

FAITH TALKS

November 2023



Worship, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
All Saints Sunday, November 5th

About the Cover

Many Christians observe All Saints Day: a day to honor our beloved deceased.

In Western Christianity, this day is usually observed on November 1st. We will observe it at Faith Lutheran on Sunday the 5th when we gather for worship! You can read more about our All Saints service on page 9.



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Faith Family News

Dani Vogel, Director of Family Life

We've had a busy October here at Faith! Many of our small groups are kicking off new sessions, or wrapping up for this season.

We are in the interview stages for our nursery attendant position. In order to supplement, and provide great child safety, we are looking for 4 adults to rotate through helping in this room. There is no teaching required, you get to focus on playing with our smallest friends. Please contact me for details on how to get involved.

With many folks traveling, we are looking to add 2 more teachers to our Sunday School rotation. This involves either helping lead teach or assisting in one of our two Sunday School classrooms. Lessons and supplies are provided weekly. We are making our transition to two rooms full time, and want to provide the best possible faith formation for our kids. Emily Puerta has begun music time with our kids to start our Sunday mornings with the hope of sharing a song or two with the congregation periodically.

We are already approaching the season of Advent and want to invite you to an Advent craft making time on December 3rd following worship. We are looking for table craft leaders, and for those interested in making Advent crafts for the season. This will start at 11 am and include snacks.





Pastor's Article

Pr. Ben Colahan

One of the most frequent confessions I hear is folks admitting how infrequently they read the Bible. I get it. The Bible is full of passages that are strange and confusing. It's also massive. It can be intimidating to jump right in, and if you start at the beginning, you very quickly hit long lists of genealogies.

And yet, the Bible contains God's truth and promises for you. The more I read scripture the more I am amazed by how the Holy Spirit truly speaks through it to help me be honest about what's going on in my life and to help me see the incredible ways that God loves and supports me every day. Martin Luther called the Bible, "the manger in which Christ is laid." And what a joy it is to open its pages and find Jesus waiting there for me.

I want you to experience the joy of hearing the Holy Spirit speak to you through scripture. To that end, each Sunday after worship in November, I'll be teaching a class called, "How to Read the Bible Helpfully." It is a repeated of a class I offered in June, one which I count as successful because it has resulted in the people who took that class now meeting twice a month on Tuesday mornings to read the Bible together.

There is a fancy academic word for how you read scripture, that word is "hermeneutic." While most Christians don't like to admit it, every single person has a hermeneutic, a way that we read scripture. That is why, even though Baptists, Catholics, and Lutherans all read the same Bible, we come to different theological conclusions. The heart of the class, "How to Read the Bible Helpfully," will be to teach you a Lutheran hermeneutic, a Lutheran way of reading scripture.

Lutherans read the Bible looking for two main things: the law and the gospel. The law is the message of scripture that makes us be honest about our sin, failures, and our brokenness. The gospel is the message of scripture that comforts us with the good news of God's unconditional love for us in Jesus. Or to put in another way, Lutherans read the Bible looking for the places we say "ouch" because they hit so close to home, and places where we say, "amen" because of how good God is to us. The law and the gospel, the ouches and the amens, show up in every book of the Bible.

To help us find the law and the gospel, Lutherans use a few basic strategies:

1) Be Theologians of the Cross, not Theologians of Glory:

