

The Official Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church of Chico, CA



Mar. 2025

FAITH TALKS

*Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Ash Wednesday, March 5th, Services 7am & 7pm*

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About the Cover

This Lenten season, we reflect on the ways in which we walk with Jesus and our neighbors toward the kingdom of God. From Don Heinz's class on Walking the Stations (p.5) to our Lenten Ecumenical Study, Soup and Services focusing on the book "Welcoming the Stranger," (p.7) we invite you to immerse with us in education, service, and love.



Pastor's Article

Despite being a Roman citizen, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19). As followers of Jesus, we spend our lives in the process of transferring our citizenship from the nations of the world to the Kingdom of God. To be a person of faith is to seek a promised land, not a place, but a reality in which Christ alone is our king.

Sundays in Lent this year, we will read passages of scripture that tell how the Hebrew people sought their own promised land. We will hear the ways in which God eased their journey, the ways in which God gave them hope to keep going, and how they responded with gratitude when they finally arrived. We read these stories not simply to inform us of what happened in the past, but as a template for our own journey toward the Kingdom of God. To that end, during Lent, we'll invite you into a series of practices to help you understand your spiritual migration and to strengthen you along the way.



*Don't wrongly believe that
at the moment you decide
at your chosen
you will become
to learn yourself when
ing yourself for you
to go right for you
to go and go with t
is falling behind
and... P. A. L. D.*

Before worship, each Sunday, starting March 2nd at 8:30am, there will be time to learn how to keep a prayer journal and to share your prayer journal with others. You'll be encouraged each day to track what you have been praying for, and also track when and how God answers those prayers in your life.

During worship, we will have a place for you to write prayers on notes and attach them to a large silhouette of an hourglass on the wall. When you first make the prayer, place it on the top half of the hourglass. When a prayer is answered, move the prayer to the bottom of the hourglass. In this way, we will see the hourglass fill with answered prayers over the season of Lent, and strengthen each other in turning to God in prayer on our journey of faith.



After worship, retired pastor and professor, Don Heinz will teach a class called, "Walking the Stations." The Spanish poet Antonio Machad wrote, "Walker, there is no road, the road is made by walking." In his class, the Rev. Dr. Heinz will invite us to make the way to the Kingdom of God, by walking in the footsteps of the one who is The Way. Each week, he'll examine pivotal moments in Jesus' life and help us to discover ways that we might live out those moments in our own life.

Wednesday evenings, we'll continue our long-standing tradition of partnering with five other congregations in Lent to share soup and worship on Wednesdays.

This year the theme will be “searching for the promised land.” We’ll also read a book in common before supper. The book is *Welcoming the Stranger*; it was written by two vice-presidents of World Relief, a Christian humanitarian organization, and examines from a biblical perspective how we can both minister to the vulnerable and uphold the laws of our land. It will also help us hear stories of people searching for earthly promised lands today. Join us for the book at 5:30pm, soup at 6:15pm, and worship at 7pm.



Finally, each Sunday, I will offer a tangible spiritual practice connected to my sermon for you to engage in through the week.

Friends, if you feel like you’re wandering through the wilderness, know you’re not alone. The God who called Abraham to leave his homeland, who led the Hebrew people through the desert, who brought the Jews home from their exile in Babylon, guides you now. May we make the way to the Kingdom of God by walking The Way together.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ben Colahan

Roses

Linda Zimbelman and Marge Troester for organizing the immigration panel and each panelist who shared their stories; the bell choir for their first musical offering of the season; our intrepid snowshoers; Jill Bentler, Bill Kees, Judy Struck, Laurae Dunn, Diane Fellner, and Marge Troester for covering the desk during Michael’s vacation; The Quinoneses and Frank McCay for their service to and report on Project SAVE sending medical supplies to Tanzania; every staff member, volunteer, and cook who helped with and continues to help with Safe Space Winter Shelter; the Lunds for hosting coffee hour in the Sanctuary last month; Christian Leech for power washing the playground and basketball court.



