

FAITH HERALD

Faith Lutheran Church
171 Lewis Lane
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-363-2964



July 2015

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
9am – 12noon

office@faithlutheranhamilton.org
www.faithlutheranhamilton.org

Even Better Than the Best

by Pastor Brenda (Read Mark 4:26-34)

Summertime holds some of my best memories: laying on my back in a ripening wheat field and the dusty throbbing of the combine at its harvest; climbing to snow-covered passes and high meadows with people I love; mission trips to far-off places; and kids touched by love at Vacation Bible School. Just this week, I added two more favorites: 60-odd college-age counselors at FLBC singing “Jesus loves me, this I know” to the camp’s faithful supporters (my daughter among them at last) and yesterday’s swim meet—*Go, Bitterroot Valley Swim Team!!!*

Maybe Jesus loved summer, too. His summertime stories certainly show us how it goes when God’s in charge: A farmer scatters seed and (wonder of wonders) it sprouts and grows and there’s food! A tiny mustard seed grows into a wonder of a weed, big enough for birds to nest (around here, it’s whole, wild yellow fields)!

If God’s kingdom is like that, then what’s it like? Well, it’s mysterious, unstoppable, reliable, fruitful... AND it’s wild and messy, bursting with growth, bright and full of birds. God’s world and way is bigger, better than any (even many) of our ideas. It’s even bigger and better than ripening fields, magnificent views, young adults owning the seeds of faith, our kids splashing to the finish cheered by caring coaches and proud parents on a gorgeous Bitterroot day.

So how do YOU imagine the best of the best (and even better)? To what would YOU compare the kingdom of God?

A challenge for your summer: Keep your eyes and your heart open to see the seeds of God’s world and ways around you. Notice when The Kingdom happens. And tell somebody about it! Take a photo of it! Post it on Facebook for the rest of us to smile and cheer and wonder. THANKS!

Enjoy a blessed summer, Friends of Faith!

SPLASH MONTANA Baptism Bash

Sunday August 9 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

FUN Event for Lutheran Congregations.

FREE for participants!

For families, couples, singles, grandparents & grandkids of all shapes and sizes!

Paid for by the ELCA congregations of our area.



Christmas in July!

Remember Operation Christmas Child this summer—it’s a great time to pick up small toys and sports equipment/balls for Christmas Child boxes; and there are more ideas on the OCC website. Keep your eyes open and plan ahead. Your shoebox plants seeds of God’s love!



Pre-VBS Y'all Come Family BBQ!

Sunday, July 12, 5:30-7:30pm

629 MD Circle (PB's house, straight south of The Canyons)

Burgers and fixin's, chips and drinks by Thrivent Financial! "Potluck" Desserts and sides—bring your fav's! Pastor Doug's our Grill Master. Green chili and peanut butter, optional. ;o) Bacon, definitely!

Whether you'll make it to VBS or not, hang out with your favorite people for an evening of fun and conversation over GREAT eats. And while we're at it, let's wonder about how to learn and play together in the coming year—what's working and what to change.

Calling Our Bakers...

New attendee Suzie Deibert (961-6873) has volunteered to organize communion bread bakers, but we could use a few more folks to join Heidi and Kerry on the crew! Give Suzie a call if you can lend a hand. Here's the recipe (and we can email it to you by request).

Communion Bread

(makes six 6-inch rounds)

from Luther Seminary (adapted by Doug Peterson for Trinity, Enumclaw)

Prayer

*As the grains of wheat, once scattered on the ground,
Are gathered into one to become our bread,
So may all your people, from all the ends of earth,
Be gathered into one in you. (Marty Haugen, Now the Feast & Celebration)*

Please bless our hands in the making, Others' hands in the breaking. Amen.

3 ½	cups wheat flour	blend dry ingredients together
2	cup white flour	
2	teaspoon baking powder	
2	teaspoon salt	
4	tablespoons oil	cut in oil
1 ½	cups very hot water	combine water and sweeteners
1/3	cup honey	
1/3	cup molasses	Add to dry ingredients.

Mix and knead only until dough is blended.

