

December 2015

FAITH HERALD



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

www.faithlutheranhamilton.org

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
9:00am–1:00pm
office@faithlutheranhamilton.org

The Treasure of You

Paul was gaga over his people: *“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.”* (1 Thessalonians 3:9-10, read 1st Sunday in Advent this year)

I can’t thank God enough for the treasure of YOU, either. This Christmas season, instead of wishing for more, better, or different, I’ll try to appreciate the gifts I enjoy in you and others all year long. I hope it’s more fun and less work than putting on the Christmas show!

This year saw a lot of transition for me—difficult changes on our staff, sending Hannah to college while Ben takes time off from school, the selling of the egg farm so central to my family since 1938, the passing of my grandparents’ last brothers and sisters, the death of Katy-dog. Faith, you’ve been so sweet through it all—kind when I needed kindness, honest when honesty was called for, sticking together to worship and work for the good. Thank you.

Faith Lutheran Church is a family of God built on love: Worshiping, welcoming, and serving in Christ’s name.



You care for each other, too. Our Caring Visitors share a passion that not one of our at-home members forget they are precious to God and to their church family. The love that's been faithfully shared for so long by folks like Dale and Clairice Brady, Nancy Osborn, Barb Davis, and others is being extended even more fully. Thank you!

You welcome friends and strangers. I hear so consistently that Faith greets newcomers of all shapes, sizes, and ages with genuine warmth and care. We know it's an expression of Jesus' love, so we pay attention and work at it. Thank you!

And you're out and about sharing God's love and life with the world! Faith is a community of truly AWESOME people and families—and we're busy. Y'all are traveling for sports, to care for family, doing your jobs. Those who are slowing down still offer gifts of care and prayer to others. I am absolutely certain that each of you are bearing gift baskets full of the fruits of Christ's Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control) wherever you go. Thank you!

Friends of Faith, YOU are the greatest gift God will give this Christmas season. YOU, broken and blessed, filled with the Spirit of the Christ-Child, are a holy and precious gift to me, your family and church family, your community, your world. I thank God for YOU, and pray most earnestly that *whenever* we meet face to face we will convince each other that "this is most certainly true."

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brenda

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THE YOUTH PAGE



WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS

| | |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 2 | Grub & Games: All-Church Decorating |
| Dec. 9 | Youth Group 7-8:30pm @ Faith |
| Dec. 13 | Youth Sunday |
| Dec. 16 | Youth Sunday Planning 7-8:30pm @ Faith |
| Dec. 20 | Caroling! (see details below) |
| Dec 23 | No Youth Group |
| Dec 30 | No Youth Group |
| Jan. 6 | Youth Group 7-8:30pm @ Faith |

December Grub & Games: FLC All-Church Decorating Party Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6:30-8:30

With a game of Grog to cap the evening at 8:00!

Pizza at 6:30 for “kids” of all ages. **High Schoolers: the Christmas Tree is YOURS!** Sign up at Youth Group, Confirmation, or in worship for your part in the meal. Candlelight carols for all and Grog (not a drink!) for the daring...

HAYRIDE!!!

Sunday, December 20, 4:00 to 7:00

Meet at **St. Paul’s Episcopal** (3rd & DeSmet), then hop on the hay and carol our way around town. Followed by hot chocolate, yummy supper, and Christmas cookies. Corvallis United Methodist is with us. **Invite friends! All ages welcome.**



CONNECT WITH US!!!

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

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Notes and News (via Pastor Brenda ☺)

Bakers Unite!

(Or don't—but bring your cookies!) For the **Sapphire Lutheran Homes' Holiday Bake Sale** on Saturday, Dec. 12. Package a dozen cookies for sale and deliver them to the main campus any time on Friday the 11th. Proceeds go to the bus fund.



Montana Synod Presents Apology

Western Montana ELCA pastors will gather December 1st to present the Montana Synod's "Apology to the Tribes" to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council on the Flathead Reservation at Pablo. Please pray for this occasion to further the healing of relationships between all the residents of our area! The full text of our Synod's apology is available at the Montana Synod's website.



Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry

brings counsel, worship, and Bible study to inmates and staff at the Montana State Prison in Deerlodge. It's Montana Lutherans' transformative (to inmates and volunteers!) response to Christ's call to visit those in prison.

Freedom in Christ is funded by individuals, congregations, the Montana Synod and the ELCA—and it needs your help! If you have a heart to serve the folks at Deerlodge, connect at www.ficprisonministry.com.

"The Bible makes clear we are to remember and visit those in prison. Evidence shows inmates who participate in faith related programs are much more likely to remain free and become happier, useful members of society. When I participate in an event at the prison I usually come away believing that I have been blessed as much or more than the inmates."

Volunteer Rolf Tunby



Women's Spring Retreat, April 22-24, 2016

Bring a friend, daughter, granddaughter to one of the most beautiful places on earth! Two nights at FLBC with just the girls, God, and some really good food. Plan now to take some time away!