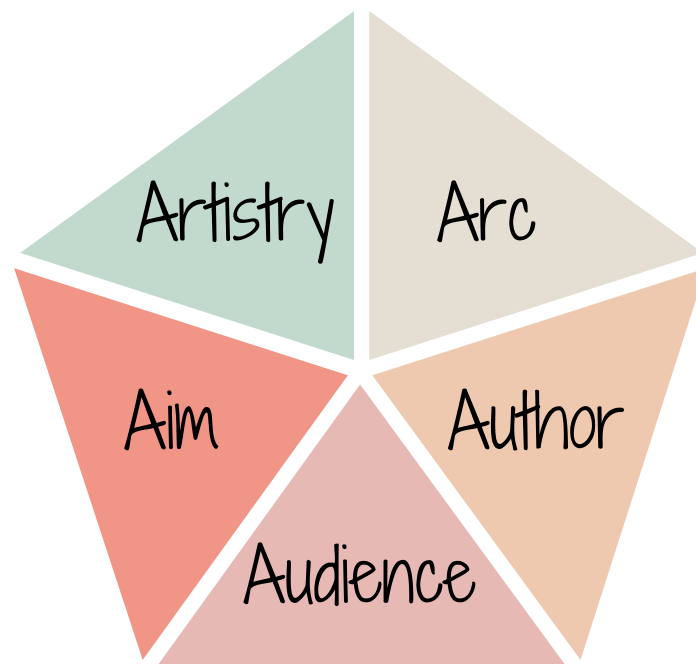
Theologians of Glory look to for God among the rich, the beautiful, and the popular, but as Theologians of the Cross, we look for God as revealed on the cross, in Jesus who was among the poor, the broken, the outcast, and the dying. When we read of such suffering in scripture, we see Jesus there. When we experience such suffering, we take comfort in knowing we don't have to pull ourselves out to find God; God has come to meet us where we are.



2) Let Scripture Interpret Scripture: When scripture doesn't make sense, read more. Read the context around it. Remember that God's story unfolds in the fullness of the whole biblical story. Sometimes passages in one part of the Bible are explained by passage in another part. Use the easy passages to interpret the hard passages.

3) Mobilize Scripture with the Context

PentAgon: The Context PentAgon are the five main types of context in which it is helpful to situation scripture, and they all begin with "A." 1) Arc: every story has a beginning, middle, and end, where is this passage in the story's arc? 2) Author: God used a human to write every book of the Bible, what do we know about the person who wrote this one? 3) Audience: in addition to us, each book of the Bible had an original audience in mind; what do we



know about that audience? 4) Aim: every book of the Bible was written for a reason, what do we know about the reason this book was written? 5) Artistry: the Bible contains many genres and writing styles, from history, to love-poetry, to personal letters; how does the writing style of this portion of scripture shape how we should understand it?

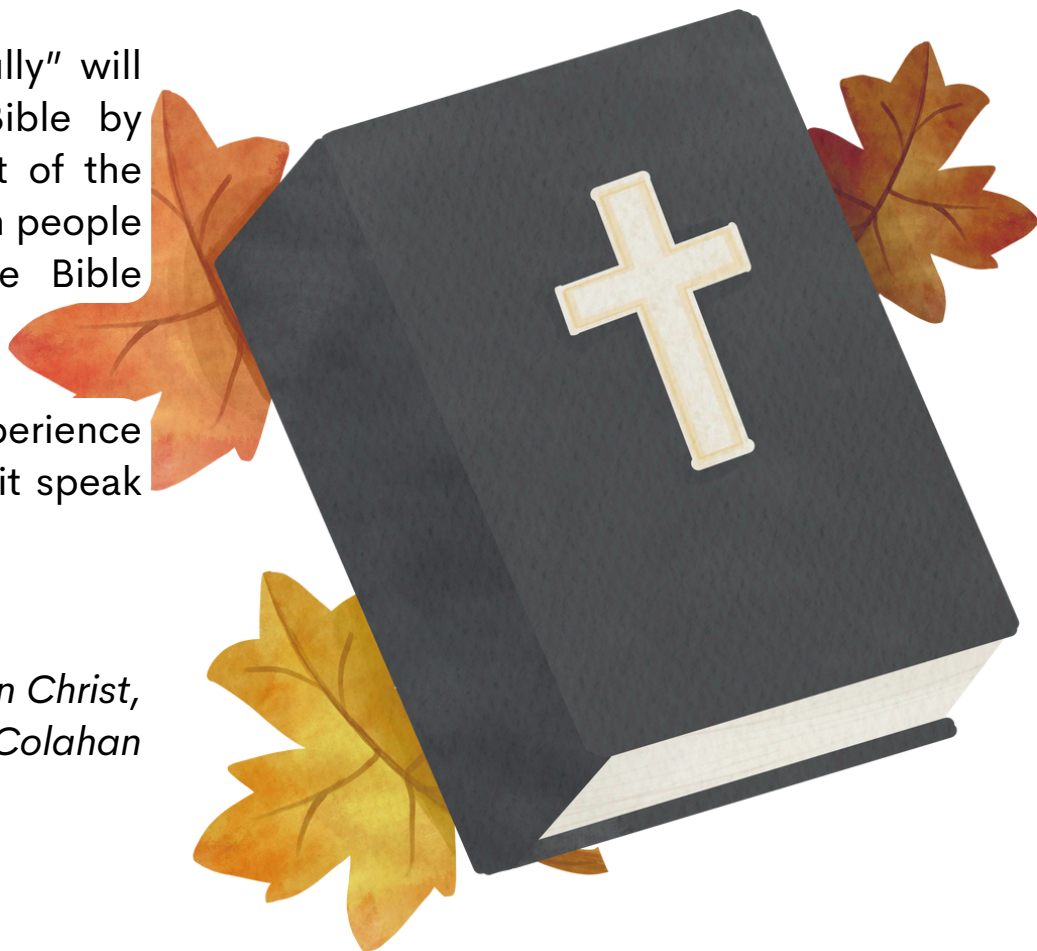
"How to Read the Bible Helpfully" will go over each of these strategies for interpreting scripture, and work to give you the tools to do them on your own. That said, the most important strategy for reading scripture is to do it with other people.