Worship, Music, Events



Handbell Practice
Wed's @ 4:00 PM



Choir Practice
Thu's @ 5:45 PM



Contemporary Practice
Thu's @ 7:15 PM

Prayer Journaling | Sundays at 8:30am in Room 6 starting March 2

Explore the spiritual practice of journaling. We will talk about our experiences, a variety of options for journaling, fellowship, and validation. We will have snacks and hot drinks to share! Caryl Quinones, Elise Gladu, and Kate Ory will be leading the class. Our topic for each week:

- March 2: Overview and Introduction
- March 9: Gratitude
- March 16: High, Low, Buffalo
- March 23: Art Journaling
- March 30: ACTS
- April 6: Conversation with God
- April 13: Finding God in Dark Times



"Walking the Stations" with Prof. Don Heinz | Sundays at 11AM starting March 9

A six-week class in Adult Forum following regular church services on Sunday morning, during the six Sundays of Lent that follow Ash Wednesday (March 5)
March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13

In a time when Catholic piety is often fixed on the Good Friday "stations of the cross," and evangelical piety is associated with an imaginary "what would Jesus do," and much of Protestant religion picks and chooses from the full Christology of the Gospels, and contemporary religion often misses a Christ who has "moved into the neighborhood" and fully engaged the world and its peoples, this book chooses 14 episodes from Jesus' entire life and makes them "way-stations" on a pilgrimage where we gather to meet Jesus in person, share him in community, and follow him to a fully realized discipleship. Such way-

stations may recall the medieval imitation of Christ or the notion of a Christian pilgrimage during which we “make the way by walking.” A pious sentiment runs: “I want to be in that number.”

The class sets forth a process of adult Christian education today that is rich with all the dimensions of Jesus’ life, from birth to death and resurrection, with all the happenings in between. And most important, it turns adult Christian education into a compelling Bible study in community, one that attracts participation like walking a labyrinth together. Finally, it follows contemporary Gospel scholarship back to the historical Jesus, imagining visionary Holy Land tours and inviting a modern walking the way-stations that constitute Jesus’ own life and our immersion in it that would constitute true discipleship. Along the way, we tell stories and become the stories we tell.

- *Way Station 1: Jesus is born into the human world and our world. Do we meet him there as we are born again?*
- *Way Station 2: Jesus is baptized, opens his life to God, and engages temptation and possibility. Have we been mostly clueless about our own baptism?*
- *Way Station 3: Jesus inaugurates his prophetic vocation and proclaims the arrival of the kingdom. Will we recognize God’s reign and proclaim a Jubilee?*
- *Way Station 4: Jesus goes everywhere calling disciples. How do we answer? Do we consent to be made new?*
- *Way Station 5: Jesus teaches us to pray, with the Lord’s Prayer as our model. Could we learn to pray? Are we paying attention to the world around us when we pray?*
- *Way-Station 6: Jesus eats and drinks with outsiders and the excluded. Could we learn Christian table manners?*
- *Way Station 7: Jesus offers healing amidst human brokenness. Could the Church become a field hospital and we its chaplains?*
- *Way-Station 8: Jesus preaches sermons that reveal good news from God for all peoples. Do we hear the Gospel every Sunday and preach it to a world longing for good news?*
- *Way Station 9: Jesus welcomes women and outsiders. How do women and outsiders fare in our congregations?*
- *Way Station 10: Jesus teaches in parables that open up alternative worlds with space for God. Will we walk into that space and learn to live in it?*
- *Way Station 11: Jesus rides into Jerusalem, challenging religious and political establishments. Do we dare to speak non-conforming words as a community of resistance?*
- *Way station 12: Jesus washes feet, gives a new love commandment, offers his body to the world. Do Christians spend their lives in posture of servanthood and following in Jesus’ train?*
- *Way Station 13: Jesus dies the most famous death in history. Do Christians see in it a Messianic enthronement ceremony and their salvation in God?*
- *Way Station 14: Jesus rises from the dead, signaling the triumph of God’s love and the reconciliation of the world. Do we live in the power of Jesus’ resurrection?*

