

# The Faith Herald

*February 2017*

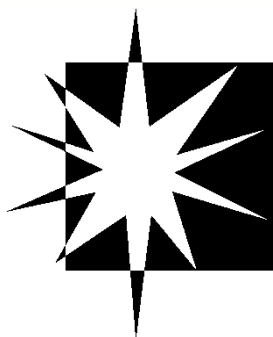
*"Get up to a high mountain...  
and lift up your voice with strength...  
herald of good news!"  
Isaiah 40:9*

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## **Hearing Voices...Experiencing God**

*Pastor Brenda Satrum*

I was ruined long ago. As a child, I inhabited fantasy worlds—Narnia, the Wild West, Middle Earth, even the odd 70's households of *I Dream of Jennie* and *Bewitched*. I preferred realities filled with magic, impossible and urgent quests, and strong heroes to the normality of my (entirely satisfactory) rural farm family.

I longed then—and I long now—for the deeper purposes, critical missions, and true friendships that only seem to occur in fiction or on the battlefield. Or do they?

Here's the thing: Biblical Christianity teaches that our reality is permeated with holiness, meaning, and calm (but pressing) purpose. It declares that you and I were made by a good creator on purpose for a purpose: to experience and share the mercy and justice of this God who loves us to death and back. Our tradition teaches that we really do live in a world filled with holy magic, in which God communicates love and purpose in every breath, every beam of light, every so-called failure, every apparent success.

Dallas Willard, one of Christianity's most respected teachers, writes, "Today I continue to believe that people are meant to live in an ongoing conversation with God, speaking and being spoken to. Rightly understood I believe that this can be abundantly verified in experience. God's visits to Adam and Eve in the Garden, Enoch's walks with God and the face-to-face conversations between Moses and [YHWH] are all commonly regarded as highly exceptional moments in the religious history of humankind. Aside from their obviously unique historical role, however, *they are not meant to be exceptional at all*. Rather *they are examples of the normal human life God intended for us*: God's indwelling his people through personal presence and fellowship. Given who we are by basic nature, we live—really live—only through God's regular speaking in our souls and thus 'by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Dallas Willard, *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. InterVarsity, 1999. Italics mine.)

We DO live in a fantastic reality. And experiencing the power of the presence of God more fully is NOT beyond your reach. Or mine.

All sorts of voices challenge us daily: "You're not up to the challenge. You're not good enough. You're not worthy of love. This is boring. What you're doing—who you are—doesn't matter. This diaper is just one stinking mess in a long, stinking life..." We try to ignore them. We push them aside with work and drugs and exercise and TV and snowmobiles. (I like TV and snowmobiles.)

**(Continued on the next page)**

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



## Hearing Voices...Experiencing God Continued.....

But God's voice—the voice of truth and unearned favor—is the only word that truly quiets that noise. And though God's word can cut through unsought, we don't have to wait for that miracle. Like generations of courageous saints before us, like our elders in the faith today, we can start with small moments, short words in the morning or at night, a commitment to Sundays, to Lent Lunches, to whatever we can do “to receive from God the power to do what we cannot achieve by direct effort.” (*Connecting with God*, p. xii. Renovaré, 2006)

So here's an invitation, Friends of Faith: Take a step, or another step, toward experiencing the way, the truth, the overflowing reality of God's presence in your one wild and precious life. We're coming up to Lent again: the growing springtime of the Christian calendar begins on March 1 with Ash Wednesday. This year, we'll return to an *Experiencing God* study with Pastor Brenda on Sundays and in small groups (if we have a few leaders); we'll seek to understand Our Neighbors' Faith more deeply on Wednesday nights; and sink deep into *24 Hours that Changed the World* on Wednesdays at noon. As always, you can pick up a simple devotional practice—be quiet for 10 minutes in the morning try “Taking Faith Home” it's short readings and easy practices open the door to God's presence more widely whether you're a single adult or a busy family. Or look online for all sorts of God-connecting helps.

The Bible says, it's not like a relationship with The Holy is too distant for you to reach, God's voice too quiet to hear: “No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.” (Dt. 30:14)

So listen. At home, at work, at school, on the trail, and yes, at church! Open some channel to hear the voice of God that speaks grace and hope and LIFE to you. Experience God.

