

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

Soul Food

One reason I love working at Faith is our love affair with food. From the Scandinavian Dinner to Soup Suppers to benefit dinners to coffee and cookies after worship, Faith's family loves sharing a word and a bite across the table.

And we cook well! Some of the newbies may not know that there are still copies of Faith's 2001 cookbook, *A Pinch of Faith & a Dash of Love*, available for those ready to give anything from donuts to Korv (Swedish Potato Sausage!) a try.

The other reason I love working at Faith is that we love soul food, too. From the Bethel Series to Search to ongoing Women of the ELCA studies to **animate:Faith**, Faith family loves sharing *God's word* across tables and coffee tables, too.

It's natural: something about sharing both literal bread and the daily bread of God's word warms our hearts and opens friendship with God and each other. "Taste and see that the Lord is good," boasts Psalm 34. "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" When God's words of hope and promise are shared among souls enduring the sorrows and enjoying the wonders of life, our lives and world heal more deeply than we imagine.

Longing for home? For good food and real conversation? Pull up a chair, Friends of Faith! "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare." Isaiah 55:1-2

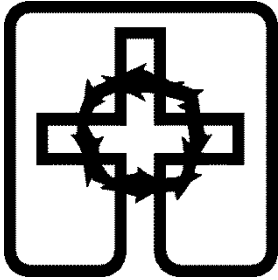
Pastor Brenda



Good Eats at Faith this Month:

- **Soup Suppers!** Every Wednesday at 6:15 through March 16. See page 6
- **Lent Lunches!** Join folks for Wednesday lunches through March 16. See page 6
- **Animate:Faith.** It's not too late to join a small group or join PB at 11 on Sundays. Page 6
- **Young Adult Dinners.** Off in March, but back on April 17, 6-9 at PB's.
- **Faith Family Passover,** Maundy Thursday (March 24) at 7pm. Page 2
- **Scholarship Benefit Easter Breakfast,** Easter morning between services.
- **Women's Circles, Spiritual Reading, and more...**

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



The Greatest Story Holy Week at Faith 2016

Palm Sunday, March 20, 9:30am. Kids parade with palms (meet in the fellowship hall before worship) and sing for the coming king. **Easter Egg Hunt** at Sapphire Lutheran Homes leaves at 11:00am.

One in the Spirit Community Palm Sunday Service, 6pm, Cornerstone Bible Church (Fairgrounds Rd). Experience God's passion for us through prayer and song with our Bitterroot family of faith.

Maundy Thursday Faith Family Passover, March 24th, 6:00pm, FLC. Relive Jesus' Last Supper and the Church's first Communion. A traditional Jewish Passover meal, including kid-friendly teaching about the Passover and its connections to the Lord's Supper. This experience completes First Communion Instruction for 4th-5th graders. **Setup at Faith, 10am.**

Good Friday, March 25th, noon, FLC. Faith's own simple, yet powerful remembrance of Christ's passion. "Celebrate" this holy day in a holy week.

Easter Vigil, March 26th, 7pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Easter Sunday, March 27th.

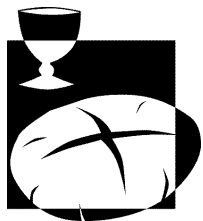
- **FESTIVAL WORSHIP at 8:00 & 10:00am.** Celebrate new life—eternal life! Choir, the best hymns of the year, and the best sermon PB can deliver. Invite your friends and neighbors! No Sunday School, but plenty of...
- **BREAKFAST, 9:15-10:00**, Bring the whole family. Freewill offering supports FLC college scholarships. Served by Faith's kids and scholarship recipients.
- **EVENING WORSHIP at Sapphire Lutheran Homes.** 6:15.



Kids' Communion Instruction

Sunday Night, March 13, 6-7:30

First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 24, 7:00pm



Fourth through eighth graders and their parents join up to learn about Jesus' Meal. Whether you're learning for the first time or reviewing and growing deeper, this evening is a GREAT experience! It's fun and highly interactive, including a traditional Passover Seder (the "first last supper"). RSVP to Pastor Brenda.

Faith Family Passover Meal: A Feast of Freedom!

Maundy Thursday, March 24, 6-7:30

Free-will offering benefits FLC General Fund Reserve

It's the last meal Jesus shared with his friends—and for us a feast of freedom and new life. A community celebration for young and old—for the Family of Faith. Every time I celebrate the Passover as Jesus may have done, I understand a little more fully what our Lord's Supper can mean for me, for us.