Rancho Santa Marta Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser | Sunday, March 9th during Coffee Hour

Join us during coffee hour on March 9th for Cinnamon Roll Sunday, a time-honored tradition that supports our mission work in Rancho Santa Marta! Don't let the mouth-watering aroma wafting from the kitchen distract you from worship, but do come satisfy your sweet tooth by purchasing a delicious cinnamon roll afterwards. Proceeds from the sale will help to pay for scholarships for people who want to participate in this ministry but can't afford the cost of the trip. Any remaining funds will go towards purchase of supplies for the projects we will work on there.



Lenten Ecumenical Study, Soup, and Service | Wednesdays starting March 12

5:30pm: Book-in-Common, *Welcoming the Stranger*.

Immigration is one of the most complicated issues of our time.

Voices on all sides argue strongly for action and change.

Christians find themselves torn between the desire to uphold laws and the call to minister to the vulnerable. In this book

World Relief staffers Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang move beyond the rhetoric to offer a Christian response. Interwoven

throughout are true stories of immigrants' experiences in and out of the system. With careful historical understanding and

thoughtful policy analysis, they debunk myths and

misconceptions about immigration and show the limitations of the current immigration system. Ultimately they point toward immigration reform that is compassionate, sensible, and just as they offer concrete ways for you and your church to welcome and minister to your immigrant neighbors. Pick up a copy in the office for a suggested donation of \$5.

6:15pm: Soup Supper

7pm: Ecumenical Worship on the theme *In Search of the Promised Land*



Preventing Falls | Sunday, March 30th at 11AM

Physical therapist Martha McDermott will lead a class on practical steps to prevent falling. Determine your fall risk based on age, number of medications, vision issues, diabetes and lack of feeling. Learn the factors you can control to reduce the risk of falls in our home. Gain practical skills to live your life with confidence.

Weekly Events

8

Bible Studies



Monday Evening - 1st & 3rd Mondays at 5:30 PM in Room 7

A member-led Bible study that will be studying the Book of Esther in February. Members are encouraged to use Martin Luther's techniques for reading scripture to ask the questions that matter most to them. Childcare can be available if arrangements are made with Director of Children and Youth Joshua Edwards ahead of time.

Pastor's Prep Bible Study - Every Tuesday at 5PM on Zoom

How does the pastor take assigned Bible passages and use their lessons to the sermon preached Sunday morning? Come find out and be a part of the process! Study the upcoming Sunday's Bible passages with Pastor Ben and the others who attend. We will talk a little about history and context, and will focus on using Martin Luther's techniques for understanding how the Bible addresses the needs and concerns of our community today. The link can be found on the front page of our website, chicofaithlutheran.org. Look for the circle that says "Connect to Zoom." The password is: 667

Thursday Mornings - 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10AM in Room 7

This is a new Bible study that Pastor Ben will help kick off, then hand over the reigns to its members. Biblical background resources and pre-written questions will be provided. In addition to studying scripture, this Bible study ends with time to pray for one another.

Weekly Meetings

**Just Older Youth...Seniors! ~ March 10th & 24th, 10 AM in Room 7
(continues in April)**

Time Out For Art ~ Mondays from 1-4 PM in Room 6

Quilters ~ Tuesdays from 10 AM - About 2 PM, Fellowship Hall

Centering Prayer ~ 4PM on Tuesdays, Online (Zoom)

Bulletin Folders & Sanctuary Prep ~ Wednesdays at 2pm in the Sanctuary

Men's Breakfast ~ Fridays at 8AM at Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo

Spring Things!



March 9
 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
 SPRING FORWARD

Steve Troester Memorial Blood Drive

Stay tuned for news on the Steve Troester Memorial Blood Drive, moving from fall to spring, set to take place Sunday, April 13th.

