

January 2016

FAITH HERALD

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



www.faithlutheranhamilton.org

office@faithlutheranhamilton.org

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
9:00am–1:00pm

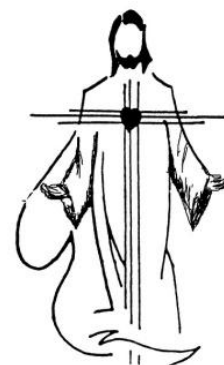


Further In with Every Turn: Re-Membering Christ's Body TODAY

Our kids were darling, the music fun and even inspiring, the lights and greens and candles beautiful: the Christmas Program! And why is it that year after year we replay the scene, re-read the words? Why, year after year, do we go round the circle—The Coming, the Epiphany, the Lenten deepening, Holy Week's drama, Easter's joy, and the long stretch of "ordinary time" between the Spirit's flood at Pentecost and Advent yet again.

Our Native American neighbors understand, actually. Their culture tells its stories again and again, too, and realizes that stories heard (and told) as children, adolescents, adults, and elders draw us in more deeply every time around and speak new questions, challenges, and hopes with every turn. In every telling, these stories sink us more deeply into the realities of God, ourselves, others, and our world.

So a note of thanks and praise to you, Friends of Faith: It's growing easier and easier to leave our deep stories in the past. Yet your participation helps plant them in your kids. Your presence nurtures them in your own souls. And your presentation (and your kids') of the stories of God with God's people in worship and in your daily lives (loving, serving, praying, forgiving...) **re-members**, or **re-embodies** God's presence among us now in profound and hugely relevant ways.



And an invitation: **animate:Faith** (page 6) is a 7-week small group conversation that invites us to consider our faith in some new and profound ways—while getting to know each other better! Make space for **animate** this February and March as a part of our Lenten "deepening" with God and others. If you're able, offer your home as a gathering place—for one week or several. If you can't make it to church, gather with friends when and where you CAN come together.

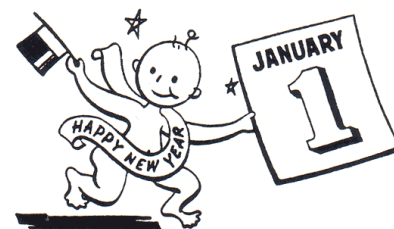
So that's why the repetition, year after year: With every turn, every telling of "the story we find ourselves in", you and I and those who accompany us grow more deeply real and true and whole. Thanks for coming along! Again.

Your Servant, ~Pastor Brenda

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THE YOUTH PAGE



WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS

Wed Jan 6	Youth Group (No G&G) 7-8:30pm @Faith
Wed Jan 13	Youth Dinner and Study Group 6:30-8:30pm @ SPE
Sat Jan 16	Youth Sunday Skit Practice TBA @ Faith
Sun Jan 17	Youth Sunday 8:45am @ Faith
Wed Jan 20	FINALS WEEK NO YOUTH GROUP
Sat Jan 23	Finals Survivor Movie Party and Parents Meeting (see details below)
Sun Jan 24	Youth Pack 'YouTube' Night 6:30pm in Missoula
Wed Jan 27	Ash Wed Service Prep 7-8:30pm @ Faith



Study Group, Wed., Jan 13th

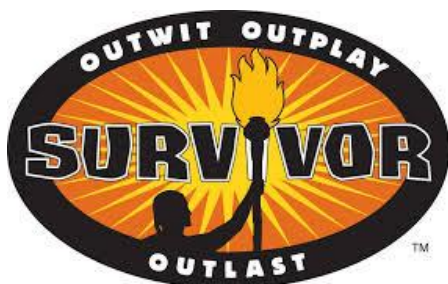
Dinner, snacks, and an opportunity to group study before finals week. Kids are encouraged to invite friends, and adults who are good with math and science are welcome to hang out too! Salad, dressing, or veggie donations would be appreciated!

Youth Sunday Skit Practice, Sat., Jan 16th

SHORT rehearsal for our Sunday readings and skit. Time will be announced the week before. Most likely in the morning.