God's fullness is always beyond a single person's perspective. That's why we have four gospels instead of one. When we read scripture together, we are enriched by each other's perspectives. The Holy Spirit can speak through our study partners to help us see scripture in new and more profound ways. Those study partners keep us consistent in our reading of scripture. Like with physical exercise, we are more likely to stick with spiritual exercise if we do it with people who encourage us and hold us accountable. But perhaps most importantly, studying scripture with others means you have people who can pray with you when the scriptures make you say "ouch" and who can praise God with you when the scriptures make you say "amen." It means you have people who can remind you, when you feel like a saint, that you're also a sinner, and people who can remind you, when you feel like you're a sinner, that you're also a saint. When we read the Bible by ourselves, we find Jesus. But when we read the Bible together, we become Jesus for each other.

"How to Read the Bible Helpfully" will give you tools to read the Bible by yourself, but the ultimate point of the class will be to connect you with people with whom you can read the Bible regularly.

I invite you to join us and experience the joy of hearing the Holy Spirit speak to you in the scriptures.

*Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan*





President's Article

Jill Bentler, Council President

In December of 2021 my husband Rick and I purchased an old cottage on a lake in Minnesota close to the town where he was raised. The past two years we have made several journeys back to work on what we call our cabin; removing walls, knocking down lath and plaster, rewiring, insulating, replumbing, painting and more. But we have not been alone in our endeavor. Rick, the youngest of 8 boys, has many brothers still living in the area who have been with us every step of the way. Between them and some other local family members, they possess nearly all the skills required for the project. We have learned so much from their knowledge and along the way I have forged a deeper bond to the family I chose to be a part of 33 years ago.

Last week I returned home from our most recent sojourn. I was gone for 3 weeks and in that time, I nailed down subflooring, screwed down deck boards and learned how to install vinyl planks. It is exhilarating to watch our little cabin transform and to learn new skills. We also visited with family, explored the woods, and marveled at the changing leaves. I returned home refreshed and ready for fall and my responsibilities here.



All of us need a vacation or a break from the routines of our lives. A weekend here or there or a couple of weeks further afield seem to be the norm. In many fields taking a sabbatical is a way to refresh and grow professionally. As you know, Pastor Ben had applied to an organization for assistance in funding his sabbatical next year. Although he did not receive that grant our council is committed to helping make that dream a reality. While at the surface a sabbatical looks like a vacation or a break for Pastor

Ben, on a much deeper level it benefits all of us at Faith as well. How greatly will our lives be enriched by a rejuvenated pastor and the good news he brings back to us all?

In order to make that happen we will have to think creatively. Much like the many individual projects involved in rebuilding our cabin a sabbatical has many components such as pastoral coverage, flights, hotel rooms, and meals. One creative suggestion the council received was donating airline flight credits or miles. Perhaps you have a vacation home somewhere or unused restaurant gift cards? I invite all of the congregation to help us find ways to make this vision a reality. Maybe you have a



creative idea that needs to be explored? We welcome your emails or calls or your attendance at a monthly council meeting. We meet at 6:30 on the third Tuesday of each month in the Conference room. In November we will meet a week early on the 14th. Come join us for an evening, learn who we are and how you can help. We are committed to being a community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone.





