

July 2016

FAITH



HERALD

August 2016

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

www.faithlutheranhamilton.org

Open: Monday – Thursday
9:00 am- 1:00pm
office@faithlutheranhamilton.org

VBS!!! July 11-15

“Living Like Jesus” 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 2016 Schedule

- Sun., July 10th 6pm Family Picnic/Pre-registration/Welcome FLBC Counselors
- Mon., July 11th 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 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Lake Como Campfire/dinner for counselors & all middle school & high school kids.



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

Click on the VBS link under events and celebrations on the homepage.

OR

Grab one off the counter outside the office.



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## 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).

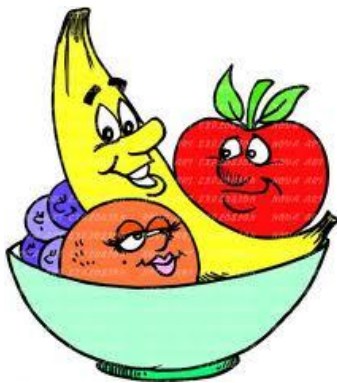
**Preschool:** 20 busy preschoolers require a lot of grown-up supervision! They meet 9-11:30 am. Bring your energy!

**Crafts:** ask Craft Queen Linda Beyer what she needs most (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)**



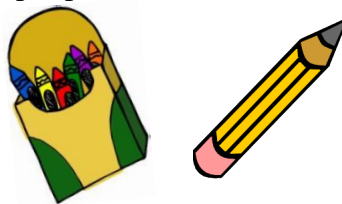
### Suggested items:

- 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

## VBS Loving/ Helping Project

For a VBS social service project the kids will be putting together back to school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Our goal is to put together at least 50 kits and we could use your help. While taking advantage of back to school savings at your favorite store, please consider donating the following items:

- 70 page notebooks ( No loose-leaf paper please.)
- Unsharpened #2 pencils
- Blue or black ink pens
- Pencil sharpeners
- Erasers
- Boxes of 16 or 24 count crayons
- 30 centimeter rulers (can have inches on one side)
- Pair of safety scissors (we already have 48 of these on hand)



**Please return items to  
church by  
Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.  
THANK YOU!!!**

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## Pre-VBS Y'all Come Family BBQ!

**Sunday, July 10, 6pm @ FLC**

Not just for the families of Faith, but for the whole congregation!

Come meet the awesome FLBC counselors who will minister to our youth during the week of VBS.

Burgers and fixin's, chips and drinks provided by Thrivent. Potluck sides and desserts.

**Bonus: Pre-register for VBS that evening to avoid the long lines Monday morning!**

## Como Lake BBQ—BRING FRIENDS!!! Wednesday, July 13, 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!!!



## FLBC News & Notes

It's not too late to sign up for summer camp. The 2016 activities brochure is available online ([www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)) or on the counter outside the church office. The theme for 2016 is "Living Like Jesus."

### Off to Camp This Summer

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

*June 19-24:* Luke & Maizie Mendenall, Logan VanDenburg.

*June 26-July 1* Brooklyn Dowd

*July 10-15:* Kiley McDonald

*July 17-22:* Kenny Reichart & Grace Reichart

*August 7-12:* Quoia Anderson, Cady Rollins, Cole Kimzey,  
Owen Dunn, Sam Dunn, Ella Dowd

*August 14-17:* Finn Dufresne

*Date TBD:* Josie VanDenburg

### Upcoming Events

**August 7-August 12:**

**Pastor Brenda at Bible Camp!**

There's a full schedule at FLBC this week, so come up and join us for awesome times!!!



- **Thrivent Members!** Thrivent Choice dollars make a big impact at FLBC! If you are a Thrivent member, choose Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp to send your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Don't forget, you must choose your recipient each time since the "reoccurring" option has now ended. THANKS so much.
- **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.