Finals Survivor Movie Party and Parents Meeting, Sat., Jan. 23rd

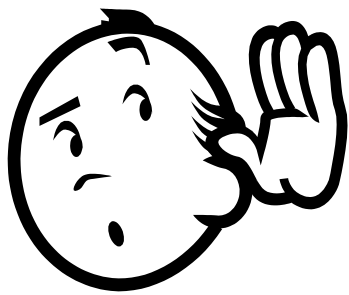


The VanDenburgs have welcomed our Youth and their parents to their home to celebrate getting through finals week! Bring a dish to share! Soda and desserts provided. There will be a movie in the downstairs theater for High School Youth, and conversation upstairs for parents. 5-9pm at 498 Salmon Way in Corvallis.

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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Parents, Kids, & Human Beings in General!!!

Helpful Hints for Good Relating: Assertiveness and Active Listening

Back in 2012, Reps from the Montana Synod of the ELCA (the regional group of which Faith is a part) offered some great communication tools to our congregation. Such helpful stuff deserves a repeat!

1) **Assertiveness.** “Assertiveness is the ability to express your feelings and ask for what you want in the relationship,” according to *Prepare-Enrich* couple counseling materials. Assertive communication...

- Takes responsibility for messages by using “I” statements
- Avoids statements beginning with “you”
- Makes constructive requests
- Is positive and respectful
- Uses polite phrases such as “please” and “thank you”
- Does not involve third parties in the relationship’s issues

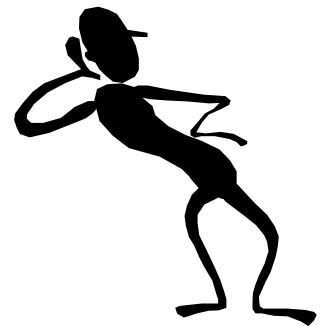
While intentional assertiveness can seem “stiff” or “clumsy” at first, it helps communicators tone down emotions that can drown out our messages and prevent us from solving our actual problems.

2) **Active Listening.** “Active listening is the ability to let your partner know you understand them by restating their message.” (*Prepare-Enrich*) Active listening...

- Listens attentively without interrupting the speaker
- Restates what was heard
- Acknowledges both content AND feelings of the speaker
- Refrains from response until understanding is achieved

Active listening helps the speaker know he or she was clearly understood. It slows down conversations, and, like assertiveness, helps cool the emotions that so easily rise around difficult issues. **THIS PRACTICE TAKES INTENTION AND FOCUS.** If we find assertiveness “stiff,” active listening seems even more so. **BUT IT PAYS OFF!**

Although I teach these skills to pre-marriage couples all the time, I can always use a review and some intentional practice. And especially in difficult or emotionally charged conversations, it’s helpful for me to almost stiffly go through the active listening process. Give it a try! And if you and your significant other would like a tune-up, *Prepare-Enrich* offers a great one. Just contact me (Pastor Brenda) at 381-1919 (text or call).





Worship Notes for January

- ❖ 1/3 Epiphany, ELW 3
- ❖ 1/10 Baptism of Our Lord, Service of the Word
- ❖ 1/17 New Member & Youth Sunday, Praise Service
- ❖ 1/24 Service of the Word, Guest Preacher Rev. George Karras
- ❖ 1/31 Hymn Service



The UN-Decorating Party



Sunday, January 3, 11:00am



All hands on deck! If everybody takes a job, Christmas comes down fast and fun. Let's keep it simple: we'll grab a cuppa coffee and a cookie, then get right to it. Home by noon, easy!



New Member Sunday, January 17

It's been fun seeing new faces and meeting new folks this fall! After personal calls and visits with Pastor Brenda, several households will be joining Faith Lutheran at worship at January 17. If you're interested in membership, please give Pastor Brenda a call (381-1919); she'll meet you at home or over coffee to connect you with Faith's past, present, and future together. We'll also work toward a new member gathering so newbies can get acquainted. ☺

Guest Preacher January 24—

Rev. George Karras, Asst. to the Bishop

Pastor Karras has been making his way around Montana since his appointment to the synod office as Director for Evangelical Mission (funded by the ELCA) in the fall of 2014—and now he's coming our direction! George served as senior Pastor at Pella Lutheran in Sidney for 11 ½ years, and on many synodical leadership groups—AND he's a terrific roaster of coffee beans! (We know from experience!)