The Women's Ministry of Faith Lutheran Church is casting their net out again to see how many eligible applicants they have for their annual scholarship! Each year, high school seniors (and those entering college, trade, technical, or graduate school) are encouraged to apply.

These scholarships are funded by bake sales and boutiques put on bi-annually by the Women's Ministry and Quilters. Usually these events take place during spring and fall. All are welcome to join the Quilters, not just in crafting, but in providing items to sell that will help raise money for these scholarships. Please reach out to church office if you have any questions about applying for this scholarship or about joining the Quilters!



The Greatest Gift Project



HUGE and EXCITING INTEREST for the launch of "THE GREATEST GIFT" project!

In Genesis 12:2-3, God tells Abraham, "I will bless you and you will be a blessing; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing to all people on earth." In other words, we are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others!

On Sunday January 26th following worship, 25 people felt the calling to attend an informational meeting following

worship. A small idea for a new way to look at community ministries in and around Chico by looking to expand Faith's footprint. The invitation for the meeting resulted in 25 people answering the call with another 8 who said they wanted to become involved but unable to attend the meeting. Given the historic generosity from the people of Faith Lutheran, it was no surprise so many of our people expressed interest.

What is "The Greatest Gift" you ask? We as Christians believe that God sent his Son, Jesus, so that He might pay the price for us to inherit eternal life...the Greatest Gift. We receive this gift not to keep it to ourselves but rather endeavor to be more like Christ and give to others. With these thoughts in mind, the thought of "what if the Faith community was to raise the awareness of underserved groups or organizations in and around the Chico area and attempt to make a small dent with our neighbors in tangible ways?" With that simple thought as the inspiration behind "The Greatest Gift" project became a reality.

What we will do: The original idea was to gather durable goods for 3 organizations in 3 separate months of the calendar year. The level of interest and the passions of our people rendered the limitation to 3 obsolete. As of this writing, 9 months for 9 separate projects are spoken for between now and April 2026 (yes, not a typo, 2026!)

What we will need: Over several group meetings, discussion with Pastor Ben, and meetings between Kate Ory and Kim Schweder, it seemed best and easiest to use each calendar month for a different need. A "Position Guide" (Equipping Ministry way to say job description) was assembled (copies available upon request). Plenty of openings for anyone who wishes to be part of the different areas.

Who we need: 4 of the next 12 months are still available. Anyone who feels a passion for or a calling to represent an underserved section of our community is welcome to reach out to either Kate or Kim to discuss their thoughts and ideas. We are viewing all those who have shown interest to be part of the "Greatest Gift Facilitating Team" which will only meet quarterly with our second meeting taking place on April 8th at 5:30 in the conference room.

"The Greatest Gift Action Teams" will be made up of not less than 3 people who will take responsibility for communication with the chosen organization, as well as promotion of those needs using our normal communication channels (Faith Talks, E-blast, bulletin etc.)

What we will see: This is likely one of the most exciting ways we will be promoting this project! As we respond to the Greatest Gift ever given to mankind, it seemed only logical to receive these gifts into a manger celebrating that gift. The original plan was to have items received in the back of the church and then Pastor Ben came up with the great idea to receive them into a manger at the foot of the altar. Like so much of this project, this idea too took on a life of its own. Now, Ralph Godwin, Ryan Day and Mark Lund have graciously taken on the project to build a manger that will find its permanent home in front of our altar in the worship center. Not just ANY manger, but a manger that will be solidly built from oak, and stained to match our existing furniture. It is the hope and prayer of our still expanding team that this manger will serve as a place for which people can drop off their small donations as we remember the huge Gift.

What to look for: Watch for future communications from one of our "Greatest Gift Action Teams" about what is to be collected and when it is to be collected.

If you still have questions, PLEASE reach out to Kate Ory (kateory@gmail.com) or Kim Schweder (kim.schweder@thejoyfactor.net).