Divide into six equal balls. Roll each into a ½ inch thick circle about six inches across. Score each circle lightly (1/8 inch deep) with a knife in pie-slice shaped pieces. Bake at **350 degrees for 18-20 minutes** until light brown on the bottom. Do not overcook. Cool. Store in freezer bags. (This recipe is also great for camping and hiking.) Enjoy!



Faith's Worship Rhythm

- 1st Sunday: Celebration of Grace, Gospel Liturgy
- 2nd Sunday: ELW 3, Traditional Liturgy
- 3rd Sunday: Chosen People, "pop" Liturgy
- 4th Sunday: ELW 3, Traditional Liturgy
- 5th Sunday: Hymn Service

Foreign Exchange Student Opportunity...



Host a high school student for half or all of a school year. Contact Katie Wemple, International Coordinator, Aspect Foundation (406) 360-9346 (cell) or michaelandkatie.wemple@gmail.com

SUMMER YOUTH NEWS

JULY

- 15th Como Lake BBQ with FLBC Counselors
- 24th FLC Picnic
- 29th Paint Prep @Faith, 6pm

AUGUST

- 1st Painting!! @Faith, 11am-done
- 5th Clean-up and Decorating @Faith 6pm
- 9th Lutheran Night at Splash Montana



HELP HUNGRY PAINTERS!!!

Can you provide a simple dinner or lunch?

- July 29, dinner
- August 1, noon & dinner
- August 5, dinner

Call or text Sam at 370-8025 or fifedrivel@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER

- 9th Grub and Games Kickoff!!!! (And Confirmation Parent Orientation)



Como Lake BBQ—BRING FRIENDS!!! 6pm to Dark, MS/HS Kids & families

Hit the beaches with FLBC Counselors!
Burgers, dogs, watermelon, and chips provided.
BYO bevs and goodies to share.

Boats, Kayaks, paddle boards, noodles...BRING 'EM ON!!!

Grab a Brush and Come!

Youth Group's moving up and painting a new room!
Come help out July 29-August 5. We could really use some great snacks and meals, too (see box). **And does anybody have a nice couch or chair to offer?**

Splash Montana Baptism Bash

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FUN Event for Lutheran Congregations.

FREE for participants!

For families, couples, singles, grandparents & grandkids of all shapes and sizes!

Paid for by the ELCA congregations of our area. (THANKS, ELCA!)



POOL PARTY

IDEAS??? LET'S HEAR 'EM!!!

Contact... Youth Director Samantha Fife, 406.370.8025 (cell), fifedrivel@gmail.com
or Youth Minister Alana Cruse, St. Paul's Episcopal, 406.381.3534 (cell). ashortcruse@gmail.com

VBS!!! July 13-17

"A Love That Never Ends" is this year's theme. FLBC counselors lead our youth in Bible-centered singing, games, crafts, team building exercises, and worship.

For kids aged three and up to entering 6th grade.

This wonderful experience is not just open to Faith's children, but is a Christian outreach to any young children in your life: grandchildren, nieces and nephews, neighbors, etc.