Worship & Music

Luke Nicolay, Dir. Worship & Music



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Music Practice

Handbell Choir Practice - Tuesdays at 5pm

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 5pm

Contemporary Music Practice - Thursdays at 6:30pm

November 5th, All Saints Day

November 5th is All Saints Sunday! We invite you to bring in photographs of your loved ones, flowers, and other meaningful mementos to place on our altar. We encourage you to bring items in the week before Sunday, between Monday-Friday during the hours of 10am-4:30, so that you can take your time adding them to the altar. You may also submit your photos digitally, by mail, or in person for the staff to add to the altar.

Starting November 5th, How to Read the Bible Helpfully

During the month of November, Pastor Ben will lead a class in Room 7 designed to give people the tools and skills to read scripture in a way that is centered on the cross of Christ. Learn how even the most confusing and terrifying passages of scripture reveal God's unconditional love in response to the honest truth of human brokenness. The goals of this class are two: 1) to give you the confidence to open your Bible and find good news that applies to your life, 2) connect you to others with whom you can regularly read the Bible.

Nov. 5: The Purpose of Scripture and the Theology of the Cross: Psalm 137

Nov. 12: The Context Pentagon: Paul's Letters

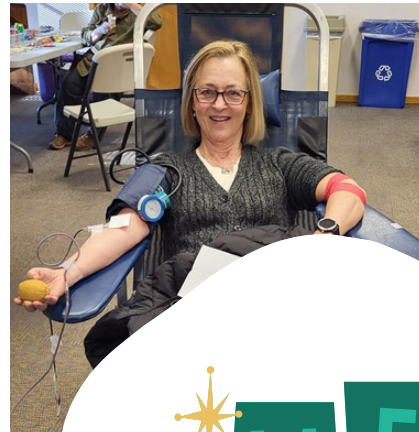
Nov. 19: Let Scripture Interpret Scripture: Eunuchs in the Bible

Nov. 25th: Doing Bible Study Together

November 12th, Steve Troester Memorial Blood Drive & Family-Led Worship

Every two seconds there is someone in the US who needs blood. Faith Lutheran Church and Vitalant are pleased to offer you the opportunity to contribute to this need!

Appointments are encouraged for the Steve Troester Memorial Blood Drive on November 12th. To schedule an appointment, go to donors.vitalant.org and enter the blood drive code SMFR023, or you can call Vitalant at 530-893-5433. Please bring a photo ID and eat well and drink plenty of water before donating.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, November 29th

**Hanging of the Greens & Holden Evening Prayer
Soup & Decorating at 5pm, Service at 7:30pm**

As winter approaches and darkness sets in, it's easy to feel depressed. That's why for centuries Christians in northern Europe have decorated their homes during winter with evergreens and lights. The evergreens are a reminder that, in Christ, life is stronger than death. The light is a reminder that Christ is the light of the world, and the darkness has not overcome it. Here at Faith Lutheran we have an annual tradition of decorating our sanctuary with lights and evergreens called Hanging of the Greens. It's a fun and festive time to get to know folks as we work together to surround each other with reminders that even in this cold dark season, the warmth, light, and life of Jesus is abundant! Join us on Wednesday, November 29th at 5:00 PM for our annual Hanging of the Greens, soup supper, and fellowship. We need several folks to help with pulling Christmas decor from Room 4, hanging garland, getting the Christmas tree put up, and other projects. We will begin our evening Holden Service at 7:30 PM. If you would like to participate, provide soup/bread/butter/drinks for supper, or if you have any questions, please let us know by contacting the office. We are joyously anticipating this Advent Season!

O Come Let Us Sing

Bill & Carolyn Kees

We would probably say that music is in our bones. Both of us grew up in musical families so when we came to Faith we wanted to take part in whatever music programs they offered. We chose to become involved in the chancel choir. At that time there was a Contemporary Musical Group and it was primarily instrumental. Since that time we have been part of the Choir and have enjoyed participating for 17 years.

Both of us have sung in different small ensembles; sometimes the two of us singing as a duet or in women or men's ensembles.

