

OCTOBER 2024



FAITH TALKS

Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

God's Work Our Hands

Oct. 13th at Rosedale Elementary, 8:30am

About the Cover

On the cover, you'll see Pr. Ben blessing Evi Puerta's stuffed animal at Blessing of the Animals a couple years ago. Check out page 3 to learn more about Blessing of the Animals on October 6th! And yes - - you can bring real animals!

You'll also notice that October 13th is God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, so make sure NOT to go to Faith Lutheran on the 13th!

Contents

3. Worship & Music and Sunday Events

5. Pastor's Article

8. Rally Day Recap

10. Letter from the President

11. Ongoing Groups

12. GriefShare

14. Other Events & Save the Dates

15. Financial Report

16. Council Minutes

18. Roses (Thank Yous)

19. God's Work, Our Hands and School Supply Drive



Worship & Music

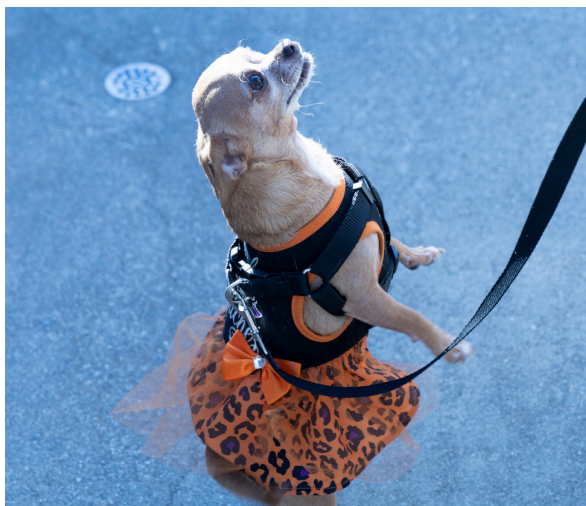


Music Practice

Bell Choir Wednesdays at 4:00 PM

Choir Practice Thursdays at 5:45 PM

Contemporary Music Practice Thursdays at 7:15 PM



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6th

Come bring your animals, great and small, wise and wonderful, to be blessed in the tradition of St. Francis! Before service, animals will be blessed in the courtyard. If you feel your animal is able to remain calm in the sanctuary, you are encouraged to parade your animal in with the opening procession. You can then stay for the entire

service with your animal, or take them outside as needed. Stuffed animals are welcome! Please bring your pets at 9AM.

Artois Oktoberfest

**Sunday, October 6th from 1-5pm at
St. Paul's Lutheran, 6th & Main in Artois**

Please call Myrna Lohse at 916-204-4960 to RSVP for this 40+ year tradition, including Brats, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, German Chocolate Cake, and Sweet/Hot Mustard. Join us for fellowship in the Lutheran Hall, sit in our community park, or take your food home with you. Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in advance; there will be no door sales.



God's Work Our Hands

**Sunday, October 13th at 8:30 AM
at Rosedale Elementary**

Worship by way of community service! Join us at Rosedale Elementary to spruce up the campus. More on page 19!



Dorothy's 90th Birthday Celebration

Sunday, October 20th

Join us after worship during coffee hour for light refreshments and celebration!



Reformation Day

Sunday, October 27th

Reformation Day comes from Martin Luther's 95 Theses he revealed on October 31st, 1517. On the last Sunday in October, we will welcome new members to Faith Lutheran who have been taking the New Members class. And not to overexcite you, but the Quilters will also be having their annual Fall Boutique! Read more about it on page 15. We invite you to partake in all of the above...and to wear **red!**

We'll welcome our new members on Reformation Sunday!

Pastor's Article



It's good to be back from my sabbatical! One of the great gifts I received during my three months away was the opportunity to worship with our siblings in Christ in other congregations. My family and I worshipped with mega churches, small churches, churches that use the latest technology, and churches that are older than the English language.

As my wife and I would talk over the experience we had at each church, consistently what mattered most to us was not the music or even the sermon, it was the welcome we experienced from the members. In particular, what mattered was how the members welcomed our toddlers.