Please come! Pause to enjoy family, friends new and old, and one of the most ancient and meaningful meals on earth. Grow closer to God and to each other, closer to Life.

Many thanks to Thrivent Financial for supporting this event with an Action Team Grant!



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Worship Notes for March

- Wednesday, March 2: **Holden Evening Prayer**
- 🌿 Sunday, March 6: **Lent 4**, Celebration of Grace
 - Wednesday, March 9: **Holden Evening Prayer**
- 🌿 Sunday, March 13: **Lent 5**, Celtic Praise Service
 - Wednesday, March 16: **Holden Evening Prayer**
- 🌿 Sunday, March 20: **Palm Sunday**, Palm Sunday Service
 - Thursday, March 24: **Maundy Thursday**, Seder Supper & Worship
 - Friday, March 25: **Good Friday**
- 🌿 Sunday, March 27: **Easter Sunday**



What is Maundy Thursday? What Does “Maundy” Mean?

The story that takes us from death to life begins on Maundy Thursday. The night before Jesus was crucified, he had a Passover supper with his disciples. (*Passover is a Jewish holy day that celebrates God's deliverance of the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt.*) During the Passover meal, Jesus took bread and wine and asked his Father to bless it. He broke the bread into pieces, gave it to his disciples and said, “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do

this for the remembrance of me.” Then he took the cup of wine, shared it with his disciples and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.” These events recorded in Luke 22:19-20 describe the Last Supper and form the biblical basis for the practice of Communion.

After supper, Jesus knew that this would be his final opportunity to instruct his disciples before the crucifixion, so he talked at length about his purposes, what his followers should do in response, and the promise of the Holy Spirit to come. The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere; in an incredible demonstration of humility and servant hood, Jesus performed the duty of a slave by washing his disciples' feet, and urged them to do the same for one another.

The word **Maundy** (pronounced *mawn-dee*) comes from the Latin word **mandatum**, which means “**moderate or command**.” The command that this holy day refers to is the one that Jesus gave to his disciples during the Last Supper:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just like I have loved you; that you also love one another. John 13:34

Calling all singers!

Celeste is organizing a choir to sing to sing two pieces on Easter Sunday, 8 am and 10 am services on March 27th. We will practice after worship on Sundays, March 13th and 20th

Please let her know if you are interested!



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The Youth Page

Wednesdays & Sundays



Wed Mar 2 Lenten Soup Supper

Wed Mar 9 Lenten Soup Supper

Sun Mar 13 Youth Sunday

Wed Mar 16 Lenten Soup Supper

Wed Mar 23 NO Soup Supper or Youth Group

Wed Mar 26 Set-up for Easter Brunch, 10am

Sun Mar 27 **Easter Scholarship Brunch**

Wed Mar 30 Youth Group 7pm @ St. Paul's

Lenten Soup Suppers



This month all members of both congregations are welcome to come and enjoy a soup dinner on Wednesday evenings at Faith Lutheran. Dinner is at 6:15, followed by Holden Evening Worship at 7pm, and then there will be Youth Group for the High School kids afterward until 8:30pm. Topics of discussion for Youth during Lent: history of fasting, purpose of prayer, the good news of the Gospel, and what is, or is not, hell.

Youth Sunday

This month Youth and Praise Sunday will be early because of Palm Sunday and Prom. The kids will help host coffee hour as a Lenten act of service. Youth will need to arrive at 8:45am please.

Easter Scholarship Brunch

Our annual brunch to raise money for college scholarships will be between the Easter services. (8am and 10am) Folks will be asked for a good will offering. This is our big fundraiser for the kids, and we need them to help serve! Please look at your holiday plans and let Samantha know if you and your family will be in town to help!