Bill found that he could use his early instrumental background in playing the tuba. He has played with the Brass ensemble at special seasons of the year, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Together the two of us spent numerous years providing support and creation of special services of Taize. For numerous years we worked with the Music and Worship Committee in planning worship.

We have participated in the Winter Choir Festival that included many congregations of the Chico community. In the last several years we have sung jointly with St John's Episcopal and shared with our communities Lessons and Carols during the season of Advent.

Our commitment in music comes to us from early in our lives. Carolyn grew up in a Pastor's family. Both her parents were musical. Her father had a beautiful tenor voice and her mother played the piano.



Bill and his Tuba



Carolyn in the Choir

She sang as a child with her sister Mary. They began singing when their parents were in Columbia and they sang duets in Spanish. They continued singing when they returned to the states singing in Storden, Hemet, and Eureka. Carolyn sang in all the musical ensembles in school and also played the clarinet in the wind ensemble.

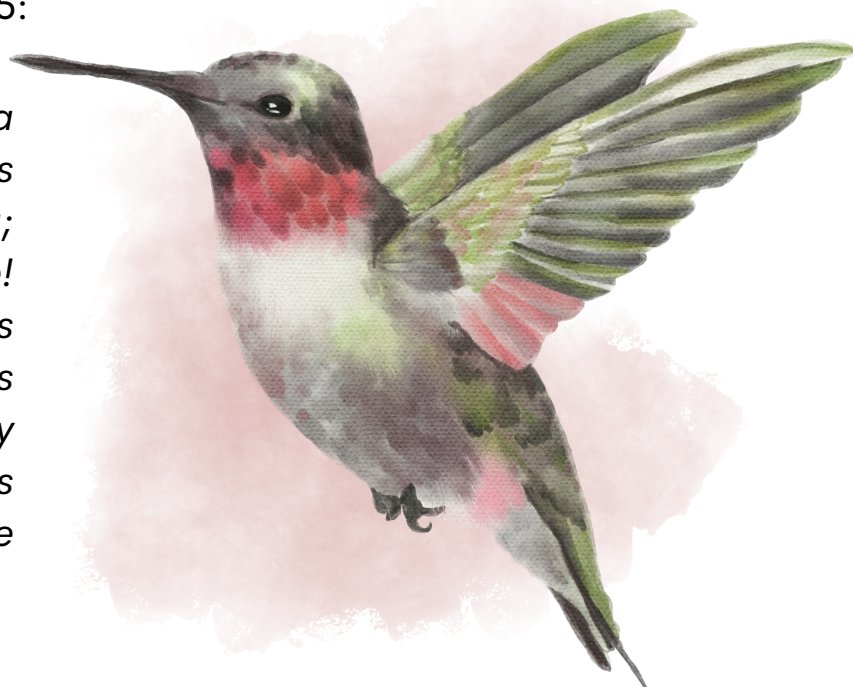
Bill's Mom taught piano, so he heard both classical and popular music being played. Bill's Mom was also active in music in the church so he took part in all of the music programs that were available. He sang in a quartet at church through his high school years. He also sang in vocal ensembles at school and played the tibia in the band.

Bill and Carolyn chose to go to the same college and one of the reasons they chose that school was because of their music program. They did not see themselves becoming teachers of music or as performers but more as an avocation.

They met in the University Chorale at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) and their love sprouted in part because of this musical connection. They sang in this group and then together became part of the Choir of the West. Bill auditioned and sang for a year with the small ensemble known as the Ambassador Quartet during his sophomore year. At the end of her time at PLU Carolyn was in a small ensemble called the Saga Singers and together with 2 other women and Bill traveled in the western US in the summer of their marriage (1966) to promote PLU.

Music has been woven into our lives and we so enjoy singing when ever we have the opportunity. Congregational singing is a highlight for us every Sunday. A Psalm that speaks of what roots us in singing is Psalm 95:

O come, let us sing to God; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise! For God, is great above all gods. God's hands are the depths of the earth; as are the heights of the mountains. The sea is God's and the dry land, which God formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the God our Maker!





Community Service

Michael N-D, Office Manager

Free Meals Available for Seniors

The Butte County Senior Nutrition Program offered through Passages is a food-distribution program that provides five freshly frozen meals at no charge. Recipients must be at least 60 years old but there is no income requirement. This is a pick-up and take-home service. The meals are picked up between 11:00am and 1:00pm on Wednesdays from a van at Lakeside Pavilion, 2565 California Park Drive. Anyone can pick up the meals for the recipients.