Tanzania Project

We want to share with you several God stories that found their way to each other and eventually to you at Faith Lutheran.

Last year during Lent The Equipping Team of Faith Lutheran put out an invitation. . . or really a challenge . . . to the congregation to take God's love out into the community by volunteering in some type of local community service. There begins our part of this God story. Julio and I felt a nudge to sign up for 3 hours a week each at Chico Project S.A.V.E. We knew they supplied medical supplies to underdeveloped countries all over the world but that was all knew at that time.



Project S.A.V.E is a big warehouse out by the airport where on Tuesday mornings volunteers unpack and sort donations from local medical facilities. Then they shelve or repack these for shipments. We weren't sure when we signed up if could do the work given our physical limitations . . . and age. We were happily surprised at the welcome we received. We eventually found our niche that suited our abilities and interests. The work culture helped us feel that whatever we were doing was important for the whole operation to work. The sense of community there and the commitment to making a difference in the world is palpable. There is a lot of love filling up that big warehouse and going out into the world.

Before Ben left on sabbatical in May, he shared that he and Annalisa would be keeping a journal, noticing 3 places where they saw God in each day. He invited the congregation to join them in doing this. This practice helped us to see God's presence in our lives and in others . . . especially in what Project S.A.V.E. was doing. Lots of God sightings there.

Then there is a God story that began over 25 years ago in a rural community in Tanzania where our nephew Frank McKay while in the Peace Corps was teaching high school math. Another God story was in the works there at the same time. . . a young Tanzanian named Itikija Msuya wanted to go to high school. He tried the two high schools he wished to attend but it wasn't to be. He ended up at his least favorite high school. But a God thing because here he met Frank McKay and a friendship developed between them that has continued to this day.

This summer while visiting Frank with his mom Judy (Caryl's sister) in Raleigh, NC, at dinner our first evening, Frank was excited to share with us this amazing story about how this former student of his had gone on to become a medical doctor. Itikija and his wife Esther, also a doctor, practice in a rural village and realized the need for a medical clinic, especially

because so many mothers die and 1 in 4 babies die. . . and the need for medical care for long-term noncommunicable diseases. They are starting a small clinic with the hope and faith that one day it will become a hospital.

Upon hearing this story we said . . . Why Frank . . . let us tell you about this place in Chico where we volunteer every week. AND here these God stories began to join together and become an even bigger God story. We connected Frank with Janice Walker, Director of Project S.A.V.E. . . . The Project is able to provide almost all the equipment (hundreds of thousands of dollars worth) they need to start up the clinic and a shipment is being prepared.

Here's where Faith Lutheran joins this God story. We are invited to pray for this mission and shipment, for Drs. Itikija and Esther Msuya, and for the many patients whose lives will be impacted by their care. We are also invited to help with the shipment/custom fees. If you would like to donate, here are two ways to do that:

1. Donate to the GoFundMe account: <https://gofund.me/b5b2870c>
2. Donate directly to Chico Project S.A.V.E. Website: chicoprojectsave.weebly.com

And follow these directions:

1. Click the yellow "Donate Button"
2. Click either "Donate With PayPal" or "Donate with Debit or Credit Card"
3. Click "+ Add Special Instructions to the Seller" and write in "For the Kiure Project"
4. They will send you a receipt and letter of Thanks.

Here's another extra connection in this story: Itikija attends a Lutheran church where he lives.

And so the story keeps unfolding.

Thank you for being part of this story.

Julio and Caryl Quinones



The Importance of MLK

A Celebration of Unity & Hope



A big thanks to Marquez Edwards, author of this article and Josh Edwards' son. An Inspire student, Marquez enjoys journalism and photography.

As a 17-year-old biracial student in Chico, my experiences haven't always been positive. I've faced my fair share of racism and stereotypes, whether through words, looks, or actions. Chico, CA, where about 70% of the population is white, hasn't been known for its racial diversity, which means I often stand out sometimes for good reasons, but other times due to negligence.