*Samantha Fife-Faith Lutheran Youth Director, 406.370.8025 fifedrivel@gmail.com
Alana Cruse-St. Paul's Episcopal Youth Minister, 406.381.3534 ashortcruse@gmail.com*

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COLLEGE/SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The Faith Lutheran Scholarship Committee will begin accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. High School seniors, or anyone enrolled in a secondary educational institution for the fall 2016 term may apply. Pick up an application form on the counter outside the Church office, or have an electronic copy emailed to you by contacting Heather at office@faithlutheranhamilton.org. **They are due back to the church office by Wed., April 13th.**

Donations to Faith's Scholarship Fund are always welcome! They can be left in the church office, included with your regular offering envelope, or received at the Easter Breakfast. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the scholarship committee:

Celeste Pogachar (239-3952)

Mark Livesay (381-5172)

Jacque VanDenburg (363-5393)

Spring Break 2016 service-learning trip



San Francisco & EMMAUS CAMPUS MINISTRY

April 1-10 \$200 per person

Exploring Homelessness, Diversity, Justice and Religion

Emmaus Campus Ministry is hosting this exploratory trip engaging and examining issues of poverty, homelessness, racism, LGBTQ rights and equality, gender equality, immigration, and undocumented worker rights. Participants will both receive and serve meals in large soup kitchens, meet with organizers for LGBTQ rights, Black Lives Matter, and worker rights movements and have time to explore the city. We will consider the many facets of diversity and justice and how they play out in everyday lives. We will stay in churches, cook our own meals, get out and play, and have group conversations along the way. We are a campus ministry group, and will attend one worship service on this trip and will talk about religion to some extent. However, it won't be the main focus and we are open and welcoming to all perspectives. You can come as you are!

Questions? Contact: John Lund at Emmaus Campus Ministry john.lund@umontana.edu (406) 396-4974

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Soup Suppers

**Wednesdays at
Faith Lutheran Church
February 17-
March 16, 2016**



**Soup
Supper**

**Soup Supper, 6:15
Holden Evening Prayer, 7:00
Youth/Confirmation 7:30**

**March 2: Open My Hands, Lord
March 9: Open My Heart
March 16: Open My Life**



**Many Soups,
One Body!**



**Lent Lunches 2016
Wednesdays, 12:00-12:45
February 17—March 16**

Because we ARE one Body in Christ!

There is still time to come grab a bowl of soup with your neighbors and enjoy a light-hearted, thought-provoking conversation about topics that matter. All are invited to attend the remaining three 2016 Lent Lunches!!!

March 2 “Salvation”	Corvallis United Methodist Church East Side Hwy & Cemetery Rd.
March 9 “Cross”	UMAB/St. Paul’s Episcopal 211 N. 6th Street
March 16 “Bible”	First Presbyterian Church 1220 W. Main Street

It’s Not Too Late!!!

animate
FAITH

animate: SESSIONS

There is still three weeks remaining of animate: FAITH 2016. Each remaining weekly stand-alone session is like a guided tour through the basics of Christian theology. The men and women presenters you’ll meet offer their years of experience, their questions, their wonderings, and their experiences of traveling the often-bumpy road of faith.

- Sun., 11:00am FLC, Pastor B
- Mon., 7:00pm Susan W & Celeste P
- Tues., 5:30/7:00pm Pastor B
- Tues., 7:00pm Carolyn L. & Robin I.
- Tues. 7:00pm Rick B & the Damrows
- Wednesdays, noon Partner Pastors

One in the Spirit

A Community Worship Celebration on Palm Sunday

March 20, 6:00-7:30pm

Cornerstone Bible Church, Fairgrounds Road

Gather in Christ to worship God and love the world.

Bring the family for an evening of encouragement and hope!

The pastors and churches of the Ravalli County Ministerial Association offer this time together to share Jesus’ new life and unstoppable love with our community and to celebrate our unity in Christ. Contact Pr. Brenda Satrum to volunteer: bsatrum@gmail.com or 381-1919.

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Till It Feels Good

By Nancy Marks

I want everyone to stop for a moment and think of what it would mean to not have our church to worship at or our congregation to worship with....

What does that mean for you?

For me, I would be terribly sad. I have only been worshipping at Faith for 1 ½ years and have already come to know this as my soft place to fall, my place to come and get centered for my week ahead. My place to see God smiling back at me in many of the faces I see each week. My place to let go of my troubles, my place to hear what I need to hear.

If any of you agree, then you need to Dig Deep and give more.

Now I share my experience with you: When I was 36 years old, I was a single mom, divorced with two children: A daughter in 3rd grade and a son in 2nd grade. I was barely keeping my head above water financially. I was in the process of buying a vehicle and trying to figure out what kind of car payment I could afford. I figured I could afford \$50.00 a month.