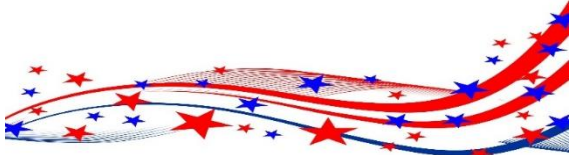


## Faith's Summer Worship

While Pastor Brenda is away, we appreciate the messages of Pastor Melchert and Pastor Gray.

July 3rd worship will feature many of your favorite patriotic songs.

July 24th, we will celebrate "Christmas in July".



## Calling All Musicians!

Please consider sharing your talents to enhance worship this summer. It's as 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!



## Soothe Your Soul and Warm Your Heart: Christmas in July

Who says our favorite songs are only for December?

Come celebrate the presence of Jesus with carols and cookies on

**Sunday, July 24, 2016.**

After all, we're half-way there!

Please bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share during the Coffee Hour that Sunday.

Please also bring a "gift" of non-perishable food items for the "Gift Drive" for Haven House. Summer is hard on families and food banks. Let's help them out!



## New Faces

With thanks and joy we welcome Bryce & Connie Satter and Stu & Bonnie Savory into Faith's membership!

- Satters have moved to Hamilton from Texas, where Bryce worked for an oil company and Connie in elementary education. Fun fact: Bryce went to high school here in Hamilton, and their new member sponsors, the Bradys, were happy to welcome him back.
- Savorys come from Grand Island, NY, where they'd lived for about 40 years, helping start their church's preschool (which Bonnie directed) and working in retail (Stu). Helen Volden, their sponsor, met them at the Canyons staying in shape. They also love to connect over breakfast or lunch at a local watering hole.

Please keep an eye out and introduce yourselves to these folks and any new faces you see. Faith Lutheran exists to welcome folks into the love of God that first loves us and opens its arms wide to all. (Our new members are already included in Faith's directory.)



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## Travel to Germany with Bishop Crist!

**The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther's  
95 Theses (1517-2017)**

**May 9-18, 2017**

**Cost: \$4,750**

**More information can be found in the Church Lobby!**

**Contact Brian Mathis of Peterson | Litts**

**At (406) 206-0550 or**

**[brian@globaltravelalliance.com](mailto:brian@globaltravelalliance.com) for more information.**



## Sapphire Lutheran Homes Summer Concert Series 2016

*Join us!*

*At Sapphire Lutheran Homes*

*501 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Hamilton*

*Bring your lawn chair or blanket*

*Family Friendly*

***\$5 BBQ at 6PM***

***Free Concerts at 7PM***



Fri., July 1      7pm      “Red, White, & Bluegrass” feat. **Pinegrass**

Fri., July 8      7pm      **Who Dat Band**

Fri., July 15      7pm      **Nashville 406**

**Fri., July 22      7pm      Big Sky Mudflaps**

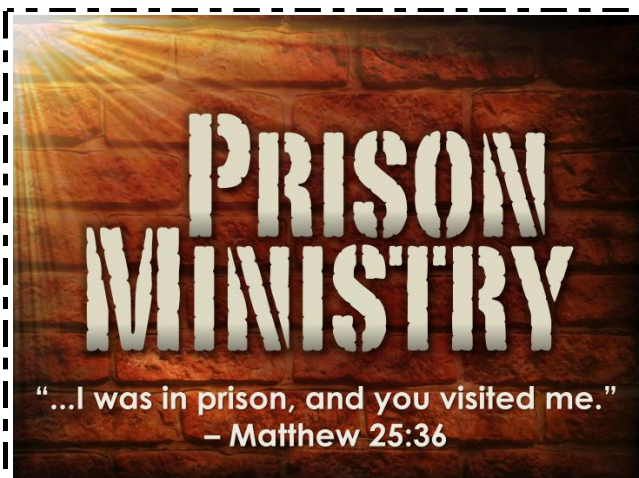
***(Come early and gather with your friends from FLC)***

Wed., Aug. 10      6pm      **Shakespeare in the Parks**

***“A Comedy of Errors”***

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

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## Kogodus Retreat at Woman's Prison September 23rd-25th