Plan Ahead! Save the week of July 11-15, 2016 for Faith Lutherans Vacation Bible School.

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Faith at Worship



Kids' Christmas Program

9:30am
December 13th



Middle & High Schoolers will add their talents in the rest of the service through special music, readings and as worship assistants.

Please join us after for coffee hour as we serve Jesus' birthday cake and refreshments!

Attention Musicians!

There is an abundance of great Advent and Christmas music and surely you have a favorite piece. Consider sharing it with us! Please contact me if you are interested in presenting special music at any worship service in December. If you wish to play or sing for Christmas Eve services, I will need to know by December 15th. Thanks! ~ Celeste



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services



Thursday, December 24th
4:00 pm & 7:00 pm



Christmas Day Worship



Friday, December 25th
10:00am



New Member Sunday: January 17

Interested in membership? Want to know what makes Faith tick and how we keep it together? Contact Pastor Brenda via text or phone call @ 381-1919 or use your Response Card in worship to set up a home (or coffee shop!) visit and consider being Christian, being Lutheran, and being together on our way to God through Jesus.

We plan to receive and celebrate new members on Sunday January 17 in worship. Not going to be here? We can work something out!

We'll also schedule a new member gathering soon to get to know each other better.

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DECEMBER WORSHIP NOTES



Advent (the beginning of the Christian calendar year) starts Sunday, Nov. 29th. This is “the year of Luke”, or Lectionary C, which means the readings this year will focus on Luke's version of the gospel. Luke's gospel uses Mark's gospel as one of its primary resources. The first two chapters of Luke provide an introduction to the entire gospel as a story of the fulfillment of God's promises. They contain much of the familiar scripture used to tell the Christmas story, including Mary's Song and the Magnificat.

The term salvation and its synonyms are used more in Luke than any other gospel.

Jesus' divine hospitality and inclusivity is exhibited as he reaches to the outermost margins of society. Jesus is often seen going to a meal, sitting down at a meal, or leaving a meal.

To understand Luke more completely, consider reading a commentary. I intend to rely on my old standby, Barclay's *Gospel of Luke: New Daily Study Bible* series.

Worship this month features a modified "Holden Evening Prayer" liturgy and plenty of Christmas carols. A special treat on Dec. 13th will be the Kids' Christmas Worship service, a youth-led worship featuring the talents of our young folks. On Christmas Eve, there will be two worship services, which share the Christmas Story told through the readings of Luke and Isaiah with Christmas carols in the traditional candlelight setting. Also, there will be Christmas Day worship service. Guest preacher will be LPA Rick Brown. December 27th will be an entire service of beloved Christmas carols. ~Celeste

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp....

ADVENT RETREAT: “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel”

December 4-6, 2015

Celebrate the Advent journey with your family at FLBC this year! Arts & Crafts, worship, great food, family fun, and much more are all a part of this great retreat.

Please contact Nathan Clements, Associate Director, for cost and other information, at office@flbc.net or 406-752-6602. Go to www.flbc.net/retreats to download flier and registration form.



Others News and Notes from FLBC:

- **Summer 2016 Adult Volunteers!** Registration for adult volunteers (pastors, youth directors, nurses, grandparents, etc.) for the 2016 summer camping season opens on November 8th, 2015! Call (406) 752-6602 that day for the best availability of weeks!
- **2016 Family Camp Registration!**
- **Save the date!** Registration opens January 25th, 2016 for Family Camp!
- **Do you receive the FLBC e-newsletter?** If not, sign up on their homepage at www.flbc.net

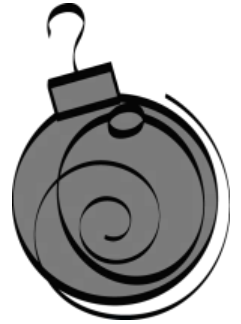
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Decking the Halls of Our Church Home!

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6:30-8:00

Faith Lutheran Church is a family of God built on love, so lend a hand for the season! Y'all come—families and singles, young and old! We need all hands to deck the halls! Prep will start at 5:30; pizza and desserts at 6:30; finish up with a carol or two by candlelight by 8:00. MS and HS kids are welcome to stick around for a short round of Grog (no flashlights) and out by 8:20 or so.



BITTERROOT VALLEY CHORUS PRESENTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

December 12th at 7:30pm & December 13th at 2:00pm

A holiday tradition, featuring several musicians from Faith Lutheran in the adult choir and children's choir.

At the Hamilton PAC (Performing Arts Center)

A \$5 donation is suggested.

Sapphire Lutheran Homes Christmas Bazaar

Sat., December 12th 10am-3pm

Sapphire Lutheran Homes

501 N. 10th Street Hamilton

Craft Vendors, Food, & More!

Proceeds go to the bus fund.

Come Join The Fun!!!



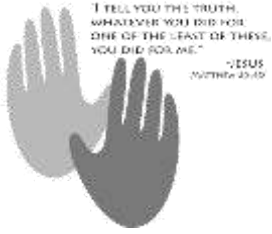
Operation Christmas Child was a BIG Success!!