### FAITH LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Fourth Quarter - 2016

CD #1 - \$8,070.53. CD # 2 - \$1,896.73

Checking Account - \$254.51

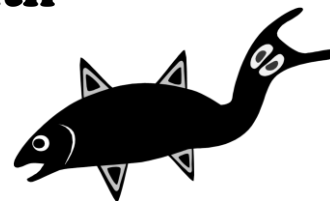
## Coming Soon!

### Discovering Our Neighbors' Faith Wednesdays March 8 -April 5

**6:15 pm Soup Supper**

**6:30 pm Presentation**

**7:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer**



Wednesday evenings over soup, we'll enjoy the faith stories of our neighbors. Local friends from the Native American, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish traditions, and Hamilton's Center for Spiritual Living, will speak about the basics of their faith, what's been deeply meaningful and helpful for them, and what challenges their traditions face today.

Sometimes it feels as though we encounter more opposition than understanding these days. Let's welcome our neighbors with hospitality, respect, and genuine curiosity that Jesus would be proud of. In this we help heal our world! Invite friends to share the evening – all or part!

Many thanks to Rick Brown for seeking out our speakers this year!

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## Lent Luncheon Series

Wednesday Noons

March 8 through April 12, 2017

*Walk with Jesus on his final day.  
Sit beside him at the Last Supper.  
Pray with him in Gethsemane.  
Follow him to the cross.  
Desert him. Deny him.  
Rise with him.*



No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this heartbreaking, inspiring [study] Adam Hamilton guides us, step by step, through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

Each DVD/discussion lesson by master teacher Adam Hamilton (United Methodist) seeks to help us experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death more deeply than ever before. Whether you are a long-time Christian or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, you're invited to join us on this inspiring journey.

**Format:** Welcome and Soup; 10-minute DVD; discussion questions facilitated by host pastor; closing. Host churches provide soup, bread, dessert, projection, and facilitation.

**Topics:** The Last Supper (3/8); The Garden of Gethsemane (3/15); Condemned by the Righteous (3/22); Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate (3/29); The Torture and Humiliation of the King (4/5); The Crucifixion & Christ the Victor (4/12, Holy Week).

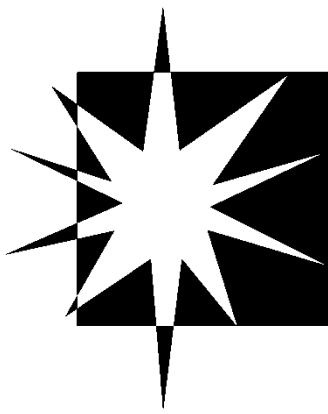
**Additional Resources** by Adam Hamilton are available online (at Amazon and others): hardcover, audio, and large print books as well as *24 Hours That Changed the World: 40 Days of Reflection*. DVD's and discussion will stand alone; additional study deepens your experience.

### Hosting Schedule:

Wed., March 8:	Faith Lutheran
Wed., March 15:	St. Francis Catholic Community
Wed., March 22:	1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian
Wed., March 29:	United Methodist American Baptist (tentative)
Wed., April 5:	St Paul's Episcopal (at Faith Lutheran)
Wed., April 12:	Corvallis United Methodist

### Don't forget to look for Faith online

at [www.faithlutheranhamilton.org](http://www.faithlutheranhamilton.org) or on Facebook at "Friends of Faith"! We're everywhere!



Faith Herald February 2017



**A Light Shines in the Darkness...**

# **EXPERIENCING GOD**

**at Faith Lutheran Church, March—April 2017**

**God is always** pursuing you, inviting you to enjoy an intimate love relationship through which God can lead you to the fullness of the life you were meant to live.

Into the early spring of 2017, God will shine the light of this transformative course, teaching those who seek to... Know when God is speaking to you, see God's activity around you, identify what God wants to do through you, adjust your life to God and God's ways, and experience the power of God at work in and through you and our congregation.

**Experience God** at your own level:

Attend worship weekly to enjoy the preaching series, followed by the pastor-led study with Pastor Brenda during Sunday School.

Use the daily study book (adapted from the full study by Pastor Brenda) to deepen your experience with personal study and reflection.