Jesus was drawn to people who were sick, oppressed, poor, and rejected by others. As his followers we are called to carry on his ministry to the least, the last, and the lost...the marginalized, those our society generally despises or would like to ignore. Those who are serving time in prison fit that description; and, yet, when we Christians on the outside dare to spend time with them at a retreat we find that our common bond in Christ creates inspiration and encouragement for all of us. Kogodus Renewal Ministry has been offering retreats at Montana Women's Prison in Billings since 2011. The next

one is called "Lament & Laughter" and is scheduled for September 23-25, 2016. **If you are interested in serving on the team, please contact Rev. Greg Karlsgodt, Executive Director, at 544-1699 or [gk@kogodus.org](mailto:gk@kogodus.org).** Celeste Pogachar is planning to attend and is also available for information.

## Prison Ministry Partnership, Spring 2016

From the supporters of Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry, at the Deerlodge Prison:

Our core team is passionate about working with people affected by incarceration. As one of our volunteers recently said "I got involved to be of service to God and to others but I find that every time I go to the prison I am given more than I am able to give." You can experience this for yourself by:

**Praying for these ministries and the people involved in all aspects of the criminal justice system.**

**Attending worship services or Bible studies** at the Montana Women's Prison in Billings or at the Men's Prison in Deer Lodge.

**Being on a leadership team for retreats:** Homeward Bound (ecumenical Walk to Emmaus/Cursillo retreat) or Kogodus (Lutheran) retreats.

**Mentoring** a returning citizen who has paid their debt to society.

**Donating gently used casual or business wear** in Billings.

**Attending Healing Communities training** to develop a ministry to persons returning from or at risk of incarceration, and their families in your own church and community.

**Donating art work or quilted items for a fund raiser.** Freedom in Christ Prison ministry receives about a third of its support from the national ELCA and local Montana Synod with the rest coming from fundraisers and donations.

**Attending a Freedom in Christ fundraiser:**

Sunday, October 9 Quilt auction via the internet at various locations in the state, including Billings, Great Falls, Sidney and more.

**To volunteer or contribute contact the following people:**

**Worship, Bible Study, retreats, mentoring or clothing donations in Billings:** Pastor Wendy Ochs at Evangelical United Methodist Church: 406-259-1897 or [pastorwendyochs@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwendyochs@gmail.com)

**Worship, Bible Study, retreats, mentoring in other areas:** Pastor Rob Nedbalek, Freedom in Christ Prison Ministries at 406-694-5267 [orpastorrob@ficprisonministry.com](mailto:orpastorrob@ficprisonministry.com)

**Kogodus Retreat:** Pr. Greg Karlsgodt, 406-544-1699 or [gk@kogodus.org](mailto:gk@kogodus.org)

**Donations or tickets for fundraisers:** Bea Rosenleaf, 406-560-4993 or [Bea@ficprisonministry.com](mailto:Bea@ficprisonministry.com)

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## May Council Highlights

Bob and Rachel Gerloff, who were long-time members, left a generous donation to Faith Lutheran Church. Council is asking for members interested in serving on the Endowment Committee to help to meet the Gerloff's wishes for these funds to contact Helen Volden.

Plans are continuing for FLC to participate in the annual 50-mile garage sale. If you have items you'd consider donating, please watch for the coming details.

With the efforts of the Worship Committee and Pastor, the schedule and plans are ready for Pastor's upcoming sabbatical. The bulletin during the summer months will be simplified but will return to normal in September.

Community outreach has been going strong. Since the fall of 2014, 15,534 community meals have been served. ~ **Mark Grotbo**, *Steward of Communications*

## 2016 Montana Synod Assembly Highlights June 3-5, Billings

**Faith's Voting Delegates: Celeste and Rod Pogachar**

**Theme: Montana Synod's third benchmark: "Deepen Faith and Witness"**

This year's conference was a **theological conference**, meaning that there was little business transacted, but many workshops. Most workshops were focused on ways to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (2017), and the tremendous impact it has had on the world. Other workshops were on topics like world hunger, like disaster preparedness, like working with young adults.

