



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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 31, 2025

Dawn Stafford, preaching

Rev. Bill Kees, presiding

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Slane" | Craig Phillips

WELCOME

Rev. Bill Kees

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 532 | *Gather Us In* | v. 1, 3-4



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

GREETING

Rev. Bill Kees

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Rev. Bill Kees

CALL) Merciful God,

RESP) you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Bill Kees

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Josh Edwards

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Praise Him, Praise Him | Pamela Conn Beall & Susan Hagen Nipp



1. Praise him, praise him, all ye lit - tle chil - dren,



God is love, God is love;



Praise him, praise him, all ye lit - tle chil - dren,



FIRST READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Julio Quiñones

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶ So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

CALL) Word of God, word of life.

RESP) Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174 | Gospel Acclamation—Celtic Alleluia



GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Dawn Stafford

CALL) The holy gospel according to Luke.

RESP) Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to

you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “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.¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

CALL) The gospel of the Lord.

RESP) Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Dawn Stafford

HYMN OF THE DAY

For Everyone Born | Shirley Erena Murray | v. 1-4

1 For eve - ry - one born, a place a the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just a place at the ta - ble,

for eve - ry-one born, clean wa - ter and bread;
 re - vi - sit-ing roles, de - cid-ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 the us - er, the used with need to for - give,

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow-ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin-kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,

for eve - ry-one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live.

Refrain E E/G# A² B sus4 B

And God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus-tice

E E/G# A² B sus4 B

And joy, com - pas - sion and peace;

C#m7 C#m/B

yes, God will de - light when we are cre -

A B sus4 B E

a - tors of jus-tice, jus-tice and joy.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Karen Avis

Sung Response: ACS 1079 | *Open My Heart*

SUNG RESP) Open my heart, open my heart. Open my heart, open my heart.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Bill Kees

CALL) The peace of Christ be with you all.

RESP) And also with you.

WELCOMING OF VISITORS

Rev. Bill Kees

OFFERING

Baptism Video

If parents would like their children in communion, please get them during this time.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

CALL) The Lord be with you.

RESP) And also with you.

CALL) Lift up your hearts.

RESP) We lift them to the Lord.

CALL) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

RESP) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, And the power, And the glory, Forever and ever, Amen.

AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 10, p. 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION SONGS

Come as You Are | David Crowder Band

Abide With Me | Matt Maher



If you would like one-on-one, personal prayer at this time, we invite you to pray with today's Healing Minister on the north side of the room/wall facing East 1st Ave.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Karen Avis

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Rev. Bill Kees

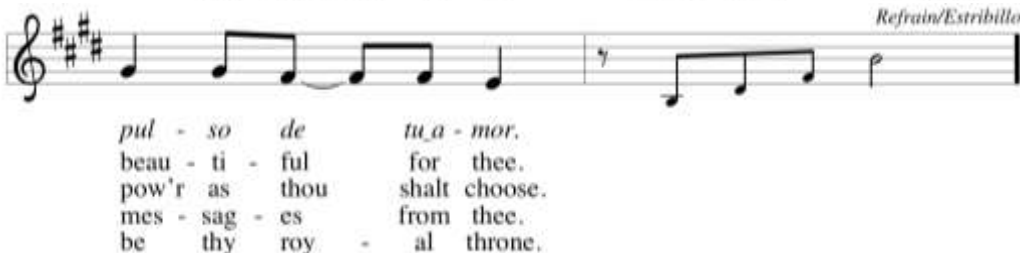
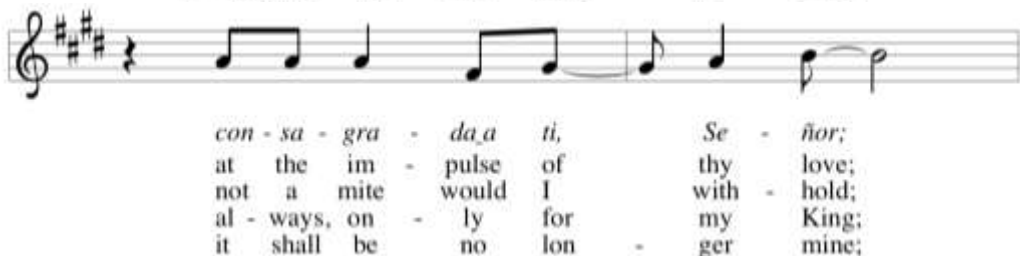
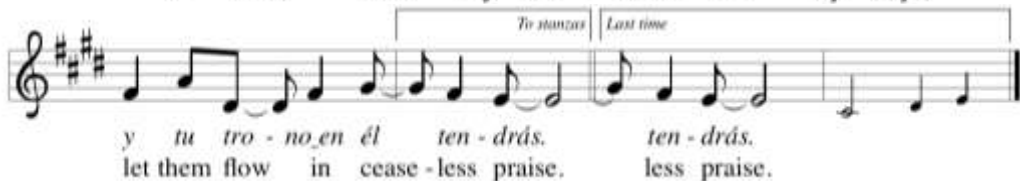
SENDING SONG