***For the fullest experience and greatest reward,*** join or facilitate a small group! Interested? Sign up at church or contact Pastor Brenda at [bsatrum@gmail.com](mailto:bsatrum@gmail.com).

**Week One: God is always at work**

March 5-11

**Week Two: God pursues  
a love relationship with YOU**

March 12-18

**Week Three:  
God invites us to join God's work**

March 19-15

**Week Four: God speaks**

March 26-April 1

**Week Five: God's invitation brings a  
crisis of belief**

April 2-8

**Week Six: Major adjustments  
(Holy Week)**

April 9-15

**Easter Sunday**

April 16 (take a breather!)

**Week Seven: Experiencing God**

April 23-29

**A congregational experience  
by Henry & Richard Blackaby & Claude King  
Adapted by Pastor Brenda Satrum**

**Save the dates:  
Faith Lutheran's VBS  
is July 10-14!**



Those awesome FLBC counselors will be in Hamilton giving our youngest folks the camp experience through Vacation Bible School activities!

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## Worship Notes for February

- ♥ 2/5 **Four Chaplains Sunday,**  
Celebration of Grace
- ♥ 2/12 ELW 10
- ♥ 2/19 Praise Service
- ♥ 2/26 **Transfiguration,** ELW 10,  
(Guest Preacher Pastor Mick Grey)

## New Member Sunday Postponed to March 5



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

## The Story of the Four Chaplains

**The Four Chaplains**, also referred to as the “**Immortal Chaplains**” or the “**Dorchester Chaplains**,” were four United States Army Chaplains who gave their lives to save civilian and military personnel as the troop ship USAT **Dorchester** sank on February 3, 1943, during World War II. The vessel was torpedoed during the early morning hours of February 3rd by a German submarine off the coast of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. The chaplains all held the rank of first lieutenant, and included a Methodist minister, a rabbi, a Roman Catholic priest, and a Reformed Church in America minister. They gave up their lifejackets when the supply ran out, then joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship. Some 230 of the 904 men aboard the ship were rescued.



Faith Lutheran remembers in worship the Four Chaplains on or near February 3rd by the request of several of our members and veterans. Their courage and sacrifice show us the Spirit of the God they all served.



## Holden Village, Here We Come! August 2-9, 2017

Pastors Brenda and Doug have our rooms reserved (August 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), and the High School Youth are leading the way with a youth trip (see registration details on the Youth Page soon).

We'll be seeking chaperones and drivers for the kids, AND if you want to bring your family along at the same time, start planning. The earlier you log on to [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org), the more secure your spots.

Holden Village is a remote retreat center affiliated with the ELCA but open to all people of every sort. Awesome food, meaningful worship, deep learning, terrific hiking, and fantastic fun await adventurers



## FLBC Middle School Retreat March 17-19 (Friday night – Sunday noon)

A one- or two-night retreat to bring our WOW Confirmation kiddos and friends to camp! Join your classmates at FLBC for fun, fellowship, craziness, games, Bible study, worship and an introduction to camp's 2017 summer theme, "Just Add Water." Seeking one adult (no cost to register) of each gender to chaperone (staying with the kids in cabins).



**Cost: Friday-Saturday, \$85 per person; Friday-Sunday, \$95 per person.**  
**Scholarships available for Faith kids!**

## FLBC Summer 2017 Schedule Is Posted

**2017 summer brochures** were mailed out in mid-December! Summer camp registration is now open via US mail, email, and fax and online. Be sure to sign up early for your first choice in programs and weeks.

**Campwise online registration is safe, secure, and simple:**

- Visit our website ([www.flbc.net](http://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.

You may have received an email with your login information. That's great! If you have been to camp before but DID NOT receive the earlier email, please contact the office at (406) 752-6602 or [office@flbc.net](mailto:office@flbc.net) for assistance PRIOR to registering online.

**Specialty camps offered this summer include:** Cooking Camp, Basketball Camp, Wild Water Week, Sci-Fa(Science & Faith) Camp, Night Camp, Trailblazers Backpacking Camp, Outback Camp, Confirmation Camp, MAD (Music, Art, Drama), Ranch Camp, OutBack and Raft, and Adventure Camp. If you need brochures, please be sure to contact the church office or download a PDF from FLBC's website: [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)

Give a gift to your family this year and plan to come to **Family Camp, July 2-7 (week-long)**, or **July 21-23 (weekend)!** Week-long Family Camp normally fills first, so be sure to register early if you plan to attend!