I currently attend Inspire High School of Arts and Sciences, where I'm working towards a trip called "Sojourn to the Past." This program focuses on learning about vital figures like John Lewis and Elizabeth Eckford, helping me gain a deeper understanding of their contributions. This knowledge is essential to me because these figures are often non-existent from our history books, and their struggles, along with many others in society, including my own, are not well known.

Before attending Inspire High School, I was at PV High School. My experience there started well, but it took a sharp turn when I was wrongfully accused of vaping in the bathroom. After being sent to the office, they searched my backpack, even though I had never used any form of vaping products or toxins in my life. It felt especially frustrating to be judged based solely on my ethnicity.

I once ran nearly all the way to Cohasset, and that experience significantly shaped my perception of Chico's residents, as well as my approach to running safely and looking presentable. At the time, I had no phone or any other supplies with me.

Unfortunately, I lost track of time and ended up staying out too late. By the time it got dark, my legs and entire body were in severe pain, causing me to run much slower than usual. I found myself lost, but as I got closer to home, near Esplanade close to Garner Lane, I learned that my family had called the police to search for me out of concern. While their



intentions were understandable, there was another reason for the police involvement. Several residents had called multiple times, describing me as suspicious and potentially hazardous, even though I was simply trying to make my way home. I feel that if I had been one of them, everything would have been perfectly fine.

I believe attending Inspire High School for a better education and future was a worthwhile sacrifice. Some friends and family questioned my decision, especially given the stereotypes about the school and the fact that I am a minority, which makes me different from most of the students there. I think more kids should embrace and appreciate education, as I have, even if it requires sacrifices or self-discipline. Nowadays, learning has never been easier, and there are numerous opportunities available to engage with education, such as events like the MLK Day Celebration and Youth Night at Promise Church.

As a student and athlete, especially after attending the MLK event and Youth Night, I have come to realize that I am not alone in my experiences. I wish to one day share my journey with others. At the MLK event, I learned that, as young minorities, we should embrace and utilize education because our parents and older generations did not have the same opportunities that we have now. Youth Night served as a reminder to me and the other attendees to stay focused and continue to accomplish extraordinary things to exceed expectations. This resonated with me deeply, as a biracial student who often finds myself in a predominantly non-minority school, where I am one of the few who strives for excellence in both academics and sports.

The various perspectives shared at the MLK and Youth Night events gave me a sense of hope and pride in my culture. I believe that African Americans and Mexicans can achieve just as much, if not more, than individuals from other racial groups. This realization inspired me to share my wisdom and experiences with others and to give back to the community, similar to what I witnessed at these events. I volunteer at the Butte Humane Society, I'm getting into photography to take photos and videos for others, and I aim to further expand my contributions. The dancing, choir, and rap performances indicated passion and spirit, while the speeches and prayers instilled in me a sense of gratitude and appreciation for my culture. They also emphasized the significance of sharing knowledge with others not just through words, but primarily through actions because, in my opinion, actions carry the most weight.



Recently, I have been involved in various activities and educational events, including attending church to further expand my knowledge and contribution. Most importantly, I have learned to avoid judging individuals without truly understanding their backgrounds, as I have personally experienced the pain of stereotypes and discrimination, which no one deserves. Hearing diverse perspectives at these events has immensely shaped my personal development and viewpoint.

Unfortunately, many minorities continue to face discrimination from a young age. Recent political events, such as ICE deportations and policies under the Trump administration, have intensified fears within many immigrant communities, including my own family. This has made the messages of unity, righteousness, and non-violence from the MLK and Youth Night events even more significant for me. Attending these events assured me that I am not alone in this struggle and that everything will be okay in the end as long as I put in the work, as many speakers reminded me.