**Business:** We adopted a resolution on the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, moving towards more justice for Native Americans. A new pastor was ordained (Tonia Fisher), almost 30 new lay pastoral associates (LPAs) were recognized, including Kaye VanGilder. A new Christikon director was installed (Pastor Mark McDonald). The 2017 budget was approved. Approximately \$1.1 million. 40% of that is given to worldwide ministries of the ELCA.

**Keynote speakers:** Dr. Mary Jane Haemig spoke on the impact of the reformation in today's world. Churchwide representative Pr. Kevin Strickland guided the Assembly through a process of identifying priorities for the ELCA for the future and gave an overview of the various good works happening throughout the world on behalf of the ELCA. He thanked Montanans for their generosity.

Pastor Arne Berglund gave an update on the progress of the **Synod House (new synod offices in Great Falls)**. A fundraising campaign was initiated several years ago, and although not all of the money has been raised, construction will begin next summer. The old building has been sold, so the offices will move temporarily to New Hope Church. Construction costs will be significantly reduced by using Mission Builders and providing workers from around the synod (like you! no experience necessary!)

Synod Summaries are posted on the website: [montanasynod.org](http://montanasynod.org). Celeste will gladly share her conference materials if you desire more information.



Deepen Faith  
and Witness

### Address Change:

For the next year or so the Montana Synod will be located at New Hope Lutheran Church. Their address is:

**3125 5th Ave S**

**Great Falls, MT 59405**

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## **The following brief overview of Pastor Brenda's sabbatical was announced Sunday, June 5th:**

As you are all aware Pastor Brenda will begin her 3month sabbatical June 15th. A substantial amount of planning has gone into this, not only by Pastor but also the Council, staff and congregation.

As the MT Synod puts it, wholeness and wellness are important principles in the life of the church and in the practice of its ministry. A sabbatical can, if planned properly, strengthen that. We here at Faith, recognize that as well. And that during a sabbatical a Pastor separates himself/herself completely from the congregation physically, mentally and emotionally.

A sabbatical provides not only rest from labor, but also opportunities for more in-depth learning and renewal. It allows a Pastor to refine and update their professional skills and refresh their spiritual life and calling. A time for change and renewal for both the Pastor and the congregation. The sabbatical will allow for a period of time away from normal ministerial responsibilities in order to spend an extended period of time in study, learning and reflection. Pastor Brenda has noted she will be attending a special workshop at Luther Seminary "Daring Way for Faith Leaders" in late June. We look forward to her sharing that, among her other endeavors, on her return to us.

This Pastoral sabbatical will also be an opportunity for our congregation to strengthen and improve OUR ministry. Both congregations and their pastors and staff actually need sabbaticals from each other, and both can benefit from some time spent apart. Pastors and Church leaders should not see the sabbatical as a reward for good work or simply a benefit to keep the Pastor happy. Neither should they view it as an extension of the normal vacation period. Rather it should be an important part of the program of the church and the working relationship between the church and its pastors from which both will draw benefits.

Returning from a sabbatical may be more difficult than going on one. It may be difficult to get back in touch with the total situation all at once. Consider an adjustment period when returning. While advance planning was necessary for embarking on the sabbatical, it is no less important for returning from it.

Pastor, we look forward to your written and oral report(s) on your return in mid September as you reconnect with us. And may you return with renewed energy and perhaps rediscovered zeal for ministry.

## **The following was announced Sunday (June 12th), Pastor's last Sunday before her sabbatical:**

I spoke quite extensively on Pastor's upcoming sabbatical noting information from ELCA and MT ELCA's guidelines/recommendations. It should have gone in the June Faith Herald, but yours truly, missed the deadline.

We recognize that a sabbatical rest is much more than a vacation. It is a rest with a purpose.