All you have to do to get the food is to call a recorded number 530-898-4224 (available 24 hours) once a week (preferably no later than Friday) to give your name. They add your name to the list and you or someone else picks up the meals. You drive up and they hand the food to you. Couldn't be simpler. They'll keep your name on the list until you miss three meal pick-ups in a row; then you have to call and get back on the list.

This is a grant-funded program offered in several counties. Passages wants people to use it so they continue to receive the funding.

Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties

All are welcome at the food bank on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month from 3-5pm. You can enter the parking lot via E. 1st Avenue or Mangrove. Traffic volunteers will show you where you can park.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering in food distribution, please contact either the Food Bank at 855-309-3663, or the church office at 530-895-3754.



Transgender Day of Remembrance



Every year, a disproportionate number of transgender people across the world are killed because they are trans. Some take their own lives. Once a year on November 20th, queer and affirming communities host a vigil to mourn the loss of our transgender siblings. As we have done for many years, Faith Lutheran will collaborate with Stonewall Alliance Center to host this vigil. Here is how you can contribute:

Plant Flags, Sunday, November 12th after Worship

Plant white flags in the front yard after worship. Each flag represents a life lost. This raises awareness of anti-trans violence and proclaims that we are here to stop it. An announcement will be made after church that Sunday inviting you to grab a handful of flags and plant them.

Add to the Community Altar, M-F Nov.13-17, and Sunday the 19th

Add to the community altar by bringing arts and crafts, flowers, or other offerings. The altar will be available to visit during office hours and is located in one of the classrooms, classroom TBD.

Vigil, Monday, November 20th at 6pm

Attend the candlelight vigil on Monday the 20th. During the vigil, we read the names of the deceased and honor their life here on this earth. Everyone is encouraged to attend to show their support and compassion.

Comfort Food is wanted for the vigil. Please feel free to bake or bring cookies, brownies, or other easy-to-take-home food that provides warmth and comfort on a cold night. Two people are wanted to serve decaf and cocoa as well. Please let Michael at the church office know if you would like to serve hot drinks or provide snacks.

Educational Material is available in the office year-round including brochures on LGBTQ and Transgender info. If this is your first time learning about same-sex relationships, gender identity, etc., these are excellent resources.



Pride in G.W.O.H.

Kim Schweder

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Growing up, I was always taught that the word "pride" was a word to be used carefully. Too much could cause trouble and too little meant lack of care. However, there are absolutely times in which one should take pride in knowing one's hard work and effort, the use of gifts in art, compassion, administration, and creativity are all put together to make for an absolute success. God's Work Our Hands Day on October 1st is definitely a day in which the people of Faith Lutheran should take pride in their generosity of time and talent in serving the community of



Chico by serving the students at Citrus Elementary School! I will let the pictures speak for themselves. It was heartwarming to scan the outside of the campus and see newly planted flowers, freshly painted planters, clear definition of a field track that obviously had not been seen clearly in some time, and vivid pops of color on the asphalt for the children to enjoy. However, it is most noteworthy that 99 people of Faith Lutheran participated in God's Work Our Hands for a total of 243 hours of collective service to make it all happen. People were so moved by the project that 26 of those 99 showed up on the day of the event, many with tools in hand and ready to go to work.

Inspired by Faith's plans for Citrus Elementary, Beth Bradley organized an additional crew of 30 people to spend God's Work Our Hands at her children's school of Rosedale Elementary. There they repainted the blacktop, fixed up garden boxes, and planted a garden using plants donated from CSU.

People of Faith Lutheran Church, please take pride in what your church community accomplished on that day and the witness Faith Lutheran made in the greater community of Chico! Indeed, this was God's work in which we are taking pride. Thank you all!

Roses

For Whom We Give Thanks

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Cyndi Bailey and Sherri Kimmelshue. Cyndi and Sherri have been Offering Counters for many, many years. They are retiring from counting, and we want to say thank you for their hard work, patience, and perseverance over the years. Counting is not always easy and Cyndi and Sherri have done an excellent job!