This welcome took all kinds of forms. In some churches, that had a great Sunday school program with a clear place to check in and encouraging teachers. In some churches, they had a children's area in the sanctuary. In some churches, they encouraged our daughter to be with us in worship and celebrated noises she made and the wiggles she did. In all the churches, it was individual members, not just the pastor or the staff, but the people of the church who let us know they were glad we were there.

One of the reasons I am so happy to be back at Faith Lutheran is because of how well you welcome not only my child, but so many children. I want to share with you the ways that I have seen you welcome kids in just the month that I've been back:

1) Even without a staff person, each week a different member of Faith is teaming up with Cindy Kampf to ensure that young children have Sunday school in which they learn about Jesus and God's love.

2) Emily Puerta and Dottie Erhardt have done an amazing job teaching our children songs of faith that the kids share with the congregation.



3) Elaine Lund, Joel Zimbelman, Bob Bay, and Jill Bentler

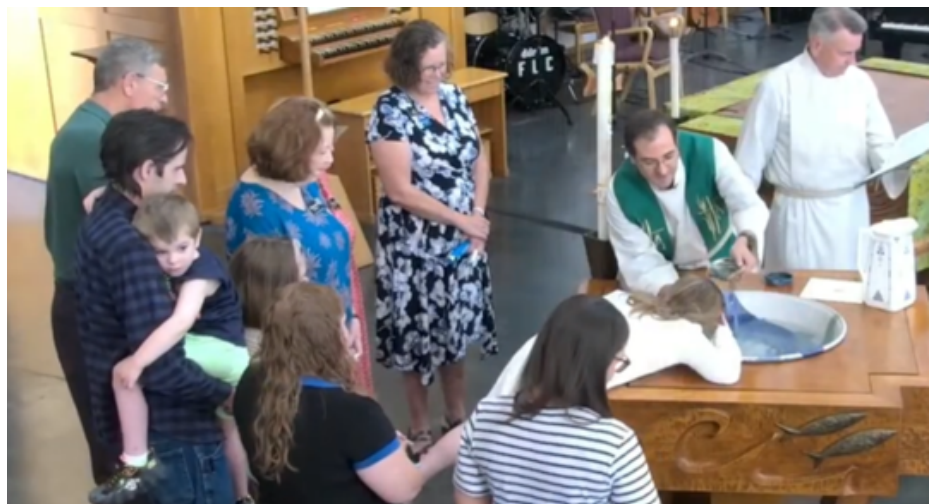
have brought to completion a year-long project to renovate our Sunday school bathrooms and make them more welcoming for children of all ages.

4) Dawn Stafford, Candy Munson, Ben Vandersluis, Melisse Boyd, Gayle Palys, Jill Bentler, and James and Alyssa Manes have spent dozens of hours interviewing potential candidates for our new Director of Children and Family Ministry.

5) Nearly a dozen families brought their children to our first in-person interview for the Director of Children and Youth Ministry.

6) You all graciously smiled when my daughter, now unused to being apart from me, ran into my arms during worship.

7) When some of the more rambunctious preschoolers have run off into various areas of the sanctuary during worship, you gently and lovingly shepherd them back to their parents.



8) You all gave a joyous welcome to Kayla during her baptism and so many of you

went out of your way to make her feel special on the day she received the promise of an eternal place in God's family.

9) Chris Brown, Judy Struck, and Diana Snyder provided childcare so that a mother could attend the New Members' Class.

10) On Rally Day, you gave children your full hearts. Kate Ory pulled out a piñata. Dave Rush organized a water balloon toss, and had as much fun as the kids in doing so. Tom Melvin brought his Model-T and delighted in letting the kids crawl all over it. Dottie Erhardt smiled ear to ear as she gave out prizes to the children. And in each of these activities, whenever you saw a child or a parent needing help, you jumped in to make sure everyone was care for.



And these are just the things that I saw with my own eyes. I have no doubt there are so many more of you who have given welcome the children of Faith in so many more ways than I have seen. I am grateful for you all.