These experiences have taught me how to respond when someone judges me or causes outrage in me. I have learned to choose positivity over negativity, to maintain my composure, and to approach situations with intelligence and wisdom. My faith in Jesus plays a crucial role in this mindset. Participating in the events has ignited a deeper passion within me in various environments. Youth Night was thrilling, respectful, and fun while focusing on valuable lessons about life, positivity, and worshipping Jesus in a more intimate setting. I found myself engaged and deeply influenced by the knowledge shared. I thought because the church and audience was much smaller than MLK it wouldn't be as cool or admirable but I was later proven wrong. In contrast, the MLK event focused more on history and personal perspectives with a larger audience. The events had similar themes and purposes in different variations that piqued my interest and increased my understanding of myself and the world around me. I learned how to conquer its challenges with faith in Jesus and a positive outlook. As one of my favorite sayings goes, "You get more with sugar than you do with salt." And this is the main thing I took from Youth Night and MLK Day.





Council Minutes

Tue. February 18th, 2025, Conference Room

Members Present: Pastor Ben Colahan, Steve Hall, Mark Kimmelshue, Alyssa Manes, Leanne Chrisman, Mary Schweder, Kathleen Pappani, Jill Bentler, Dawn Stafford.

Members Absent: Elise Gladu, Candy Munson, Elaine Lund.

Call to order, Reading of the Covenant, Welcome

Devotion led by Alyssa Manes. Philippians 2:1-11 was a passage mentioned in the book we're reading together on the council. I was also reading it when pregnant with Lily and thought God was preparing me for something epic. A time of preparation to be used by God may be followed by an outcome that is different than what you thought you were preparing for, but the preparation will still be worthwhile.

January 2025 minutes were approved

Financial Report: presented by Mark Kimmelshue. January giving was lower than expected, and didn't cover our expenditures. Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the financial report.

Staff Reports were sent by email ahead of time and not discussed in the meeting.

Old Business: Capital Campaign: discussed top priorities of property maintenance recommendations as presented by Joel Zimbleman at previous council meeting and reviewed by council between meetings. A team is being put together to help facilitate the capital campaign. Motion made, seconded, and approved to have a capital campaign to raise money for re-roofing the church, replacing remaining old HVAC systems, and adding solar, with a campaign that will conclude by the end of September. Discussed need to increase maintenance budget in the next church budget.

Book Study: The In-Between Church, chapters 5 and 6: Discussed chapter 5, challenges about increasing in size. When change happens, there are conflicting expectations for the pastor and the congregation. Discussed chapter 6, about whether to add another service. Discussed what a second service at Faith Lutheran could look like. One thought, perhaps Sunday evening, shorter service (focused on preaching and music, geared toward seekers).

New Business: April 2025 council meeting date is changed to April 22. Council 2025-2026: several new council members will be needed. Recommendations welcome.

Announcements, Action items (no additional action), **Closing Prayer, Adjournment**



Financial Report

Faith Lutheran Church General Fund Finances as of 1/31/25

	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Percent Of Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$371,325.51	\$306,172.25	82.45%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$344,351.79	\$288,614.59	83.81%
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$26,973.72	\$17,557.66	
Beginning General Fund Balance as of 7/1/2024		\$16,135.61	
Net Revenue through 1/31/25		\$17,557.66	
Ending General Fund Balance		\$33,693.27	

Giving to the General Fund in January dropped off dramatically compared to previous months. Total income in January was \$36,290.92 which included a one time gift of \$12,000. Expenses for January were \$50,143.99 which meant that expenses exceeded income by \$13,853.07. This is not sustainable. We all need to prayerfully consider increasing our general fund giving.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

Mark Kimmelshue
530-520-8228

kimmelshue@armcorice.com

FLY

FAITH LUTHERAN YOUTH

NIGHT

5TH - 8TH GRADERS

MARCH 13TH, 2025

3:30PM - 6:00PM

**FAITH, FRIENDS & FUN! WORSHIP, GAMES, SNACKS
& PRIZES—COME JOIN THE EXCITEMENT!**

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
667 E. 1ST AVE.
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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 | 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