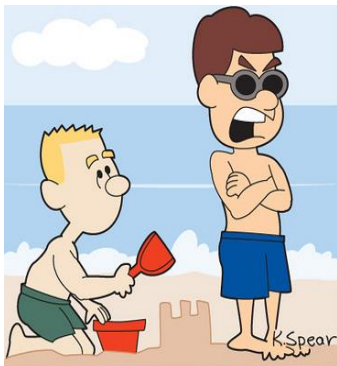


VBS 2015 Schedule

- Sun., July 12th 5:30 pm Family Picnic/Welcome FLBC Counselors
- Mon., July 13th 8:15 am VBS Registration begins

~~~Monday through Friday~~~

- 9:00 am- 11:30 am Classes for preschoolers
- 9:00am- 1:30 pm Classes for school age children (through entering 6th grade)
- Wed., July 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Lake Como Campfire/dinner for counselors & all middle school & high school kids.



"This stinks! When they said 'vacation,' I thought they meant Vacation Bible School."

**Avoid the rush! Download the VBS registration form @ [www.faithlutheranhamilton.org](http://www.faithlutheranhamilton.org)**

Go to the "Resources" tab, "Newsletter" drop down, then VBS Medical Information Form (Red)

OR

**Grab one off the counter outside the office.  
It's never too late!**

## Vacation Bible School...

is a tremendous outreach of Faith Lutheran's ministry. Nearly 80 children attended last summer, and about half of those children do not attend church at Faith. A LOT of resources are needed to successfully pull off another great week of VBS this summer! Please prayerfully consider how you may give of your time, talents, or treasures.

### Here's how you can help!

**Kitchen:** snacks and lunch are provided every day. We need folks to bring food supplies (*see list below*) as well as many helping hands to prep and serve food. For more info see Judy Wilson (961-4071 or 360-0013).

**Preschool:** 20 busy preschoolers require a lot of grown-up supervision! They meet 9-11:30 am. Bring your energy!

**Crafts:** ask Craft Queen Linda Beyer what she needs most (375-0735 or 207-3471)

**Hosting:** Can you house 2 counselors for the week? Or provide 4 counselors with an evening meal on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday?

**Cash donations are great too!** We can use \$\$\$ to buy craft or kitchen supplies.

If you can help in any way, please call Celeste Pogachar  
(239-3952 or 363-2649)

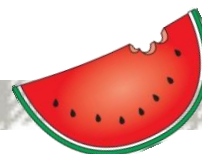
### Suggested items:

- Fruit--- apples, oranges, grapes, bananas, melon, etc.
- Veggies--- carrots, celery, broccoli, etc.
- Chips (Doritos, Cheetos, Potato Chips, etc.)
- Cookies & granola bars, Cinnamon Toast Cereal
- Cheese: slices, shredded, block
- Peanut butter, jelly, ranch dressing
- Frozen Treats (Popsicles, fudgesicles, ice cream sandwiches, etc.)
- English muffins, tortillas
- Paper products: 3 & 6 oz cups, 6" paper plates, & napkins



# FLC Summer Picnic & Concert

Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>



The whole congregation is invited  
to the lawn at Sapphire Lutheran Homes  
501 N. 10th Street

for an old-fashioned church picnic!

We'll provide the paper products, drinks, and fried chicken.

Please bring a side dish to go with!

Potluck begins at 6 pm

Stick around for the concert at 7 pm,  
featuring the Bitterroot's own "Big Sky Mudflaps"

Eat  
More  
Fish!



## Sapphire Lutheran Homes Summer Concert Series 2015



- |                |     |                                                                          |
|----------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thurs., July 2 | 7pm | "Red, White, & Bluegrass" feat. tincup                                   |
| Fri., July 24  | 7pm | Big Sky Mudflaps<br>(Come early for the FLC Congregation Potluck at 6pm) |
| Fri., Aug. 7   | 7pm | Jenn Adams                                                               |
| Mon., Aug. 17  | 6pm | Shakespeare In The Park,<br>"The Taming of the Shrew"                    |

For more info, check the poster in the Narthex  
or call Dominick @ 363-2800.

## **Faith Lutheran Church Supports:**

### • **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity is looking for their next Partner Family for the home being built in Stevensville. For more info, call 375-1926 or visit [www.ravallihabitat.org](http://www.ravallihabitat.org).

### • **FREE Outdoor Concert Feat. John Floridis**

Friday, June 26, 7pm at Sapphire Lutheran Homes. Bring your lawn chair or blanket, refreshments available, family friendly. For more info go to [www.SapphireLutheran.org](http://www.SapphireLutheran.org).

### • **FLC Picnic and Concert**

Save the date! Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> on the lawn at Sapphire Lutheran Homes. Music provided by the Big Sky Mudflaps. See page 5 for all the info.

### • **Community Dinners**

Community Dinners are suspended for the summer. They will resume in September. If you are interested in helping out, give Dale Brady a call at 360-9321 or email him at [greenalley@bresnan.net](mailto:greenalley@bresnan.net).

## **July Birthdays**

|         |                                                         |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| July 2  | Dan Kimzey, Shelby Cruse                                |