Thank you to all who participated in packing boxes for underprivileged children. It is a massive undertaking, and we really needed all hands on deck! A total of 136 boxes were delivered to the local coordination point, from which they will go to Merchant's shipping, then on to the Denver facility to have pamphlets of Bible stories inserted, in the language of their destinations. A BIG Thank You to Linda Beyer for shopping all year and organizing everything, Judy Wilson for a wonderful lunch, and to all of you who donated money or merchandise for the boxes. Please

say a prayer for the children who will receive the boxes you packed, that they will know the love of God through this gift.

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From the Emergency Assistance Committee:

In the November Herald I reported that there had been 2 rent and 1 power assists. Since then there have been 3 more power assists. This brings the year's total to 35 assists.

Thank you, people of Faith, for your continued caring and sharing. ~ *Nancy Osborn*

Brawl of the Wild

Thanks so much for supporting the special offering on November 15th for Lutheran Campus Ministry! The results are in! Bobcat supporters donated \$143 in the blue cups and Grizzly supporters contributed \$400, for a total of \$543! Even though the Griz won the football game, the FLC challenge and bragging rights for the next year, proceeds will be split evenly between the U of M and MSU Campus Ministries. Better luck next year, Bobcats!



Holy Jalapeños!

The FLC Campership Chili Cook-Off offers its thanks



FLC's kids and families thank cooks, celebrity judges, auction donators, dessert makers, organizers and especially our diners for the great evening we shared in November. Because of you, we banked over \$3,400 to send our kids and their friends to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. And Ross—you are the best!!! Matching funds through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Starting on December 26th the FLC office will be closed for the Holidays.

The office will reopen on January 4th.

Don't forget to look for Faith online

at www.faithlutheranhamilton.org or on Facebook at “Friends of Faith”! We’re everywhere!



Stewards & Staff of Faith Lutheran Church

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 | Heather Wintergerst | 363-2964 | office@faithlutheranhamilton.org |
| Financial/Membership Secretary | Jacque VanDenburg | 363-2964 | treasurer@faithlutheranhamilton.org |
| Custodian | Richard Castor | 363-2964 | |

Council Highlights November 2015



Open Steward positions in 2016 are Property & Grounds, Finance, Discipleship and President/Convener. Contact Rick Brown if you are interested.

Faith House rent is up to date. Focused attention will be on the property management company to ensure payments are received in a timely manner.

Chili Cook-off was a great success, thank you to all who contributed their time and talents.

Operation Christmas Child prepared 136 boxes for worldwide distribution. Thank you to Linda Beyer in coordinating this ministry and Judy Wilson for the wonderful lunch.

Pastor Brenda will be taking a Sabbatical in the summer of 2016. Additional communications are planned for early next year.

Mutual Ministry welcomes new members Charley Larsen as a committee member and Sandy Russ as the Personnel representative.

Budget planning for 2016 is underway.

The Community Dinner will host a Thanksgiving Dinner on November 24, please join in preparation and serving.

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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:

- Lars E. Larson, son of Daniel Larson & grandson of Patricia Larson, near Russia.
- 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.



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With Gratitude:

Thank you so much for allowing me to host my P.E.O. chapter meeting here! It was a great success.

And a special thanks to whoever put the dishes away for me!



Sue Anne Iman

December Birthdays

| | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 12/2 | Mary Schmidt |
| 12/3 | Paige Auch |
| 12/7 | Sally Berland, Steve Shook |
| 12/9 | Holly Mahon |
| 12/11 | Kevin Krasovich |
| 12/14 | Sarah Doran, Josie Vandenburg |
| 12/17 | Sandy Russ |
| 12/18 | Elaina Lewis |
| 12/20 | Cole Harden |
| 12/21 | John Carlson |
| 12/22 | Peggy Trexler |
| 12/26 | Kristina McCloskey, Sandy Drake |
| 12/29 | Dan Mitchell, Emmalee Patterson |



Dear Friends at Faith Lutheran,
On behalf of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp's Harvest Festival planning committee, I'd like to sincerely thank you for your donation! Your gift basket was well received by the auction attendees and added a nice touch to the auction display. Together we raised over \$20,000 for camperships! We are grateful for your kindness, your contribution and your ongoing support of the programs of FLBC.

Warmly,

Linden Wendle
Harvest Festival Committee



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Dates To Remember

- 12/2 **All Church Grub & Games Christmas Decorating Party**
- 12/12 Kids' Christmas Worship Dress Rehearsal
- 12/13 **Kids' Christmas Worship, B-Day Cake**
- 12/15 Faith Herald Deadline ☺
- 12/21 Family Caroling Hayride (4-7pm)
- 12/24 Candlelight Worship Services at 4pm and 7pm
- 12/25 Christmas Day Worship 10am
- Church Office closed Dec. 26-Jan. 1**



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