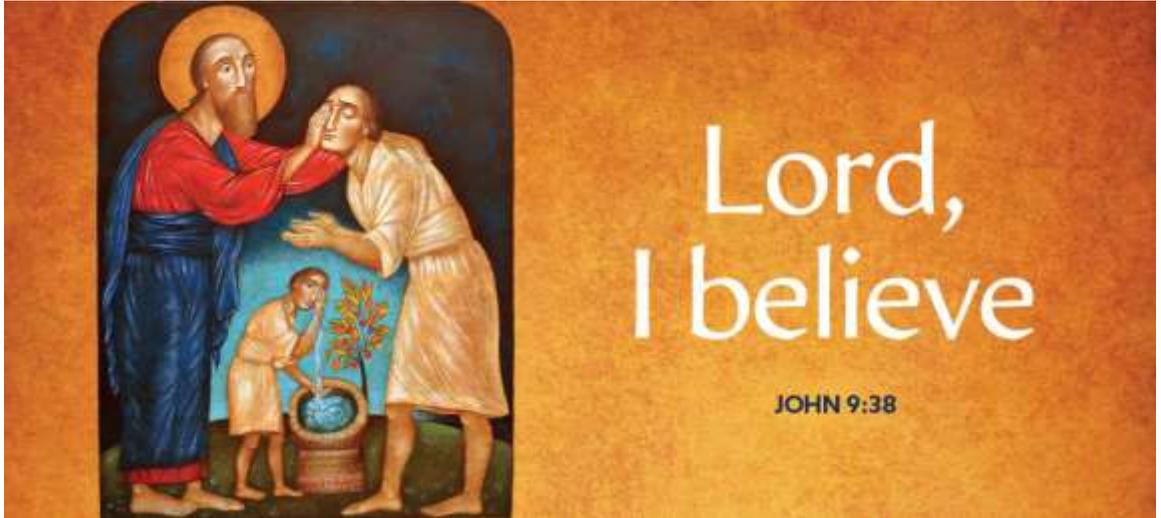


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A community reflecting God's love with a place at the table
for everyone*



This service encourages movement! Except during the sermon, at any time you are encouraged to get up, raise your arms in praise, dance, light a candle, kneel before the cross, bless yourself with the waters of baptism, or pray with the healing prayer minister. You can also sit and relax the whole time.

We encourage you to discover how you can be a part of reflecting God's love through connecting more deeply with our community. To find out more, please speak with our Equipping Minister after worship or visit ChicoFaithLutheran.org.

Our shared ministry is made possible by the generosity of our members. If you would like to support our work proclaiming Christ's love, you can either make a donation in the wooden box at the back of the sanctuary, visit ChicoFaithLutheran.org/give or use the QR code.



Office: Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m.-Noon / 1:00-4:30 p.m.
Contact: 530.895.3754, FaithLutheranInChico@gmail.com
Website: ChicoFaithLutheran.Org
Address: 667 E. 1st Ave. Chico, CA. 95926
Services Sundays at 9:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.



John 9 (NRSVUE) ¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

⁴³ The Pharisees said to him, “You are saying these things because you are blind.” Jesus answered them, “If I am a sinner, I do not know. But if I am not a sinner, why do you accuse me of being a sinner? I do not know.”

Sermon Notes

We see inability, Christ sees possibility

Jesus rejects the idea that physical difference is caused by sin.

In John's gospel, Jesus repeatedly uses the phrase "I am" to point to his divinity. This is a reference to Exodus 3:14, when the only name God gives to Moses is "I AM who I AM," a rejection of reducing God to a label. When his neighbors no longer recognize him, the man born blind says literally in the original Greek, "I am." He is the only person other than Jesus to do so in John.

The term "Son of Man" is a poetic phrase in Hebrew and scripture to refer to a human being. It can also be translated, "The Human One."

Where do you see physical difference being attributed to sin?

When have you struggled to recognize something or someone because they didn't match your expectation?

When has someone looked past your labels to see your humanity?

Welcome to our church! Here are our regular groups, classes, Bible studies, and hangouts. Not listed are the following groups: AA Candlelight, Nar Anon, PEO, Passages. You are always welcome to ask about joining a group by talking to Michael at the church office: (530) 895-3754, FaithLutheranInChico@gmail.com.

Sundays

- Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- Class on Christians and Authority, 11:00 a.m. (Pr. Ben)
- Dungeons & Dragons (5e) on 2nd 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)
- Seniors Group, Hallelujah Anyway, 10:30 a.m. Room 7, 2nd & 4th Mondays (Dottie E., Eileen W.)
- 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 about 3:00 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)
- LGBTQ+ AA Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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)
- Griefshare at 2:00 p.m. in Room 7 (Nola D., Stephen K., Peter M.)
- Handbell Practice in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Lenten Class, Soup, and Service in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 p.m.

Thursdays

- Spiritual Seekers Bible Study on 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 10 a.m., Conf. Room (Mary S.)
- 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)