| July 3  | Adrienne Patterson, Deanna Shook                        |
| July 4  | Ross Damrow                                             |
| July 5  | Michelle Marquis                                        |
| July 7  | Joann Engbrecht, Jane Hollibaugh, Renee Huddleson       |
| July 8  | Pete Dunn, Lauren Lawry                                 |
| July 9  | Crimson Beyer                                           |
| July 10 | Erv Unruh, Thom Webb                                    |
| July 12 | Jamie Carrington, Christine Borgen, Kyla Grymes         |
| July 15 | Jonathan Syme                                           |
| July 16 | Avery Joyner                                            |
| July 17 | Sam Lawry, Robin Ireland, Sonya Bitterman, Tanin Buhler |
| July 18 | Patty Eitel, Jane Mason                                 |
| July 20 | Ruth Webb                                               |
| July 23 | Luken Kestrel                                           |
| July 24 | Matthew Turley                                          |
| July 26 | Weston Buhler                                           |
| July 27 | Karen Heller, Rexanna Luebbert,                         |
| July 28 | Jessica Huseby                                          |
| July 29 | Marian Montgomery                                       |
| July 30 | Lea Nordstrom                                           |
| July 31 | Cody Frisbie                                            |



## **Faith Lutheran Church News**

### • **Emergency Assistance Update**

There have been three more assists since the June Herald was written. This brings the total assists for the year up to 16. The 3 new assists were all for power so the totals for the year are now 9 rental assists and 7 power assists. Thank you for being so caring and sharing. ~Nancy O.

### • **Off to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp**

The following people will be traveling to FLBC to enjoy adventure and fellowship. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel:

*July 5-10:* Brooklyn Dowd, Ella Dowd, Aurora & Image Reesman (grandchildren of Carol Peterson)

*August 2-7:* Luke & Maizie Mendenall, Sam & Owen Dunn, Finn Dufresne, Christopher Li, Pastor Brenda, Rod & Celeste Pogachar

*August 9-14:* Quoia Anderson, Bridger Syme

### • **FLC Book Nook**

Have you checked out the Book Nook lately? New books have been added. Take a look-see!

### • **Calling all musicians!**

Please consider sharing your talents to enhance worship this summer. It's a simple as this:

- pick a date that fits your schedule,
- find a song you like (or I can help you),
- recruit a friend if you wish,
- contact the accompanist (if you need one), practice,
- and then bless us with beautiful music!



## FLC Council Highlights June 2015

**Fire Alarm System:** Property and Grounds is preparing for the installation of a Fire and Smoke Alarm System this summer. The installation will be scheduled to not disrupt normal weekly business or any planned events.

**Artists of All Ages:** We are seeking art to decorate the lobby and church office. If you would like to make a contribution please contact Ann Wright.

**Free Lunch for Kids “The Outpost”:** Faith is providing resources to the summer kid’s lunch program in Hamilton collaborating with Grace Lutheran Church. Contact July Griffin if you are interested in volunteering to support this program.

**Faith in Action Board:** “Watch this space” in the Fellowship Hall, more news to follow next month.

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|                                |                    |          |                                     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Pastor (ex-officio)            | Rev. Brenda Satrum | 381-1919 | brenda@faithlutheranhamilton.org    |
| President/Convener             | Jack Losensky      | 961-3757 | losensky@hotmail.com                |
| Discipleship                   | Mark Livesay       | 961-5362 | livesay_m@msn.com                   |
| Fellowship & Hospitality       | Judy Wilson        | 961-4071 | JudyPlus_4@MSN.com                  |
| Finance                        | Darrin Heitmann    | 370-4521 | powertrip@cybernet1.com             |
| Communication                  | Ann Wright         | 777-6901 | annkatmontana@earthlink.net         |
| Outreach                       | Judy Griffin       | 961-4390 | idclairus@yahoo.com                 |
| Property & Grounds             | Scott Southwick    | 360-8694 | southwick.scott@gmail.com           |
| Worship                        | Rick Brown         | 381-6329 | rbrown172@gmail.com                 |
| Worship Coordinator            | Celeste Pogachar   | 239-3952 | celestepogachar@gmail.com           |