ELW 583 | Take My Life, That I May Be



Refrain/Estrillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



DISMISSAL

Karen Avis

CALL) Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

RESP) Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Festival Toccata | Percy E. Fletcher

Today's Worship Team

Presiding Minister: Rev. Bill Kees

Sermon: Dawn Stafford

Assisting Minister: Karen Avis

On-Site Council Member: Mark Kimmelshue

On-Site Equipping Minister: Vickie James

Communion: Dave Barnum, Molly Barnum (shepherd), Tod Kimmelshue, Sky Sample, and Rev. William Stomski

Communion Clean-up: Laura Deaver

Ushers: Joan Palmer and Lynette Stensrud

Lector: Julio Quiñones

Welcome Table: Molly Barnum and Laurae Dunn

Coffee Hour: Craig Fellner and Diane Fellner

A/V Desk: Malinda Add, Adelio Havens, and Kai Pappani-McDermott

Healing Minister: Gen Brink-Capriola

Offering Counters: Lori Briggs-Oman and Lynette Stensrud

Musicians: FLC Contemporary Team

Cantor: Luke Nicolay

Giving at Faith Lutheran

You can use this QR code by opening the camera on your phone and focusing on the image. A prompt from "tithe.ly" will pop up. Click it and you will be sent to our giving page. You can also access our giving page at ChioFaithLutheran.org/Give. Cash or checks can be placed in the offering plate during service or dropped off at the office. You may donate to our General Fund which supports our budget (staff salaries, operating costs, repairs and maintenance) or you may give to any designated fund like music, family, memorials, or the Capital Campaign.





City of Chico
Animal Shelter



the Greatest Gift
PROJECT



FACILITATORS

Adelio Havens

Kim Schweder

Kate Ory

THE CHICO ANIMAL SHELTER, our community's municipal shelter, is funded by the City of Chico and provides the basics—food, supplies, and safe housing—for animals in need. But the budget doesn't stretch far enough to cover "extras" like toys, kennel mats, and treats that enrich the animals' lives and help them find their fur-ever homes.

Some animals are adopted quickly, but others require months of behavior support, medical care, and surgeries. Thanks to dedicated staff and volunteers, the shelter continues to maintain its NO KILL status. Unlike other local adoption agencies, the Chico Animal Shelter also offers the lowest adoption fees in the county, always including spay/neuter, vaccinations, and first licensing.

Why It Matters: Supporting the Chico Animal Shelter gives us a simple but powerful way to live out our values of kindness, care, and service. Together, we can make a difference for animals who need comfort and second chances.

How You Can Help. The shelter is especially in need of:

- Dry dog or cat food – Kirkland (Costco) or Diamond Naturals preferred
- Cat litter – Non-clumping clay
- Kitten formula – Breeder's Edge, KMR, or Just Born
- Kitten nursing bottles
- Training treats – small, soft
- Large dog toys – rope toys, XL Kongs, Large Nylabones
- Collars and leashes – all sizes
- Yoga mats – new or gently used
- Milk Bone mini treats
- Puzzle food bowls

Your donations of these items bring comfort, joy, and healing to animals as they wait for their fur-ever families. Items can be dropped off on Sundays at the manger up at the front of the sanctuary, or, at the office anytime during office hours on weekdays.