As we look for a new Director of Children and Youth Ministry, we are looking for someone not to take over the ministry that you are already doing, but to coordinate, train, and encourage you in the love of God's children that is already within you. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). Thank you for living out Christ's calling. Thank you for being a community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

RALLY DAY

A picture is worth a thousand words. There are many wonderful pictures of Rally Day as I write this, and I invite you to read as I paint my picture of Rally Day. 7 A.M. The sun rose over the The sun rose over the ridge as I headed down to Chico, arriving at the church at 7:30 A.M. I walked through the gate and saw Mary Schweder sweeping leaves. She had brought a box of donut holes which sat on a table alongside a box of coffee that Annette Jefferson had brought. I added my chocolate chip cookies to the mix. This strategy worked. Fueled by coffee and sugar and carbs, we were finished setting up by 9:00 A.M. High five!

moved the soul...and feet! There was a lot of moving and grooving to the music!



The feast of BBQ prime rib and hot garlic bread was outstanding! You could find your place at the table while waiting for the activities to start. Along with the aroma of BBQ, you could hear the horns from the classic cars being driven by five-year olds. Just kidding. They were sitting in the upholstered seats honking the horns of these beautiful and well-loved cars. Such a treat!

After worship, the whole congregation was invited to experience Rally Day, and it looked like they all accepted; a great turnout! Whether you had a table, signed up to try something new, or enjoyed walking around, a spirit of joy was wafting through the air with the sound of old-time rock and roll that

Dave Rush soon started the water balloon toss with lines quickly forming. Just as soon as the lines were formed, balloons were flying! It was a sunny day, so the water probably felt good. The piñata was next. Kate Ory hoisted the racecar piñata up. Blindfolds were



placed over children's eyes, and the whacking began.

The prize table was laden with beautiful, donated arts and crafts from the Quilters and Time for Art, Hot Wheels, and various toys. A young boy handed me his colorfully stamped map which he was exchanging for a prize. He became the proud owner of a race track and choice of two Hot Wheels. The joy on his face!

All of the fun was a wonderful backdrop to showcase the ministries and opportunities available at Faith. One lady came to the prize table and asked me, "Where do I go next?" She had followed the arrows saying 'Race To Find Your Place'. I directed her to follow the arrows on the other side of the courtyard. The rest is her story, but it was a good question: "Where do I go next?" Did you find your place? Where will you go next?

May Connection, Generosity and Joy follow you on your journey this coming year.

Blessings and peace be with you,

Dottie Erhardt for the Equipping Team





Letter from the Pres



Wow, the past few weeks have been non stop at Faith Lutheran! Pastor Ben's return, Rally Day, interviews for the position of Director of Children and Youth, and small group meetings. Our new bathroom in the education wing has been completed and plans are underway to clean up the children's play area. By the time you read this Blessing of the Animals will be upon us followed in short order by God's Work Our Hands. Whew! As

always, there is a hum of activity going on at Faith Lutheran Church. The church council held its first regular meeting on September 17th. I am excited to work with this dynamic new council and so deeply appreciative of the hard work and talent that they bring to the table. If you are ever curious about what goes on at a council meeting, I encourage you to attend. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room. And yes, there are snacks!

Some of the items on our recent agenda included our global ministry focus, church campus safety, and Sunday Council Rep duties. Prayer is always an important part of our meetings. One topic that has come up at our meetings several times over the past couple of years is how can we honor and appreciate our staff? Many of you already do nice things for Michael and Luke (and Ben) and I know they are grateful. Although I don't think we should limit our love to a particular time of the year, I recently discovered that October is actually Church Staff Appreciation Month. Who knew? So if you feel called to participate I encourage you to show your personal appreciation to this hard working team in the way that makes sense to you. Notes and cards are always a wonderful way to express personal thoughts, snacks and treats are appreciated but I know they don't eat a lot of sweets. Simple kindnesses from the love in your heart will make their day, or month in this case!



Jill Bentler, Council President

Ongoing Groups

Just Older Youth...Seniors!