George will be available to meet with our leadership about stewardship and/or mission and ministry planning after church.

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SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT

April 24-26, 2016

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

SAVE THE DATE! Plan now to attend the SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT. Motivating speaker, Fun, Fellowship, Service projects, Music, Great food (no cooking!).... Bring your friends, daughters, mothers, granddaughters (14 and up) along for a fun, restful, spirit-filled weekend on beautiful Flathead Lake. Several women from our church are planning to attend. For more information, go to www.flbc.net. Hope to see you there.



Other Notes from FLBC:

FLBC Summer 2016 Schedule Is Posted

It's not too early to start thinking about when your family wants to attend camp this summer! Look for FLBC's Summer 2016 Schedule to be posted online at www.flbc.net.

Camp brochures will be mailed out in mid-January. Some of the popular weeks (like Family Camp) fill up fast. Matching camperships to attend camp are available from Faith Lutheran. These funds are available for all who wish to go to camp this summer, thanks to the donations through the Chili Cook-Off. We ask those who apply for a campership to track their service to our church—for example, assisting with worship (like acolyte), VBS helper, Easter breakfast servers, church decorating or clean-up, etc. Please contact Celeste and she will put a copy of the application form in your church mailbox.



Dates to remember:

- **Summer 2016 Adult Volunteers!** Registration for adult volunteers (pastors, youth directors, nurses, grandparents, etc.) for the 2016 summer camping season opened 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.

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Lent Study 2016

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ready for a fresh look at faith? **animate:FAITH** is a weekly small group gathering that gives us practice thinking and talking naturally, positively, and comfortably about some spiritual biggies:



1. GOD: Faith is a Quest, Brian McLaren
2. RELIGION: Spirituality Is Not Enough, Lillian Daniel
3. JESUS: The Revolution of Love, Mark Scandrette
4. SALVATION: Abundant Life Now, Shane Hipps
5. CROSS: Where God Is, Nadia Bolz-Weber
6. BIBLE: A Book Like No Other, Lauren Winner
7. CHURCH: An Imperfect Family, Bruce Reyes-Chow

Faith will focus on these topics in worship starting **February 7**, followed by a small group DVD and discussion with Pastor Brenda from 11-noon. We're looking for several homes and facilitators to host weekly small groups as well. **Stay 'social' or dig deep!** Materials are simple to use and lead—no expertise required! About 90 minutes is plenty of time per session.

On **Sunday, January 17**, Pastor Carol Karras will join potential participants and facilitators who want to learn more. Pastor Karras' congregation in Sidney LOVED the study! ~Pastor Brenda & the FLC Council & Mutual Ministry Committee

Lenten Soup Lunches Return

Wednesdays, Feb. 10 through Mar. 16

After a hiatus of a couple years, we're bringing our round-robin soup lunches back with new flair. The schedule's yet to be set, but Faith, St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Francis Catholic, First Presbyterian, the United Methodist/American Baptists, and Corvallis United Methodist are planning to host soup luncheons at noon starting on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Pastors and congregations are considering using **animate:Faith** as a shared learning opportunity. The re-start is in response to requests for a noon Lenten offering that draws our congregations together. We've missed each other! ☺

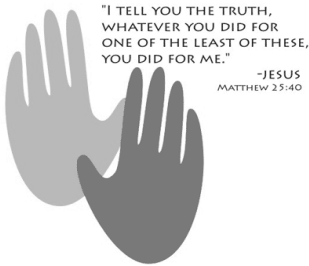


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Brawl of the Wild

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!