| Youth Director                 | Samantha Fife      | 370-8025 | fifedrivel@gmail.com                |
| Administrative Secretary       | Adrienne Patterson | 363-2964 | office@faithlutheranhamilton.org    |
| Financial/Membership Secretary | Jacque VanDenburg  | 363-2964 | treasurer@faithlutheranhamilton.org |
| Custodian                      | Richard Castor     | 363-2964 |                                     |

### Pray for our Military

Please remember our family & friends that have joined the military & are defending our country each and every day. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers, especially those close to our family here at Faith Lutheran:

- Lt. Colonel Mark Huhtanen, son of Dale & Dianne Huhtanen, serving at Ft. Hood, TX
- Lars E. Larson, son of Daniel Larson & grandson of Patricia Larson, recent graduate from Navy Bootcamp, now attending C School in Norfolk, VA
- S/Sgt Anthony Hunter, grandson of Carl Swanson, serving in Texas
- Mike Hebert, grandson of Don & Shirley McGourty, US Army, serving in Joliet, IL
- Major Timothy Spaulding, nephew of John Trangmoe, Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
- Tech Sgt. Andy Wetzsteon, son of Susan & Lonnie Wetzsteon, serving at Eileson AFB, Fairbanks, AK
- Sgt. Carl J. Selby, grandson of Clara Felton, serving in Hutchinson, KS
- Tony Robertson & Gretchen Robertson, brother & sister-in-law to the Beyers, serving in Alaska
- Anna Mitteness, granddaughter of Morrie & Ann Mitteness, Cpl US Marines Corps. Now at the Marine Station in Yuma, AZ, doing communications repair.





## The Theology of the Cross

A few weeks ago the sports world witnessed an event that has not happened in 37 years. A horse won three races in a row to become in almost 150 years the 12<sup>th</sup> horse to win all three and he didn't have blinders on! Blinders! What are they and why? Blinders keep a horse from seeing what is beside and behind him in order to that he does not become afraid or threatened by what is around him and is able to do his job. We might call this tunnel vision. In the 95 Theses, Luther questions some of the "tunnel" vision that concerns him.

One specific form was how we neglect the cross. This is called the theology of the cross. What does this have to do with us, what is its value, and why be concerned? This fall, a group of us are going to address this question. Interested? ~ Thurlowe Scudder

### ***THANKS!!! THANKS!!! THANKS!!! THANKS!!! THANKS!!!***

Thank you, FLC, for being so generous with us graduates! College is getting more and more expensive and every bit of help we get lessens the load on us, so we can get more from our education. Thank you so much!  
*Hannah Peterson*

Dear friends of Faith, thank you so much for joining us in celebration of Hannah's graduation! You have offered so much support to us and our children ever since we arrived. We're truly grateful that God invited us to "finish them off" here with you! *Pastor Brenda & Doug Peterson*

Dear FLC, thank you so much for helping me to find out what I want for my life with this scholarship. *Ben Peterson*

Dear Faith Lutheran Church, Thank you for continuing to support me through my college years. I appreciate am thankful for the great family that I am part of here at Faith Lutheran. *Sincerely, Seth Mason*

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Scholarship Committee, Thank you very much for awarding a scholarship to me. I am very grateful for your generosity, and this scholarship greatly helps, financially to cover college costs. *Sincerely, Beth Bitterman*

Dear Friends at Faith Lutheran, Thank you for your gift of \$22 to the Synod House Campaign given in recognition of Harold Spiede's service to the Synod. His vision of a new home for the Montana Synod challenges us to meet the future boldly. Thanks be to God. *Jan, Synod House Campaign*

Dear Faith Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the very generous scholarship! It means a lot to be included in your church community. What's more, thank you for extending your arms and so fully welcoming my family into your church family. I know it means a lot to me, and even more so to my parents! I can see God's work through your hands! ♥ *Thanks again, Kelby Grotbo*

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your \$125.00 contribution to Lutheran Social Services. We are so grateful to be able to pass your generosity and grace on to those we serve... We wish for you and yours a most blessed summer. *Sincerely, Kathryn Sabol, Executive Director of Lutheran Social Services*

## **Highlight Summary of 2015 Montana Synod Assembly, Great Falls, June 5-7**

Voting members from Faith: Celeste Pogachar, Pastor Brenda, John Trangmoe

ASSEMBLY THEME: ***Serve the World, Especially the Poor and Those in Need***