**10AM-Noon: 10/14, 10/28, and 11/11
In Room 7**

This session of our seniors' group reads *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, and meets about every other week to discuss the book and its application to our lives. Fill your spiritual and social cups with JOYS!



Time Out for Art

**Mondays from 1-4 PM
In Room 6**

Bring any project of your own, or use what we have available to take some time out from the stress of life and simply do art. We start with a devotional, and spend a couple hours chatting and honing our craft. All ages and talents welcome!



Tuesday Quilters

**Meet every Tuesday, 10AM until
about 2 or 3 PM.**

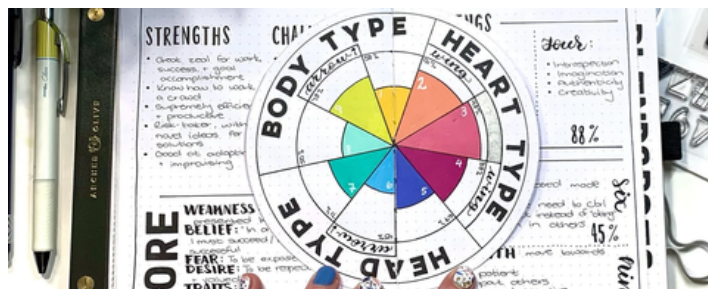
Join us each Tuesday as we craft and share in fellowship together! Many of our crafts are sold to raise money for student scholarships and paratransit tickets that help people get to church.



Enneagram Group

**Wednesdays at 4 PM
In Room 7**

Delve into the basic concepts of the Enneagram and discover unique insights into yourself and others as we promote spiritual growth. Our hope is that transformation and growth take place we study the Enneagram together.



Grief Share

GriefShare is a Christ centered support group that is a safe and welcoming place to help people understand the difficult emotions of grief and find comfort and healing after the death of a loved one. Faith Lutheran's first GriefShare group met for 13 weeks over the spring and summer. Below you can read testimonials from the most recent group. One is from Peter Miller, who was one of the facilitators of GriefShare, and one is from Faye Johnson, who participated in the group.



Peter Miller

"The first Grief share program that was held at our church recently concluded its 13-week cycle. I had the privilege to help facilitate with two other good people. We are hoping that the group we had might be able to meet later for fellowship and follow up. We are also hoping this fall, to have a one-day program on coping with grief during the holidays. It is hoped to have another session next year. Myself, Nola, and Stephen will be looking for people then that might benefit as well as others to help conduct some of the programs.

I had not assisted in a grief program like this one before this. I had worked at a Butte Home Health Hospice for 28 years prior to recently retiring so I had some experience but in a different kind of grief that comes when people are preparing for death. I also got to experience the other side of the bed with the death of my first wife, as well as the death of my parents in my home, though I had the support of Hospice, I also had little time with my first wife before her death to adjust. I did find the videos with Grief Share quite good in stimulating discussion similar to what I saw after my wife's death but with more depth on how our relation with God and others, fits into all of this.

They say everyone grieves differently, and that the greater the love one has had, the harder grief can be. People come from different situations, some deaths coming easier than others. In Hospice we always worked with families to have a 'good death'. Now it is not as rare as it was before Hospice in the 70's but still lacking. Grief share helps to show different tools aiding in healing from the

'birthing' pains in the transitioning of loved ones, to death and the mess that often follows. It was said by a Chaplain I worked with, that as when one nears death, the window to God and heaven becomes less opaque. It is also said that the person dying often finds it easier than those left behind. I believe Caregivers also get to see bits through this curtain through their loved ones eyes. It was my privilege to hear of others to talk of this and be open to allowing exploring the nature of God, love, and the afterlife. I felt like a guide who knows some of the care needed along the journey but feel like I always have something to learn as I too get closer to that transition as well.