All of our musicians including the choir, bells, and contemporary team; the Manes family and the strings group, and Nancy Chamberlain for singing/playing in October.

The Quilters for putting on the bake sale & boutique, and everybody who contributed.

Kim Schweder and Steve Hall for their hard work organizing the Equipping Ministry.

Lisa Roehling, coordinator for the food bank, for working with Contra Costa & Solano Counties, Faith Lutheran Church, and our neighbors at Mangrove Medical and Coast Therapy to distribute food to so many families in need from a shared parking lot. We also thank the countless volunteers who contribute their time and love to this ministry.

All those who attended God's Work, Our Hands, including the following organizers: Bill Kees, Judy Struck, Jenny James, Marge and Quin Troester, Kim and Mary Schweder, Elise Gladu, Ralph Godwin, Bob Bay, Greg Massa, Glenn and Bonnie Pulliam, Vicki Doeden, Christian Leech, and Bidwell Presbyterian.

Judy Struck, Janine Rush, Bonnie Pulliam, Bill Kees, Jill Bentler, Marge Troester, Sharon Prindle and Katie Williams for their help in the office this fall.

The Faith Lutheran monthly Newsletter is a faithful report on miracles! How an individual congregation, how a Pastor and his team, can demonstrate a living, vigorous faith that asserts itself in abundant ways as the presence of God in the world. It could be a demonstration project for all who doubt religion or malign the church as an ineffective community. I think it should be shared with the entire Sierra-Nevada Synod as an example and a call to what individual congregations can be, can do, can look like. Every month is an inspiration to me. - Don Heinz



Financial Report

Mark Kimmelshue, Council Treasurer

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 9/30/23

	Budget	Actual	Percent
	To Date	To Date	Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$111,342.30	\$108,253.93	97.23%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$136,874.00	\$126,778.83	92.62%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$25,531.70)	(\$18,524.90)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2022		\$23,779.08	
Net Revenue through 9/30/2023		<u>(\$18,524.90)</u>	
Ending General Fund Balance		<u>\$5,254.18</u>	

The figures shown above are for the first 3 months of the fiscal year. As shown, we continue to do better than budget. However, income continues to exceed expenses which is reducing the General Operating Fund balance which could impact our ability to pay our operating costs on time.

Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue



Council Minutes

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Alyssa Manes, Council Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting notes from October 17, 2023

Present: Pastor Ben Colahan, Jill Bentler, Steve Hall, Mark Kimmelshue, Sky Sample, Alyssa Manes, Pat Snyder, Sharon Prindle, Martha McDermott, Elaine Lund, Mary Schweder. Absent: Leanne Chrisman. Guests: Molly Barnum, Janine Rush.

I. Call to order

II. Welcome – celebrations, appreciations, and prayer requests

III. Reading of the covenant

IV. Prayer – led by Ben

V. Ministries reports

Coffee Hour and Kitchen – represented by Janine Rush: Coffee hour has no current church budget but operates entirely on donations. Kitchen has a pantry and it would be nice if people would remember to lock it when they're done. There's a janitor's closet that could use rearranging so it's less hazardous. The fridge and freezer will be cleaned out from time to time; it is helpful when people label food with their name and date.

Sacristy and Prayer Chain – represented by Molly Barnum: The current budget for the sacristy team is \$3000, which seems sufficient. The team gets things ready for Sunday communion, sets up home kids, and takes care of some altar decorating. There are about 10 people who help prepare. For communion bread, we have been trying different options; ideally, we'd like to have a gluten-free bread that works for everyone. The prayer chain ministry communicates mostly by text, and people get prayers by contacting Michael, Ben, or Molly. They could always use more people in the prayer chain and it's a great ministry.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 2023 Regular Meeting /approved

VII. REPORTS

Financial Report – Mark Kimmelshue: We had about \$23,000 in the general fund July 1. Now we have about \$5,000. Capital campaign money has been used for the landscaping and to put in the new door between Sunday school rooms. Some money was sent to Hawaii last month from designated giving in the congregation. Financial report approved.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Ben: 2 new small groups started in the last month. 2 pastors might share sabbatical coverage while Pastor Ben is gone. He is planning to use a new lectionary focusing on stories of women throughout the Bible. This will be a one-year break from the regular lectionary. Nola Dosch wants to start a GriefShare group at Faith Lutheran. There are two other churches in Chico that also have GriefShare programs.