Your church Council sends their blessings to you as you begin your 3 month sabbatical Wed., June 15th. We will all miss you. It will be different and yes, challenging, around here without you. But we know you are grateful and realize you have a committed and hardworking Staff and Council that will be forging ahead taking care of Faith's business with God's guidance.

Try not to worry (too much) about your congregation, just include us in your prayers, because you can be assured you will be in ours! May God richly bless you as you use your time away for rest and renewal and may God continue to bless our congregation!

It has been written: God always gives the best to those who leave the choice to Him.

*~Helen Volden, Convener*





## PB's Sabbatical Saga: Midsummer Adventures

One of the highlights of my time away this summer is a trip to the Twin Cities for "The Daring Way for Faith Leaders" workshop at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Based on the work of Brené Brown, this experience is meant to build strength, joy, and resilience in the lives of ministry professionals and their congregations.

A sample of Brown's findings (she's a research sociologist) from *The Gifts of Imperfection* (© 2010) speaks to the gifts of Sabbath for all of us:



If we want to live a Wholehearted life, we have to become intentional about cultivating sleep and play, and about letting go of exhaustion as a status symbol and productivity as self-worth.

Making the choice to rest and play is, at best, counterculture. The decision to let go of exhaustion and productivity as badges of honor made total sense to Steve and me, but putting Wholeheartedness into practice has been a struggle for our entire family.

Steve and I sat down in 2008 and made a practical list of the things that make our family work. We basically answered the question, "When things are going really well in our family, what does it look like?" The answers included sleep, working out, healthy food, cooking, time off, weekends away, going to church, being present with the kids, a sense of control over our money, meaningful work that doesn't consume us, time to piddle, time with family and close friends, and time to just hang out. These were (and are) our "ingredients for joy and meaning."

[Then they looked at their "dream list" ] Everything required that we make more money and spend more money.

When we compared our dream list to our "joy and meaning" list, we realized that by merely letting go of the list of things we want to accomplish and acquire, we would be actually living our dream—not striving to make it happen in the future, but living it right now. The things we were working toward did nothing in terms of making our life fuller.

Embracing our "joy and meaning" list has not been easy. There are days when it makes perfect sense, and then there are days when I get sucked into believing how much better everything would feel if we just had a really great guest room or a better kitchen, or if I got to speak or write an article for that popular magazine... It was terrifying to me as a parent. What if I'm wrong? What if busy and exhausted is what it takes? What if [my child] doesn't get to go to the college of her choice because she doesn't play violin and speak Mandarin and French and she doesn't play six sports?

What if we're normal and happy? Does that count?

I guess the answer to this is only yes if it counts to us. If what matters to us is what we're concerned about, then play and rest is important. If what matters to us is what other people think or say or value, then it's back to exhaustion and producing for self-worth.

Today I choose play and rest.

***Brené Brown, The Gifts of Imperfection, 102-103***

One of the challenges of my sabbatical is to release guilt and receive its gifts: play and rest, undeserved, while others continue to work. Sabbath time always brings this challenge. I hope and pray that you and your family can go against the tide of our culture and choose some excellent play and rest this summer!

*~Pastor Brenda*



## 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](mailto:michaelandkatie.wemple@gmail.com)

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## Still Giving After All These Years...

So have you heard or told any Gerloff stories yet? Before going on sabbatical, I made it a point to visit many of our homebound members. While I was at it, I let them know the Gerloffs had gifted Faith in a big way and invited them to tell me what they remembered about Bob and Rachel. Here's a sampling of what I've learned from them and others:

Alice Muir smiled and said Bob and Rachel welcomed her and Alan warmly to Faith when they began ranching in the Bitterroot. Cheerful folks, always!

Carl Swanson recalled that Bob loved to learn and practice farming—science on the ground! Carl thinks Bob's regular visits to Swanson's operation, back then mostly beef cattle, kept him connected to his roots. Once Bob even brought a puppy he was watching for a friend and hauled it around on the tractor.