I settled with the car salesman at \$36.00 a month. I was frightened. My dear friend said that every time I went thru a drive thru or received change back from purchasing anything to put it in my ashtray and at the end of the month deposit it and put it towards my truck payment. To my surprise it worked. It kept me focused on saving.

Over the years this way of saving has been part of our family lives.

I'll bet most of you have a change jar.

We keep ours in our kitchen and have already used it for various adventures. We as a family have decided to give our jar of money to Faith.

We have also adjusted some other spending that we do and are adding an extra \$20.00 a week.

I am challenging you all to prayerfully consider doing the same. I think this Little Church of ours is worth our efforts to keep the lights on.

Dig Deep and give until it feels good.

Lenten Baskets of Promise

This Lent, Faith is proud to once again partner with Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise campaign. We have been collecting different items each week during Lent and will be assembling our Personal Care Kits on April 3rd.



When natural disasters strike or political conflict flares, families often don't have time to gather their belongings before fleeing. The Personal Care Kits provide them with things to help them stay healthy and they are a way of showing them that there are people who care about them.

The items that go in to each kit include: 2 bars of 4 to 5 oz. soap in the original wrapping, a light-weight dark colored bath towel no bigger than 52" x 27", an adult size toothbrush in its original packaging, a sturdy comb, and metal nail clippers. We cannot add other items or leave out any of the items listed. Toothpaste will be added to the kits when they arrive at the LWR warehouse.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy Osborn at church or at 363-2139.

Let's see how many kits we can put together!!



From the Emergency Assistance Committee:

So far this year there have been 2 assists. Both were for rent. Thank you for helping meet the needs of our neighbors. ~ Nancy Osborn

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**Stewards & Staff of Faith Lutheran Church**

Pastor (ex-officio)	Rev. Brenda Satrum	381-1919	brenda@faithlutheranhamilton.org
President/Convener	Helen Volden	361-0222	Hjkl2mt@gmail.com
Discipleship	Claudia Williams	370-0615	williamsclaudia38@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality	Judy Wilson	961-4071	JudyPlus_4@MSN.com
Finance	Dean Drake	777-7010	Deandrake87@gmail.com
Communication	Mark Grotbo	460-2144	mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com
Outreach	Judy Griffin	961-4390	idclairus@yahoo.com
Property & Grounds	Nathan Brady	360-3641	Cleancut.nathan@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	

A Bite for Faith's Council...

Please pray for Faith's 2016 leadership, listed with their contact information above. And as you do, please hold these bites of God's Word in mind and mouth:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ...Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4,6-7

I hope to remember these passages at every council meeting, let them sink in to our minds and work together, chew on them, digest them, and live them out. I believe we'll find ourselves well nourished.

Pastor Brenda

At our February 7th annual meeting several new Stewards were elected and those retiring their position were recognized for their service. We thank and appreciate those that will be going off Council: Jack Losensky, Convener; Mark Livesay, Steward of Discipleship; Darrin Heitmann, Steward of Finance; Ann Wright, Steward of Communications; Scott Southwick, Steward of Property & Grounds.

We welcome the following new Stewards on Council. Nathan Brady, Steward of Property & Grounds; Dean Drake, Steward of Finance; Claudia Williams, Steward of Discipleship; Mark Grotbo, Steward of Communications. You will find their phone number and email address above.

We are confident Jesus will provide us with the strength and courage to deal with the many challenges that await us – such as budget issues, striving for improved communication, Sunday School/Adult Education, just to name a few.

Your new Council welcomes and desires your input as we begin this New Year together. Council meetings will be held the 4th Monday each month at 6:00pm. Please don't be shy, we're always available (or will do our best!) for a chat/visit. You are ALL very special, needed, and loved!

It has been said, that if the group wants better leaders, it only has to pray for the ones it has. We welcome and need your prayers and we thank you for them!

Love & Blessings~ Helen Volden



Highlights of Congregational Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 7, 2016 60 members present (quorum was established)

Approval of minutes from last year's annual meeting (2/28/15)

Approval of Steward and Committee Reports as submitted

Budget:

Steward of Finance Darrin Heitmann reviewed 2015 finances; two updates were added before approval.

Proposed 2016 budget was submitted. Members discussed opportunities to increase individual giving to the General Fund. Increased expenses for pastoral support during Pastor Brenda's Sabbatical were noted. Budget was approved.