Weekly Events

Sundays

- Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- STARTING SEP. 14: Journaling Class in Room 6 after Worship (Elise Gladu)
- STARTING SEP. 14: New Members Class in Room 7 after Worship (Pr. Ben)
- Dungeons & Dragons (5e) on 2nd Sundays of Month, 5:00 p.m. Room 6 (Kate Ory, Malinda Ard)

Mondays

- Time Out for Art in Room 6 from 1-4:00 p.m. (Caryl Quinones, Sherrill Heinz)
- Bible Study, 1st & 3rd Mondays in Room 7 at 5:30 p.m. (Kate Ory)

Tuesdays

- Quilters in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 AM to about 2:00 p.m. (Char Miller, Diane Knight)
- Afternoon Games in Room 6 from noon to 3:00 p.m. (Elise Gladu)
- 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

- Bulletin Folders in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. (Laurae Dunn)
- 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)
- Choir Practice in the Sanctuary at 5:45 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- 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)
- Food Bank, 1st & 3rd Fridays in the Parking Lot from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Lisa Roehling)

Faith Lutheran Church also hosts AA Candlelight, Adult Children of Alcoholics, Nar Anon, Gamblers Anonymous, the Parkinson's Support Group (and Rock Steady Boxing), Passages, P.E.O., the Children's Choir of Chico, Church of the Homeless Jesus' food distribution, Reading Pals, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's caregiver group, Safe Space, and Stephen Ministry. Please let us know if you would like to learn more about any of these programs.

Upcoming Events

Sermon Conversations

After worship on Sundays in the Sanctuary, throughout August

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?

Afternoon Games ~ NEW SMALL GROUP!!!

Tuesdays from Noon-3:00 p.m., Room 6, Starts Sep. 4

Each Tuesday starting September 4th, we'll have a light lunch and play a variety of games. So far, Hand and Foot, Mexican Train, and Canasta have been requested. Cost will be \$3 per week to cover the cost of food/drink. Have any questions, or want to RSVP? Give Elise Gladu a call or text at (530) 520-4440.

Informational Meeting on the Parking Lot Ministry

Saturday, September 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Faith is looking to start a new ministry to better welcome guests and members as they park, and we'd like to invite you to our initial informational meeting on Saturday, September 6th at 9 AM. There will be coffee and coffee cake for all who attend. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, you can attend the meeting to learn more or contact Mary Schweder directly.

Rally Day

Sunday, September 7

It's almost time for Faith's ministry fair in which we showcase and celebrate all the ministries of Faith with food, games, and fun, *and* the release of the new directory! And this year we're celebrating Faith's 75th anniversary. Bring the family and enjoy a dunk tank, water games, food, drinks, and a pinata! **POP-UP TENTS WANTED FOR RALLY DAY!!! Contact Steve Hall: (530) 624-1103**

Journaling Class

Starts Sunday, September 14 after Worship

Our journaling class will start the Sunday after Rally Day, September 14th. We will gather after service so grab yourself some coffee and a snack at coffee hour then join us in room 6.

Our first gathering will basically be finding out what you want and planning our meetings from there! Everyone is welcome!

New Members Class

Starts Sunday, September 14 after Worship

Whether you're looking to become a member of our congregation or you're curious to learn the history of the Lutheran church, our beliefs and theology, and how these things apply to worship, denominational structure, we welcome you to take our new members class.

Classes are taught by Pastor Ben and will take place from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM in Room 7 after church on Sundays, starting Sept. 14th and continuing through the end of October.

Wilderness Worship: Sacramento Float

Sun. Sep. 21 at 2:00 p.m.

It is an ancient and noble tradition of Chico to float down the Sacramento River in an innertube while chatting with your friends and rejoicing in the goodness of God's creation.

On Sunday, September 21, we'll do just that! We'll carpool from Faith Lutheran at 2pm and launch from the Irvine Finch Boat Ramp near Hamilton City about 2:45pm. We will float for about an hour and a half to the Pine Creek Access, near old Scotty's Landing. Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, Sept. 17th. Please let us know if you have a truck/van which you could use to transport people/innertubes. Please bring a swimsuit, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat.

Commemorative 75th Anniversary Service & Meal

Sun. Sep. 28 During Worship

The sanctuary will be rearranged so that throughout worship we can have brunch catered by Karen Avis. We still will proclaim Christ crucified and risen, but we will also see pictures of our past and give thanks for the saints who brought us thus far. And then we will look to our future.

TODAY'S MINISTERS ARE THE PEOPLE OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

We thank them for their ministry
and we celebrate that you are here to worship with us today!

OFFICE HOURS: M-F 10a-12p, 1p-4:30p | 530.895.3754 | FaithLutheranInChico@gmail.com