**Actions carrying out the theme:** (1) Delegates provided non-perishable food as an offering to a large food bank in Great Falls known as **FISH**. This project in 2014 distributed over 50 tons of food. Involved are 13 churches (five Lutheran) and a service club. (2) Montana Synod is now a partner with Intermountain Children's Home in Helena and the Flathead. They provide on a daily basis services to hundreds of children due to trauma, neglect, abuse and other related situations. (3) On the global scene our synod is planning **Water Project in Bolivia**. The outcome is to assist this South American country with pumps and pipelines to bring water to the higher grazing land for the livestock. Increasing the number of cattle will mean more milk and meat for the needs of the people. Faith provided a donation to this fund drive.

**Music for the assembly:** A group of talented musicians from throughout the world provided a wide variety of music vocally and on instruments. Asian, Italian, Spanish and English selections were presented throughout the three days. For most of the performers it was their first visit to Montana.

**Voting:** 331 eligible voting members from throughout Montana and Northern Wyoming voted in approval of various actions including:

**Resolutions** for affirmed membership of the synod in the Montana Association of Christians and the recognizing and approval of a new ELCA congregation - New Hope Lutheran in Great Falls.

**Elections:** Harold Spilde had faithfully served as synod treasurer for 22 years. His announced retirement resulted in **Sue Ost**, Havre, being approved for the position. Eleven clergy and lay members were voted as delegates to the 2016 churchwide convention. Included is **Ben Peterson** of our congregation. **John Trangmoe** will be a member of the Discipline Committee.

**Budget:** The 2016 version in the amount of \$1,080,500 was approved. With the exception of \$30,000 in other expected revenue, the total is supported by contributions from congregations. Faith's church council has submitted an estimated amount of \$15,000. Disbursements will include support for three non-revenue congregations of Freedom in Christ Prison (Deer Lodge), Rocky Boy and Spirit of Life (Fort Peck). Limited funds will go to Concordia and Pacific Lutheran University, which are often attended by young people of our congregation.

**Recognition:** It is 55 years since the ordination of **Pastor Bud Holmlund**. He retired in 1995 after pastoring in South Dakota. After moving to Hamilton he became a member of Faith and currently resides at the Bee Hive Homes.

**Synod House:** Fund drive continues for the building of new synod headquarters in Great Falls. Faith delegates presented financial support from our Scandivian Dinner receipts.

**Reforming Christian Education:** A survey of young adults (ages 20 to 35) learned that 1/3 of these folks reported no church affiliation. Others that claim a church are often not satisfied with sermons and doctrine. This provides the challenge not only for ELCA, the Montana Synod and our own congregation which is each and every one of us to discuss the topic of change.

***WE ARE...Church...Lutheran...Church Together...Church for Welfare of the World***

(Above article prepared by John Trangmoe as a delegate to the recent assembly. A similar oral report was given at the June 14 church service.)

**Synod Summaries I, II and III** are posted on the website: [montansynod.org](http://montansynod.org). (Election results are in III.)



## Bible Camp News

It's not too late to sign up for summer camp! The 2015 activities brochure is available online ([www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)) or on the counter outside the church office. The theme for 2015 is "Love that never ends."

- **August 3-8: PB at Bible Camp.** There's a full schedule at FLBC this week, so come up and join us for awesome times!!!
- **FLC Camperships.** Your church pays up to half your camp registration! Pick up the form on the counter outside the church office, or contact Celeste Pogachar for more information.

To register for these retreats and events please call the FLBC Office at 406-752-6602.

FLBC is asking each congregation to make a donation for our auction.

This donation could be anything from a basket or a quilt to a scenic trip to Seattle... think big to help raise money for camperships to share

FLBC with youth! For more information or to make a donation, Contact FLBC at 406-756-6610 or [office@flbc.net](mailto:office@flbc.net).

### Help Convert Our Storage Building Into: "God's Creation Center"

Our central "court" activity area will soon include a place for camper to explore "God's Creation" up close!

#### Can you help?

- \$14,300 Remodel Inside  
(Paneling, ceiling, windows, shelving)
- \$6,000 New Deck Addition
- \$3,500 New Roof
- \$1,000 Display Area
- \$400 Per Deck Chair (4 needed)