Election of officers (stewards are 2 year positions, convener is a 1 year position):

Convener: Helen Volden

Discipleship: Claudia Williams

Property & Grounds: Nathan Brady

Finance: Dean Drake

The Council appointed Mark Grotbo as Steward of Communications, to complete the term of Ann Wright.

Endowment committee: no new nominations

Nominating committee: Linda Beyer, Carl Russ, Jacque VanDenburg, Judy Wilson. Council will appoint one additional member.

FLBC representatives: Anita Bell, Michelle Mendenall, Celeste Pogachar

FLC representatives to Synod Assembly: Celeste and Rod Pogachar

Reflections of Congregational Life survey was conducted during the meeting.

Meet the FLC Council, part 1

Rick Brown: Steward of Worship.

I joined Faith in 2000. I served 2 terms as Discipleship Steward, 1 as Convener, and now am on 2nd year as Worship Steward. In 2002 I began the LPA program and finished in 2004. FLC was without a pastor for a couple of years so I was blessed to preach a lot here, as well as churches in Missoula and Arlee on a regular basis. I've taught Sunday School from ages 6th grade through High School. I am also on the Mutual Ministry committee and the FLC business improvement committee. I also was blessed to lead worship at all the nursing /assisted living homes here in the Hamilton/Corvallis area on a regular rotating basis. I am self-employed with RB Lawn Services, Inc. Six grandkids, three each! Otherwise I hop on my Harley from time to time and get bugs in my teeth. I love my Faith family!

Grace and Peace to all~ Rick Brown

Judy Griffin: Steward of Outreach.

I was born in Great Falls, Mt, the daughter of a wheat rancher and nurse from Carter, MT. I graduated from Great Falls High School and Montana State University where I met my husband, Clair. We live in Corvallis and have four grown children (Scott, Kristen, Bryan, and Justin.) We also have seven grandchildren (soon to be 9) with twin grandsons expected in March.

My husband and I own a dairy farm in Corvallis and sold our dairy cows last April. We are in the process of transitioning into beef caves and still have pasture and hay ground.

I am an RN (MSU graduate) and retired from nursing in December 2014. I worked for almost 24 yrs. for the Ravalli County Health Department and was the Public Health Director for 15 years.

I have been a member of Faith Lutheran Church since 1977. I have served twice on the Council prior to this position & also have taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School when my children were young.

I look forward to my second year as Steward of Outreach and continuing services with the Community dinners and Caring Visitors program. I appreciate all the volunteers who have assisted me during the past year.

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Meet the FLC Council Continued....

Judy Wilson: Steward of Fellowship & Hospitality.

My position on the Council is Hospitality and Fellowship Steward for a second term. My husband and I moved from Lodi, California in 1993 and joined Faith Lutheran at that time.

I was born and raised in Stockton California, where I worked at J.C. Penney and married my husband in 1958. After our marriage we moved to Lake Tahoe and started our family of four boys. We now have 2 grandchildren, Jacob and Holly, whom we adore. My husband retired from the phone company after 30 years. I belonged to different organizations and of course things involving our sons, 4-H, Cub Scouts, FFA, football, and baseball. I also worked at schools on the Parent Club Board.

My hope and goals are to organize or participate with other committees to help promote hospitality and warmth to all members and guests.

Coming Next Month! Meet the FLC Council part 2

Faith Lutheran Church Sabbatical Leave for Pastors

Following Montana Synod guidelines and at the recommendation of its Mutual Ministry Committee, the Faith Lutheran Church Council instituted the following Sabbatical Leave Policy in 2000. It was revised to its present edition in 2007:

603 Paid Sabbatical Leave- FLC Personnel Handbook

1. The rostered person (pastor) is eligible for an extended sabbatical leave of 12 weeks (3 months) after serving FLC for six years. Six months prior approval of this leave by the FLC council will be necessary.
2. While on sabbatical leave, FLC will provide full pay and benefits as per the current year's budget.
3. One year of service is expected after completion of the study leave.
4. A fully detailed explanation of this policy should be obtained by the rostered person from the FLC council before asking for approval for leave.

Pastor Steve Van Gilder was the first pastor from FLC to use this educational and spiritual renewal opportunity. FLC council initiated this conversation with Pastor Brenda several months ago and all proper steps have been and are being followed.

Thank you, Brenda, for your service.