"I TELL YOU THE TRUTH,
WHATEVER YOU DID FOR
ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE,
YOU DID FOR ME."
-JESUS
MATTHEW 25:40

From the Emergency Assistance Committee:

Since the last Faith Herald was published, the Emergency Assistance Committee has helped with 2 more rents. That brings the total number of assists, as of December 14, to 37. Thank you, people of Faith, for your continued support of our neighbors in need. ~ *Nancy Osborn*

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	

Don't forget to look for Faith online

at www.faithlutheranhamilton.org or on Facebook at "Friends of Faith"! We're everywhere!

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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
- Master 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 Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Sunday, February 7th

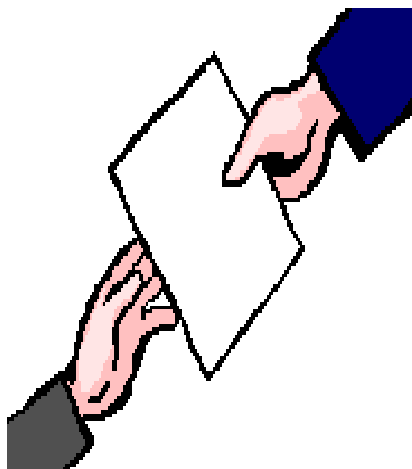
Don't miss it—this is super important to attend
& help make decisions on the future of FLC.

Highlights and Hopes!!!

All who contribute to FLC Annual Report please compose a ½ page or less report of your Highlights of the past year and your Hopes for the upcoming year.

The reports are due on Monday, January 11th, and should be submitted to Ann Wright, Steward of Communication at annkatmontana@earthlink.net. If you are not able to reach Ann's email please submit to Heather Wintergerst at office@faithlutheranhamilton.org.

As an alternative, written (paper) reports may be submitted directly to Heather in the office.



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Family Promise in Missoula!

For four weeks each year, Missoula Churches share their facilities with families who are homeless and a part of the Family Promise program. Family Promise is a way for us to **SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH**

ALL by caring for families in need. We have extra space, we have extra food and God says in Hebrews 13:15 “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Family Promise is making a difference! Two families have moved out on their own in the last month and a family member of one of our families got a job! We are the reason these folks can get back on their feet and get into a home of their own.



Mark your calendars for the following Event supporting Family Promise:

- February 27: Immanuel Lutheran’s Scandinavian Smorgasbord (See Below)



Immanuel’s Smorgasbord is back!

On February 27th Immanuel Lutheran in Missoula will again be hosting their Smorgasbord. Lots of planning and preparation goes into making this dinner that serves traditional Scandinavian foods such as lutefisk, lefse and Swedish meatballs.

Faith Lutheran:

Last year, the folks at Immanuel Lutheran decided not to host their annual Scandinavian dinner, and instead hopped the “Lutefisk Bus” to Hamilton to support Faith’s dinner. Let’s return the favor!!

Share the news! Tickets go on sale February 1. Signup on Immanuel’s website to get a reminder! <http://www.imluchurch.org/smorgasbord>

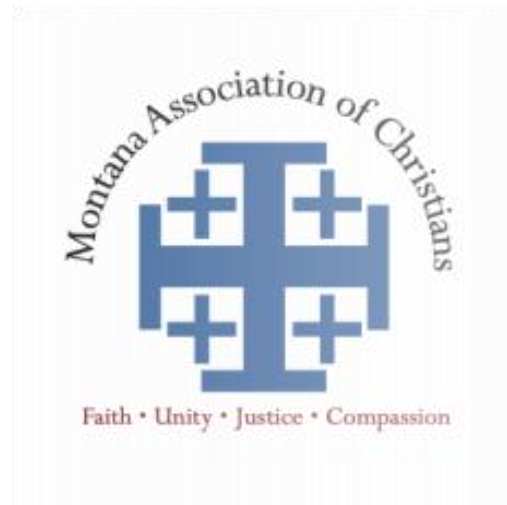
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Montana's Christians Consider Refugees

Statement by the Leaders of the Montana Association of Christians

We, the leaders of the Montana Association of Christians (MAC), made up of eight denominations, as well as numerous congregations and individuals across Montana, stand in solidarity with the victims of persecution and violence at home and across the globe. With each new mass shooting or act of terrorism, we too experience anxiety and are tempted to succumb to fear. Yet, grounded by God's peace which passes our understanding, and inspired by the biblical call to love God, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, we recognize in this stressful time a call to courage. Let us not only pray 'thy kingdom come, thy will be done,' let us do it.