Family Life Report – Dani: Interviewing two applicants who are roommates/friends and want to share the position of nursery attendant. Advent – there will be an advent craft time December 3rd (after church). Looking for volunteers to help.

Plant Operations and Capital Campaign – Jill, with notes from Joel Zimbleman: Landscaping not much left (rock, bark on hills, plants). Bathroom remodel – we can't in good faith start the bathroom until we've finished the landscaping project. Motion was made to table the bathroom issue until January, after holidays and after landscape is done /passed.

God's Work, Our Hands – Mary Schweder: We had 99 volunteers (not including Beth Bradley's team at Rosedale), including 3-4 days of prep and the Sunday. Beth had 30 volunteers (not from church) and worked at her children's school. There was positive feedback from Citrus School.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Book Study – Rich Church, Poor Church, Ch. 4: Just because we want it and it's nice, doesn't mean we have to have it. We are grateful that this congregation has paid off the mortgage.

Cyber Security – Mark/Ben: It appears all crucial info is all backed up. There's a company that comes out sometimes, and they were able to troubleshoot when we weren't able to stream our service a few weeks ago. It's fixed.

Directory – we have a few options. 1. We could have a new one printed for us. Cost would be around \$1300. 2. We could print our own, which would be about \$740. 3. We could print addendum pages (about 4 pages), with names and addresses that are new or changed, then plan on doing a new directory in about a year. Motion to wait until fall of next year to do new directory and do addendum now: passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Eve Services – Staff was talking about maybe doing a morning service more geared toward families, with kids helping lead, skip 4pm service, and do candle light at 9pm. Another option, we are wondering if the families want to do a Christmas pageant on Wednesday of that week. Motion to do morning and candle light: passed

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

XI.PUT IT IN THE PLATE (a place for things that come up during meeting)

The sanctuary is full on any given Sunday, in November we will discuss possibly going to two services).

XII. CLOSING PRAYER

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting: November 14, 2023



Jamie Holmes

What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a program in which trained lay people provide one-to-one distinctively Christian care to individuals who are hurting. We help people going through difficulties such as bereavement, job loss, divorce, loss of health, caregiver's fatigue, parenting, financial crisis, hospitalization and more.

Stephen Ministers listen non-judgmentally to their Care Receivers, providing support, encouragement and prayer. This ministry is free and confidential. Care Receivers are not required to be members of or attend Faith Lutheran Church.

Stephen Ministers and their Care Receivers meet one hour a week for as long as needed. We are not therapists or counselors but Stephen Ministers complete 50 hours of training and take part in twice-monthly supervision and continuing education. We do not provide services such as transportation, housework, meals, etc.

We are the Care Givers, God is the Cure Giver.

If you would like to learn how to become a Care Receiver yourself or refer someone who might need a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Ben or either of Faith's Stephen Leaders: Gen Brink-Capriola or Jamie Holmes.

Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long, long time ago.

One day I saw a sign that read, "Heaven's Grocery Store."

As I got a little closer, the door opened wide, and I found myself standing inside.

I saw a host of angels, they were standing everywhere.

One handed me a basket and said, "My Child, shop with care."

Everything a human needed was in that grocery store.

And if you couldn't carry it all, you could come back the next day for more.

First, I got some patience. Love was in the same row.

Further down was understanding, you need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of wisdom, a bag or two of Faith.

I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some strength and courage to help me run this race.

By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some grace.

I didn't forget salvation, for salvation was free.

So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill.

For I thought I had everything to do the master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw prayer and I just had to put that in, for I knew when I stepped outside, I would run into sin.

Peace and joy were plentiful; they were last on the shelf.

Song and praise were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"

He smiled again and said, "My child, Jesus paid your bill a long, long time ago."



Written by Ron DeMarco
Submitted by Dorothy Nelson

Color these leaves your favorite fall or winter colors!
Keep them to decorate your own house, or give them
to one of the staff so that they can put the leaves in
the office windows for a festive holiday season!



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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 10A-4:30P

Website: chicofaithlutheran.org

Email: office@chicofaithlutheran.org

Phone: (530) 895-3754