I am hoping this program will continue to help those that have faced a loss, to not feel so lost on their own path of healing. We are hoping that there might be others willing to help out with facilitating the material that Grief share has provided also. Our current crew has a diversity of experiences to share, and we hope to have others to help out with their wealth of experiences as the program grows in facilitating this good program. I have found a new appreciation of God's nature, how one might get closer to God, and how better to dance in the pentecostal flame, with minimal burn." --Peter Miller

"I recently completed Grief Share, a Bible based grief group sponsored by FLC. It was a wonderfully Christian centered group in which we could freely express our faith, sorrows and doubts in a setting compatible with Christian beliefs. Some secular organizations offer groups, however, Christian beliefs are not central to their discussions. Grief Share discussions are augmented with video scenarios similar to what we are facing. The leaders were compassionate, organized and kept the discussions on track. I am so grateful for FLC sponsoring this group." --Faye Johnson



**Faye
Johnson**

We plan to hold another 13 week group in the winter. In the meantime, GriefShare will have two one-time workshops called Surviving the Holidays. They will be Nov. 14th, and Dec. 12th, both are Thursdays, from 2pm-4pm in Room 7/8. If you would be interested in learning more about GriefShare, either to be participant or a facilitator, please contact Nola Dosch or the office.

Other Events & Save the Dates

Playground Cleanup

Sat. October 4th at 10am

Leah Jackson has graciously organized a cleanup day! If you can mop, wash, sweep, or clean in any way, we'd love to have you lend a helping hand. In addition to basic cleanup, we'll be power washing. Please give the church office a call if you'd like to help out. Kids welcome! And if it's hot enough, we'll play in the sprinklers!



Quilters Bake Sale and Boo-Tique!

Sun. October 27th after Church

The Quilters are at it again, selling hand made crafts including runners, quilts, knick-knacks, goodies, and so many delightful things for your home and kitchen! And the money earned goes to provide spring scholarships to FLC students who are continuing their education at any college, trade school, or continuing education program. Additional money goes to buy paratransit tickets that help folks get to church.

NOVEMBER

Save the Dates

- All Saints Day, Sunday, November 3rd. Prepare for celebration of saints past and saints present, with a chance to share stories and enjoy potluck food.
- Veteran's Day observation, Sunday, November 10th.
- Steve Troester Memorial Blood Drive, Sunday, November 17th.
- Trans Day of Remembrance Vigil, Thursday, November 20th.
- Although we have not set a date, Dungeons & Dragons, a collaborative roleplaying group, will meet one day this November. Let us know if you'd like to join, all ages welcome!



Financial Report

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 8/31/24

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$80,509.75	\$57,656.16	71.61%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$98,386.23	\$63,848.46	64.90%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$17,876.48)	(\$6,192.30)	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2024		\$16,135.61	
Net Revenue through 8/31/24		(\$6,192.30)	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$9,943.31	

The above figures represent the General Fund activity for the first 2 months of the new fiscal year. Giving to the General Fund has been down for the first two months which impacts our ability to meet our financial commitments and our mission. Please consider increasing your individual giving as we move forward. Thank You All for your continued support.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue

530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com



Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
FLC Conference Room

Members Present: Pastor Ben Colahan, Jill Bentler, Steve Hall, Mark Kimmelshue, Alyssa Manes, Leanne Chrisman, Mary Schweder, Elise Gladu, Candy Munson, Dawn Stafford. Members Absent: Elaine Lund, Kathleen Pappani. Guests Present: Bill Kees, Karen Avis.

- **Call to Order, Reading of the Covenant**
- **New Business: Global Ministries Focus** presented by Bill Kees and Karen Avis. Bill Kees gave a brief history of Faith Lutheran's ministry partnership with a church in Rwanda. The partnership is no longer ongoing at the church level. Discussed sending remaining Rwanda funds on to their synod. Karen Avis gave an overview of Faith Lutheran's ministry partnership with an orphanage/school/property called Rancho Santa Marta in Mexico. The partnership included St. John's Episcopal Church in Chico. We have not served there since 2019 (before Covid). We would like to be involved again, sending a team the first week of June to provide physical help. Motion made to have Rancho Santa Marta as a global ministry focus. Motion approved.
- **Welcome, Devotions/prayer: led by Jill Bentler.** As the council, we are here to help steer the ship. Shared "Stay the Course" poem. Prov 16:9 "the Lord directs the steps."
- **Approval of minutes:** June minutes approved as written.