We at MAC invite all Montanans, many of us descendants of immigrants ourselves, to welcome those fleeing persecution in other countries, including refugees seeking asylum from Syria. Consider that Joseph and Mary protected Jesus from Herod, by becoming refugees in Egypt. Consider further, the possibility that extending opportunity and hope to those fleeing the brutality and oppression that threaten their lives, might also lay the groundwork for a safer tomorrow. Scripture instructs God's people, who themselves have been sojourners, refugees, and immigrants, to defend, protect, and honor the rights and dignity of the stranger.

We encourage our fellow Montanans to follow the laws and protocols currently in place in our nation and to continue to welcome those fleeing persecution from other countries including Syria. We urge Montanans not to allow fear to degrade our citizenship, but with wisdom and judiciousness to seek a course that upholds the humanity not only of the stranger in our midst, but ultimately ourselves.

Rev. Peter Erickson, ELCA Lutheran Pastor, President of MAC

Rev. Valerie Webster, Episcopal Priest, President (Elect) of MAC

Published in Montana's newspapers in December.

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With Gratitude:

Dear Family of Christ: thank you so much for all your help this past year, and just for following God's leading in your life. I can't thank adequately Celeste, Pastor Brenda, and the team that sits down and plans worship months in advance. Just know that just coming to church, acts of kindness, silent prayer, Bible reading, all these types of things are acts of worship. May we reach the point where every step we take is done as an act of Worship. May God Bless you and yours (and remember, He IS blessing us constantly) now and forever.

May God open the windows of heaven, and blessings pour out on you, pressed down and overflowing. Peace of God protect you
Rick Brown, Steward of Worship

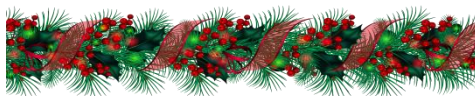
January Birthdays

1/1	Shirley McGourty
1/3	Clarice Brady, Chris Maul-Smith
1/5	Annie Strain
1/6	Lina Gyles, Carol Peterson, Carl Swanson, Marlin Lewis
1/7	Allie Auch, Maddison Duchscher
1/8	Lars Larson, Logan Vandenburg
1/10	Gunnar Larson
1/12	Brenda Satrum
1/15	Nichole Mitchell, Jeff Montgomery
1/16	Ron Osborn
1/17	Virginia Kindzerski
1/21	Jerry Mitchell
1/22	Ethel Warwick
1/23	John Mckee, Susan Wetzsteon
1/24	Jennifer Larson, Paul Roege
1/25	Gary Wright
1/28	Ann Mitteness
1/29	Keegan Williamson
1/31	Claire Matthews



Christmas Program Thanks!

What a joy it was for me to gather and lead our children in the telling of the Christmas story through their music and words. Nice work, kids! Thanks to Nancy Osborn, Cameron Meikle, Rod Pogachar, Samantha Fife, Pastor Brenda, and Mark Livesay for your great assistance.
~Celeste



Thank You for the terrific Youth Sunday Christmas Program!!! Young ones told the story with heart-warming voices, instrumentalists lifted our hearts in song, narrators brought us all along.

Parents: for faithfully brining your kids, leading them to God, and following Jesus yourselves—thank you!

Leaders Celeste pulled it all together, AGAIN! Mark, Samantha, Rod, Cameron, Nancy, and all sorts of others offered their best to a truly wonderful morning. *~Pastor Brenda*

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Dates To Remember

- 1/1 *Happy New Year!!!* (FLC Office Closed)
- 1/3 Un-Decorating Party
- 1/11 **Council & Annual Reports are due!**
- 1/18 FLC Council Mtg.
- 1/19 Faith Herald Deadline
- 1/28 Great Big Folding Party



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