Nathan Brady noted Bob was innovative, even radical. He remembers that Bob was the first person to put song words on the wall—at a Christmas Eve worship service, maybe in the 80's?—probably using a slide projector.

Many remember how grateful Bob was in later years for recordings of the worship service delivered to him at The Discovery, and that he and Rachel passionately supported our kids and their continuing education.

What are your Gerloff stories? Please tell them—at the Coffee Cup or church, when you visit each others' homes, on break at RML ☺. Remember aloud the ways they showed us the love and leadership of Jesus and the powerful, generous Spirit of God, give thanks for their continuing generosity, and offer a prayer for our Endowment Committee as it dreams and discerns how to use this and other legacy gifts that may come to our congregation. ~*Pastor Brenda*



## With Gratitude

Dear Faith Lutheran Confirmation Class & Pastor Brenda

Thank You so much for the Change for Children Cans your class collected as a project to support children. Taking the time to think of children in need and then acting on that mission to collect change for them is very thoughtful and gracious. Thank You.

We appreciate your gift. The money will be used 100% for the children. Their needs are many ranging from clothes, books, games, bikes, soccer balls, and many other items.

If you as a class are interested in visiting Intermountain campus in Helena, please let me know. We conduct tours often. Have a wonderful summer and continued confirmation class next fall.

**Sandra K. Hudson**  
President's Council



Dear Faith Lutheran,

I just wanted to say thank you for my scholarship. It will be a big help to me when I go off to school in the fall. Thank you for being such a big part of my life and my school work. Sincerely,

**KaSondra Grymes**



Thank You Scott Southwick for fixing the church's mailbox. You did an awesome job!



Thank You to everyone who donated their time, and purchased or donated items to the church garage sale. It was a huge success!!!

**Thank You!**



## 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:

- S/Sgt Anthony Hunter, grandson of Carl Swanson, serving in Texas
- Mike Hebert, grandson of Don & Shirley McGourty, US Army, serving in Joliet, IL
- Lt. Col. 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.



### ***Pray for At-Home Members and Friends...***

*Ruth Dillon, Joann Engbrecht, Bertie Senn, Doris Englund, Ethel Warwick, Morry & Ann Mitteness, Bob Maker, Clara Felton, Elsie Jean Buckner, Virginia Rotering, LaVonne & Les Beers, Pastor Ralph "Bud" Holmlund, Carl Swanson, Pat Berglund, Bob Mathison, Larry & Mabel Pyle, Mary Lewis, Doris Koch, and Ellen Schilke.*

### **Stewards & Staff of Faith Lutheran Church**

|                                |                     |          |                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor (ex-officio)            | Rev. Brenda Satrum  | 381-1919 | <a href="mailto:brenda@faithlutheranhamilton.org">brenda@faithlutheranhamilton.org</a>       |
| President/Convener             | Helen Volden        | 361-0222 | <a href="mailto:Hjkl2mt@gmail.com">Hjkl2mt@gmail.com</a>                                     |
| Discipleship                   | Claudia Williams    | 370-0615 | <a href="mailto:williamsclaudia38@gmail.com">williamsclaudia38@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Fellowship & Hospitality       | Judy Wilson         | 961-4071 | <a href="mailto:JudyPlus_4@MSN.com">JudyPlus_4@MSN.com</a>                                   |
| Finance                        | Dean Drake          | 777-7010 | <a href="mailto:Deandrake87@gmail.com">Deandrake87@gmail.com</a>                             |
| Communication                  | Mark Grotbo         | 460-2144 | <a href="mailto:mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com">mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com</a>                 |
| Outreach                       | Judy Griffin        | 961-4390 | <a href="mailto:idclairus@yahoo.com">idclairus@yahoo.com</a>                                 |
| Property & Grounds             | Nathan Brady        | 360-3641 | <a href="mailto:Cleancut.nathan@gmail.com">Cleancut.nathan@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Worship                        | Ross Damrow         | 961-4321 | <a href="mailto:rdamrow011@gmail.com">rdamrow011@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Worship Coordinator            | Celeste Pogachar    | 239-3952 | <a href="mailto:celestepogachar@gmail.com">celestepogachar@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Youth Director                 | Samantha Fife       | 370-8025 | <a href="mailto:fifedrivel@gmail.com">fifedrivel@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Administrative Secretary       | Heather Wintergerst | 363-2964 | <a href="mailto:office@faithlutheranhamilton.org">office@faithlutheranhamilton.org</a>       |
| Financial/Membership Secretary | Jacque VanDenburg   | 363-2964 | <a href="mailto:treasurer@faithlutheranhamilton.org">treasurer@faithlutheranhamilton.org</a> |
| Custodian                      | Richard Castor      | 363-2964 |                                                                                              |