Rick Brown, Steward of Worship, Liaison, FLC Council to Mutual Ministry Committee, Member, FLC Business Improvement Team

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.
- Capt. Alex Stephens, MD, grandson-in-law of Dale and Clairice Brady, serving at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma WA.
- Ashley White, niece of Paul and Lina Gyles, Stationed at Ft. Sill, Ok.



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Online Registration for Summer Camp is Now Open!

Online registration is safe, secure, and simple:

- Visit our website (www.flbc.net)
- Click on "Register for Summer Camp" at the top of the homepage
- Follow the directions to access the online registration system

You will need a login which may be used now and in the future to sign up for programs at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

If you have been to camp before but DID NOT receive an email last week, please contact the office at (406) 752-6602 or office@flbc.net for assistance PRIOR to using our upgraded system.



March Events at FLBC

Cross Country Ski Retreat March 18 -20, 2016.

All are welcome to attend a weekend of cross-country skiing. Bring your own skis (we can help arrange rentals if needed). Retreat includes lodging, meals, and transportation to trails. \$115 per person ages 13+.

Middle School Retreat (6th—9th grade) March 18-19 2016 (dinner Friday—4:00 pm Saturday) A one night overnight retreat to bring your youth group to camp! Fun, fellowship, craziness, games, Bible study, worship, and an introduction to our 2016 summer theme, "Living Like Jesus." Please register with your group—one adult must attend for every 1-10 youth of each gender. Cost \$75 per person. Adults are free and asked to stay in cabins with their youth.



MEN'S RETREAT

March 11th and 12th, 2016

The Tenth Annual Lutheran Men's Retreat will take place at the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, located near Lakeside, from Friday evening to early Saturday afternoon, March 11 and 12, 2016.

The featured speaker at this year's retreat will be Pastor Steve Benson. Recently retired, Pastor Benson has served at several Lutheran congregations including Christ Lutheran Church in Libby and is well versed in Islamic faith traditions. He promises that his faith journey story will be unexpected and surprising.

Over the years this retreat has been an invigorating spiritual happening, as well as a great time of fun, fellowship and bonding. So mark your calendars, and come join us on the shores of beautiful Flathead Lake.

The registration fee of \$65 will cover your meals and lodging at FLBC.

Please go to flbc.net or call (406)752-6602 for more information.



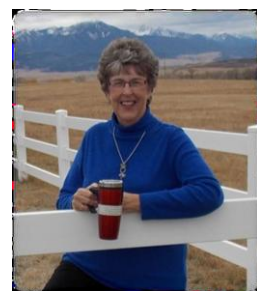
Growing the Fruits of the Spirit with Lois Olmstead

April 22-24

Bring your friends, daughters, mothers, granddaughters (14 and up) along for a fun, restful, spirit-filled weekend on beautiful Flathead Lake.

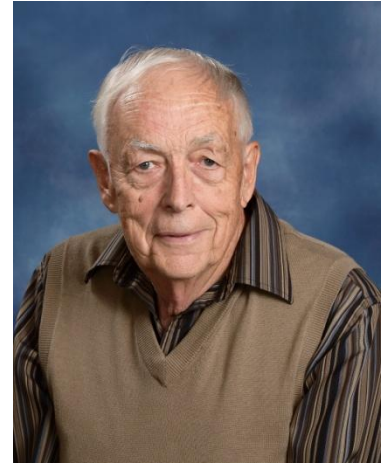
Several women from Faith Lutheran are planning to attend. Please join us!

Talk to Pastor Brenda or Celeste if you are interested.





Our own John Trangmoe has been selected as Volunteer of the Year. We are all well aware of the many contributions John has made to Faith Lutheran. He has served the Church Council both as Steward of Finance and as Convener. When Faith takes their turn at the 'community dinner', John is there. With a penchant for 'what's right' as his beacon, he has a gentle way of mediating and continuing on in spite of difficult situations. John has a heart for prison ministry and Kogodus and has combined those in many prison retreats, both for men and women. The decorating for the Scandinavian dinner in recent years is John's handiwork and reveals his pride in his Scandinavian heritage. What we might not be aware of however, is John's service to the community. He has accumulated many service hours as he welcomes Hamilton visitors at the Chamber of Commerce office where he wears many hats. Whatever comes up, John is there. He brought along some expertise from the Glendive chapter where he served as their CEO for several years. During the Ravalli County Fair, John can be found at the Sons of Norway booth serving up lefse and Vikings. And . . . he rarely misses any event that includes his grandchildren in Stevensville. Those kids have a pretty special Grandpa supporter.



