small group point person.” Possibility of this being council. Will brainstorm and continue discussion at a future meeting
- There will be small group facilitation training – May 12th-14th. Pastor Ben would like to send the people who will make-up the “C Team” to the training and use funds from the continuing education budget.
- CLOSING PRAYER
- ADJOURNMENT at 9:00pm

ROSES

Stephanie Edwards and Char Miller for donating and embroidering FLC aprons for the kitchen.

Wendy Pine for providing beautiful, red roses and flowers for Reformation.

Betsy Sanger for the amazing gift to Time Out for Art of card making tools and supplies.

Everyone from Faith Lutheran who helped get the stoves here. Thank you to Scott from Ginno's for installing the stoves.

Elaine Lund and Beth Bradley for organizing and putting up the Giving Tree.

Daun Weiss for her leadership and organization in facilitating the first month of Sundays @ 5, as well as her own musical offerings.

Josh Edwards, who has been our Directory of Children and Youth Ministry for one year, and whose ministry has helped Faith Lutheran to make beautiful family and community connections.

Bob Bay for fixing our Columbarium gate, and doing other maintenance on campus.

Candy Munson for organizing "For a Time Such as This"; Ginger Jacobs, immigration attorney for hosting a discussion; Sherrill Heinz for leading a discussion on a letter from Elizabeth Eaton regarding Christian Nationalism; Candy Munson for hosting *Bonhoeffer* and providing snacks.

All those who have given and continue to give to The Greatest Gift Project.

The property team, endowment team, columbarium team, financial ministers, equipping team, personnel team, and council for their constant, behind-the-scenes oversight, work, and care.

All the ministers, both staff and volunteer, who continue to adapt to the growth we are experiencing.

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

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

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