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## Words From the Bishop.....

### Deepen faith and witness – We Are Lutheran

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's second emphasis for the ELCA is: "**We are Lutheran.**"

**We are members** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**We are a product** of the Reformation that Martin Luther started.

Almost 500 years ago, Martin Luther, an obscure monk in northern Germany, challenged the religious hierarchy on matters of faith and practice. He wasn't the first to raise questions about how the church operated, but he raised his voice at an opportune time when many others, including secular rulers, agreed with him. His voice was amplified by the new technology of the day-the printing press-and soon the words of this Augustinian friar were being read all over Europe.

**We are Lutherans. That was once an insult.** Opponents of Luther scornfully called people who agreed with him "Lutherans." It was meant as a putdown, and Luther strongly objected. But it is the name we now live with, with hardly a thought. **We do not worship Martin Luther. We are deeply grateful for his courage, his world-changing insights, his faith and his persuasive powers. But he didn't walk on water, and he was wrong about some things. As a church, we have repudiated his late-in-life denunciations of the Jews, which were in turn used by the Nazis to justify the Holocaust.**



**The Reformation started a break between Catholics and Protestants that has persisted for half a millennium. Now, as we approach the 500th anniversary, Lutherans and Catholics are working together more closely. We are letting go of our 16th century condemnations of each other and seeking to find ways that we can work together, to affirm things that we have in common.**

**To that end, Lutherans and Catholics in Montana (and y'all in Wyoming are invited!) will have a service of commemoration on October 30, 2017, at the Helena Cathedral. Two Catholic and one Lutheran Bishop will be present to signify our commitment to Christian unity.**

**Being Lutheran does not mean that we are anti-Catholic. In fact, being Lutheran means that we seek Christian unity with any and all.** That's why we have full communion agreements with 6 other denominations (Presbyterian, United Methodist, United Church of Christ, The Episcopal Church, Moravians, Reformed Church in America), and why we are part of ecumenical and interfaith organizations. **When we say, "We are Lutheran," it means we know who we are and where we are coming from, so that we can speak with people of other backgrounds and other faiths, with confidence and integrity, but not arrogance.**

Lutheranism is no longer a northern European phenomenon only. The Lutheran World Federation is made up of 145 member churches in 98 countries. Lutheranism is a global phenomenon, and its future is being shaped by churches like our companion churches in Bolivia and South Africa.