Other: Nature books, pelts, nests, bones, nature posters, etc.  
Thank you!



### FLBC Wish List

Quilts size 60x96"  
Reliable Vehicles  
Sporting Equipment  
Kayaks (\$800 each)  
Tent Cabins (\$900 each)  
Gently used Furniture  
Baskets of any kind  
Motor Boats, Sailboats, Rafts  
Pontoon Boat  
SUP (stand-up paddle boards)  
12-passenger vans  
Golf Carts  
Hand Tools  
Sewing Machines  
Small Coffee Pots  
Ceramic or Glass Teapots  
Mirrors  
Throw Rugs  
White T-shirts & Bandanas  
Crayons, Markers, Beads  
Used Candles  
Large Food Dehydrator  
Canister Vacuum Cleaners  
Snow Blower  
Cross-Country Equipment  
Snow Shoes  
Washer & Dryer Set  
Wooden Outdoor Chairs  
Locking File Cabinets  
Chain Saws  
Generator  
Laminate Flooring Installer

Contact the Camp Office with any questions: 406.752.6602  
[Office@flbc.net](mailto:Office@flbc.net)

*Pastor Brenda or the Pogachars  
can deliver items to camp  
if you get the items to them/ the  
church by August 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Thank you!*

# Cheap Grace and Priceless Community

By Kristin Berkey-Abbot as printed in the Lutheran Magazine

On April 9, 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was put to death by the Nazis. Like Anne Frank and many other nameless victims, he came heartbreakingly close to surviving the war. Like Oscar Romero, a Salvadoran bishop who was assassinated in 1980, he fought against a corrupt government and paid with his life. Bonhoeffer was one of the most influential theologians of the 20th century. A Lutheran pastor, he lived what he preached, actively resisting the Nazis and living in intentional community. He was arrested for his role in an attempt on Adolf Hitler's life. He was killed for his integrity.

How the world has changed since his death.

Over the past 50 or so years of the 20th century, many people came to see Christianity as just one more way to self-enlightenment or self-improvement. Many people combined Christian and Eastern practices, and most of them showed they had precious little knowledge of either. Or worse, people viewed Christianity as a path to riches. The best-seller lists are full of books that promise a Christian way to self-fulfillment or riches, while books of sturdy theology will never be known by most readers.

Bonhoeffer is one of a multitude of theologians who warns us against this kind of thinking. He calls it cheap grace, this salvation that doesn't require us to change our comfortable lives—or worse, tells us to expect more comfort. He said, “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a person must knock” (*The Cost of Discipleship*).

My younger self loved this stern Bonhoeffer. My older self wonders if we might have seized on the wrong Bonhoeffer text. I've been rereading *Life Together*, his classic text of how Christians can live in various types of intentional community. Many of us never move beyond thinking about the costs of discipleship. This book shows us how best to bear these costs.

In *Life Together*, Bonhoeffer wrote: “Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.” In this time when so many of us spend so much energy discussing the best ways to be a church, and to be the church, it's a relief to read these words. The community already exists. We don't have to create it, but we do need to choose to participate in it.

Bonhoeffer went on to discuss various ministries that will help strengthen that community, as well as practices that will help believers when they are solitary. For those of us rooted in the church, these ideas will feel like old friends.

For those yet to find a Christian community, these ideas may be more attractive than the ones encountered in *The Cost of Discipleship*, and perhaps for the rest of us too. Many of us live in a world where grace doesn't come easily. The idea of gaining strength through community seems more relevant than ever. The idea of strengthening our Christian communities so we radiate God's love more brightly is as important today as when Bonhoeffer explored these ideas. (submitted by Scott Southwick)

## Faith Herald July 2015

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### **Dates To Remember**

|         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 7/3     | FLC Office Closed                  |
| 7/12    | Pre-VBS Family BBQ                 |
| 7/13-17 | Vacation Bible School              |
| 7/15    | Como BBQ for Middle/High Schoolers |
| 7/16    | FLC Council Meeting                |
| 7/24    | FLC Picnic & Mudflaps Concert      |
| 7/29    | Youth Paint Prep                   |
| 8/1     | Youth Painting                     |
| 8/5     | Youth Painting                     |
| 8/9     | Splash Montana Baptism Bash        |
| 8/16    | Faith Herald Due Date              |
| 8/20    | FLC Council Meeting                |