REPORTS

- **Financial Reports** presented by Mark Kimmelshue. General fund balance about \$9,900. Motion made to reimburse the PG&E bill for the time the Wilfrids were in Chico. Motion approved. Motion to use the remaining funds

in the Sabbatical subaccount to pay for hotels and flights for Ben's family. Motion approved. Motion to create a line item for future Sabbaticals and put any remaining money there. Motion approved. Financial report approved.

- **Staff Reports**
- **Safety Committee presented by Leanne.** Working with Armed Guard to get them to monitor the property, especially courtyard, better. Safety grant: Our big vulnerabilities could be addressed with lighting, cameras, egress windows, payroll to help with additional patrols, and other ideas. Grant paperwork has been done and will be submitted.
- **Facilities**
- **Human Resources Committee**

OLD BUSINESS

- **Council Rep Duties Clarification.** Discussed logistics of council members serving as Council Rep on Sundays.
- **Church year calendar**
- **Council retreat reflections.** Some ideas have already put in place, like having hard copies of the church calendar.
- **Director of Youth and Children Ministry update.** Two interviews are scheduled this week on Zoom, and other resumes coming in. While the overall feedback of our first candidate is positive, we want to have more candidates to decide between.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Global Ministry Focus** (addressed at the beginning of the meeting).
- **Church Visits.** Sent around sign up to invite council members to visit other churches.
- **Church Staff Appreciation in October.** Discussed ideas for staff appreciation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Next quarter council rep sign up.** Sheet sent around.
- **Put it in the plate.** Talking about when to do a capital campaign.
- **Action items** (none).
- **Closing prayer, Adjournment.**



Each and every last minister, volunteer, and Equipping Team member who had a hand in Rally Day, with special gratitude for the leadership of Steve Hall and Annette Jefferson.

Cindy Kampf for hosting the Young Adults' Sundae Sunday.

Bob Bay and Bill Augros for fixing our broken hot water heater. Bob and Bill researched *and* repaired the problem, and because of their effort, we have a functioning dishwasher!

The Search Team for their ongoing effort to go through resumes, book interviews, and coordinate activities between prospective hires and our families.

Kate Ory for conducting the Rally Day raffle the following week, as well as for organizing a Dungeons & Dragons group.

Pr. Ben for organizing the Wilderness Worship hike, and all who went on that trek to explore nature.

Luke Nicolay for all of his work in preparing and starting up music groups for the fall and winter.



God's work. Our hands.



Sunday, October 13th at Rosedale Elementary

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is our annual day of community service in lieu of a traditional worship service, so please do NOT come to church on October 13th!

Instead, hop over to Rosedale, 100 Oak St., at 8:30 AM. We'll start with a blessing and communion, then proceed to paint the blacktop and do other chores to spruce up the campus. A hotdog lunch will be provided at 11:00.

Supply Drive

You'll find a display in the Sanctuary with tags. Each tag has a supply written on it. Please join us in supporting the teachers and students at Rosedale Elementary by choosing a tag (or 2) and purchasing the school supply written on it. Return the supplies to the red bin next to the table at the back of the church by Oct. 31st. For questions, please contact the office, and remember to save the date for our annual day of community service on October 13th, where in lieu of regular worship, we'll take to Rosedale to paint the blacktop and spruce up the campus!



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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHICO, CA.
PERMIT NO. 354

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Place Label Here

STAFF & COUNCIL

Pastor Ben Colahan | Office Mgr. Michael N-D | Dir. Worship & Music Luke Nicolay | Superintendent of Family Life Cynthia Kampf | Bookkeeper Jeanette Joslyn | Financial Secretary Lynette Stensrud | President Jill Bentler VP Steve Hall | Treasurer Mark Kimmelshue | Secretary Alyssa Manes
Council Members at Large: Elaine Lund, Mary Schweder, Leanne Chrisman, Elise Gladu, Candy Munson, Kathleen Pappani, Dawn Stafford

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