John serves humbly and with no fanfare. He will never tell you all that he does. So . . . we at Faith join all the frogs that co-habitate with John and say. . . . Congratulations and thank you very much!!!

~Clairice Brady

Kogodus Ministry Retreat April 14-16



An opportunity to participate in a unique spiritual encounter takes place at the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation for an upcoming Kogodus Retreat. Linda Webster, pastor of Our Savior Luther Church is most enthusiastic about this event. The church is located on the reservation near Box Elder in north central Montana.

A few years ago Faith's congregation provided financial assistance for the operation of the Rocky Boy Church. Now we can show support with our presence at the retreat. Please visit John Trangmoe, a Kogodus board member, who has taken part in several past retreats or call Pastor Greg Karlsgodt at 406-544-1699. The Kogodus movement began in Montana forty years ago and has been attended by thousands of people.

THANK YOU!

From our friends inside the walls of the Montana State Prison. Faith Lutheran and its members gave \$1,350 to support FiC's Pastor Rob Nedbalek's work among the inmates and staff at Deerlodge and his efforts to build

successful reintegration programs and healing communities statewide. Exciting things are happening among and with those Jesus commanded us to visit and to serve, thanks, in part to you! Well done!

If you are interested in further participation or support with Freedom in Christ, or if you'd be willing to help bring Pastor Nedbalek to preach and teach at Faith, connect with Pastor Brenda or Google Freedom in Christ prison ministry.



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Deepen Faith and Witness—Forgiveness

“Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.” When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he also taught them to forgive. Forgiveness is an essential faith practice. And, like so many of the faith practices, it is not a one-way street. We must learn over and over to ask for forgiveness, to grant forgiveness, and to receive forgiveness.

One of extraordinary outcomes of the shootings at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina in June was that the families of the victims all came forward and stated that they forgave the shooter. They forgave the young man who violated their sacred space, who took advantage of their hospitality, and murdered their loved ones, including their pastor. They forgave him publicly. And America was dumbfounded. Because such forgiveness is not part of our “we’re #1,” “winning is everything,” “don’t get mad, get even!” culture.

We saw it a decade earlier when a man went into an Amish school in Pennsylvania and shot a number of girls. The families of those beloved children said, no, they would not seek the death penalty. Instead they forgave the man. And America was shocked.

Forgiveness is counter-cultural. And while Christians are not the only ones who preach and practice forgiveness as a central part of who we are, forgiveness is integral to our faith. After all, we are the people who follow the crucified Christ, who near the moment of his death asked for forgiveness for his tormentors. “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

In worship we regularly ask for God’s forgiveness. And we receive the assurance of the forgiveness with the absolution given by the pastor. And just as Jesus taught us to love God with all our being, and neighbor as ourself, getting into right relationship with God requires getting into right relationship with our neighbor. And that means asking for, receiving, and granting forgiveness.

I suspect that each of us is better at one of the three aspects of forgiveness. I know people who are great at saying “Sorry,” but not so great at hearing it from others. I know people who believe fervently that God forgives all kind of others, but are so sure if they, really, are part of it. Forgiveness is all three—asking, receiving and granting. It is all part of the same faith practice that connects us more closely with God.

Forgiveness does not mean there are no consequences. A convicted murderer still has to be accountable for his or her actions. And saying you are sorry for something you have done does not mean that the problem will go away. It is simply the start of right relationship. Not everybody is in the same place as those Amish families in Pennsylvania, those AME families in South Carolina. We cannot force people to forgive us. We can only ask.

Even time we bring our Apology to the Tribes to another tribal council, we have to be prepared that they will not accept our Apology, that they will say it is too little, too late. Or worse. Each time we have been relieved and deeply touched at how seriously the tribal council took our Apology, how respectful they were to us and our need to seek forgiveness.

I was in college at the height of the “Love Story” fever. You could get key chains, posters and other paraphernalia with the movie’s most memorable quote, “Love means never having to say you’re sorry.” The author happened to be a junior professor on campus in the Classics Department. One day in a class on Tragedy, a senior professor took a break from Aeschylus and Dostoyevsky and Melville and burst out, “Young Eric has just got it all wrong! Of course you have to say you’re sorry!” He was right, of course.

“Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.”

Jessica Crist, Bishop, Montana Synod of the ELCA

Sign up for
our weekly
newsletter!

[Sign Up Now](#)

Montana Synod Newsletter

If you would like to receive messages from Bishop Crist like the one above, the Montana Synod offers a weekly newsletter delivered to your email. Go to the Montana Synod home page <https://www.montanasynd.org> to sign up. The sign up button is on the left side of the page.

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2016 Health & Wellness Presentations at St Francis of Assisi Pastoral Life Center

Everyone is invited and please bring a friend!

March 3, 3:00pm (Thursday) – Understanding Health Insurance...Who Pays for What?, at St Francis of Assisi Pastoral Life Center, 411 S. 5th St, Hamilton

Alan Baum discusses health insurance terminology, insurance coverage, and who pays for what regarding health care, rehabilitation, long term care, etc. No RSVP needed. For more info please call the St Francis Health & Wellness Ministry at 363-1385

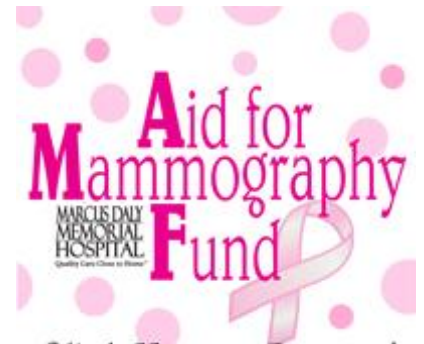
**And Mark Your Calendars for These Great Presentations
at Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital!**

March 17, 2016, 5:30pm (Thursday) - Medications and Exercise by Dianne DeCamp, RPh and Pete Dunn, DPT, OTR L, HPCS at Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital Blodgett/Canyon View Conference Rooms. All are welcome.

April 14, 2016, 5:30pm (Thursday) - Joint Pain by Michael Dolecki, MD and Timothy Woods, MD at Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital Blodgett/Canyon View Conference Rooms. All are welcome.

Ravalli County Residents Have Access to Breast Health Services!

Are you in need of a mammogram? The Aid for Mammography Fund helps uninsured and under-insured Ravalli County residents obtain a clinical breast exam by participating medical providers, as well as a screening mammogram and other necessary related diagnostic procedures at Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital.



To qualify for Aid for Mammography funds you must be a Ravalli County Resident and your gross family income must be equal to or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Apply today by asking your primary care provider about the Aid for Mammography fund or going to www.mdmh.org/amf to apply online!

Don't forget to look for Faith online

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



Plan to Attend:

Easter Breakfast

**Between services on March 20th
Served by the youth of our congregation**

**New Menu item this year! FLBC's
world famous baked oatmeal and
all the fixin's!**

**There is a \$5 suggested minimum
donation. All proceeds go to Faith's
College Scholarship Fund**

Thanks Thrivent Action Team!!!

March Birthdays

4	Makenzie Melton
5	Bob Gaulke, Paul Gyles, Elizabeth Jameson, Rod Pogachar
6	Marie Larson
7	Jodean Cook, Claire Seifert
8	Peter Silcher
9	Dirk Beyer, Nicole Nichols
10	Bridger Syme, Jill Turley
12	Tristan Hanson
14	Meredith Buhler, Norma Hill
15	Dale Huhtanen, Christopher Li
16	Patricia Larson, Anilynn Mason
18	Danny Mitchell
19	Claudia Williams
20	Brooke Lawry, Amy Lawry, Dean Rinta
23	Jim Carrington, Megan Lewis
25	Judy Wilson
26	Jana Exner
27	Annalise Lewis
28	Denise Linnell
31	Ella Dowd, Donna Mitchell



Save the dates:

Faith Lutheran's VBS is July 11-15!
Those awesome FLBC counselors will be in
Hamilton giving our youngest folks the camp
experience through Vacation Bible School
activities!





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Dates to Remember

- 3/13 Daylight Savings Ends (set clocks ahead 1 hour)
- 3/15 Faith Herald Deadline
- 3/20 Palm Sunday
- 3/24 Maundy Thursday
- 3/25 Good Friday
- 3/27 Easter Sunday
- 3/28 FLC Council Meeting
- 3/31 Great Big Folding Party



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