It is a great time to be Lutheran, to acknowledge our roots in the past and to marvel at the branches.

~~~Jessica Crist, Bishop

Don't forget to look for Faith online

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

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



ELCA Presiding Bishop Issues Letter In Response to Orlando Shooting



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has issued a letter in response to the June 12 shooting that claimed the lives of 49 people at a nightclub in Orlando, Fla. This is the deadliest mass shooting in U. S. history. In the letter Eaton states, "We must speak peace and reconciliation into the cacophony of hatred and division. We must live the truth that all people are created in God's image."

Eaton's letter follows:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them." Genesis 1:27

We are killing ourselves. We believe that all people are created in God's image. All of humanity bears a family resemblance. Those murdered in Orlando were not abstract "others," they are us. But somehow, in the mind of a deeply disturbed gunman, the LGBTQ community was severed from our common humanity. This separation led to the death of 49 and the wounding of 54 of **us**.

We live in an increasingly divided and polarized society. Too often we sort ourselves into like-minded groups and sort others out. It is a short distance from division to demonization. Yesterday, we witnessed the tragic consequences of this.

There is another way. In Christ God has reconciled the world to God's self. Jesus lived among us sharing our humanity. Jesus died for us to restore our humanity. God invites us into this reconciling work. This must be our witness as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The perpetrator of this hate crime did not come out of nowhere. He was shaped by our culture of division, which itself has been misshapen by the manipulation of our fears. That is not who we are. St. Paul wrote, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ" (II Corinthians 5:17-20).

Our work begins now. We need to examine ourselves, individually and as a church, to acknowledge the ways we have divided and have been divided. We must stand with people who have been "othered". We must speak peace and reconciliation into the cacophony of hatred and division. We must live the truth that all people are created in God's image.

This morning your churchwide staff came together to mourn and to pray. We prayed for those killed in Orlando and remembered the Charleston Nine killed only a year ago. We prayed for the family of the shooter, for our LGBTQ brothers and sisters and for our Muslim brothers and sisters who now face the threat of retaliation. And we prayed that the Prince of Peace will bring us to the day when we stop killing ourselves.

Your sister in Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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July Birthdays

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



August Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Dean Drake, Vonnie Nulliner | August 2 |
| Quoia Anderson, Dale Brady | August 6 |
| Melanie Auch | August 7 |
| Kasondra Grymes, Troy Hanson | August 8 |
| Bertie Senn | August 9 |
| Colleen Hoeben, Werner Wolf | August 10 |
| Fran Bennett | August 12 |
| Al Mitchell | August 14 |
| Tyrell Exner | August 15 |
| Doris Koch, Randy Melton, | August 17 |
| Gayle Roege | August 17 |
| Eli Harden | August 22 |
| Dan White | August 23 |
| Jean Buckner | August 24 |
| Pam Melton | August 25 |
| Alison Markette, Ginny Rinta | August 26 |
| Rick Brown, Debbie Crane | August 27 |
| Carl Russ, Bonnie Southwick | August 27 |
| Colleen Buhler | August 30 |
| Linda Beyer, Chenoa Smith | August 31 |




**SAVE
THE
DATE**


Everyone is invited to join us
for a bridal shower honoring

Beth Bitterman

**Saturday, August 13th
2 pm @ FLC**

More information coming to the weekly bulletin
or you can contact Jacque VanDenburg
@ 363-5393





St. Augustine (5th century bishop from North Africa) is credited for saying,

“Those who sing, pray twice.”

This lovely prayer by Frank von Christierson can be found in the ELW (#402).

Consider meditating on these words, even if you are not inclined to sing them.

~Celeste

Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
And only you can teach me how to pray.

Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
Help me to see your purpose and your will,
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

Come with the vision and the strength I need
To serve my God and all humanity;
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured:
My life in you, O Christ, your love in me. Amen

Emergency Assistance Update

There have been 3 new assists since the middle of May. Two were in May and both were for help paying rent. One was in the first week of June and it was for help with a mortgage payment. These bring the total assists for the year to 5.

Thank you, Family of Faith, for your love and care for those who are in need of help.



Ruth Circle Schedule Change

Ruth Circle will not meet in July. We will do both July's and August's Bible Studies when we meet on August 11. Have a wonderful July.



Summer Youth News

- The kids have decided to work toward a trip to Holden Village in the summer of 2017. More details to come in the fall.
- Still looking for Youth volunteers to help with VBS. (Contact Celeste at 239-3952)

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Dates To Remember

- 7/1 SLH Summer Concert Series Begins
- 7/4 Happy Independence Day! (FLC Office Closed)
- 7/10 VBS Kickoff BBQ and Pre-Registration
- 7/11 VBS 2016 Begins
- 7/22 FLC @ SLH Summer Concert Series
- 7/25 FLC Council Meeting