**Early Discounts:** *Save \$50 by registering with your deposit by April 1<sup>st</sup>.*  
*Save \$25 by registering with your deposit by May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**Adult Volunteers Needed:** Camp Grandparents, Adult Volunteers (maintenance, kitchen work), Doctors/Nurses, Alumni Staff. More information may be found in the camp brochure or on the website. Call (406) 752-6602 for the best availability of weeks.

**Matching camperships to attend camp are available from Faith Lutheran.** These funds are available for all who wish to go to camp this summer. We ask those who apply for a campership to track their service to our church—for example, assisting with worship (like acolyte or youth service), VBS helper, Easter breakfast servers, Scandinavian Dinner, church decorating or clean-up, etc. Please contact Celeste and she will put a copy of the application form in your church mailbox.



# Women's Spring Retreat

**May 5-7, 2017**

## **Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp**

**SAVE THE DATE!** Plan now to attend the WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT. Motivating speaker, Fun, Fellowship, Service projects, Music, Great food (no cooking!)

This year's theme is "Turn His Radio On" with **Guest Preacher Lois Olmstend**

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

**Pricing:** Before **April 15th \$130**, **April 15-30th \$150** Includes Lodging at FLBC & meals

**\$55.00 Saturday Only**— includes 2 meals - no lodging

Attendee count needed for meals, etc. for Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Thank you for your cooperation!

Registration open! Register online (credit cards accepted) or use attached registration form.

Check out [www.Impluchurch.org/womensretreat](http://www.Impluchurch.org/womensretreat) for more details, to get on our mailing list and to register!

Questions? Contact Nancy Solum @ 406-240-0023

*Sponsored by the Five Valleys Women and Great Divide Clusters of women of the ELCA.*

## **Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp 2016 Annual Report**

*Living Like Jesus - 2016 Theme*

*"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,  
and live in love, as Christ loved us." Ephesians 5:1-2*

The four counselors with us while backpacking were excellent. They were 101% engaged with the youth the entire week, extremely knowledgeable, faith-filled and wise beyond their years. Curriculum was spot-on, worship was powerful, accommodations exceeded our ministry, FLBC is now in my top 3 ministry partners of all time.

Thank you for "Living Like Jesus" by Partnering with YOUR camp!

Seeing Jesus in:

- 56 summer staff from 10 different states.
- 133 summer adult volunteers (pastors, camp grandparents, nurses, maintenance, kitchen, cleaning, etc.).
- 22 Day Camps in congregations.
- 303 Glacier Wilderness campers. (The most since 2005!)
- 1906 summer campers (onsite, off-site, weeklong family campers, and day camp attendees).
- 1784 summer retreat guests.
- 2872 fall, winter, & spring retreat guests.
- 8 year round staff.
- 188 LWR care kits made by summer campers.
- \$61,004.76 given in camperships and discounts to summer campers.
- FLBC Outreach – a program to help your congregations youth ministry be vibrant – is now in the works in 3 areas.
- \$154,000 grant awarded to help fund a Marketing/Development Coordinator.

We would love to come to your congregation to share more about YOUR camp! Please invite us.

office@flbc.net 406-752-6602

*~Thank you for your prayers, care and support!*



## Annual Assembly of the Montana Synod of the ELCA June 2-4, 2017 Best Western Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana.

Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Synod Secretary, January 9, 2017

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*"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." (Phil 2:1-5)*

We remember Paul's image of the body of Christ. We will maintain a clear sense of who we are and whose we are. We will celebrate our diversity within the unity that is ours in Christ. We will give thanks for our many gifts of the Spirit as we explore our different responsibilities within the body.



This year the assembly will be on Pentecost weekend and we will explore the unity of witness in the midst of the diversity of Pentecost.

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Reid Trice, Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics and Constructive Theology and Assistant Dean for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue at the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University. Our Churchwide Representative will be Mr. Bill Horne, the newly elected Vice President of the ELCA. Also joining us will be Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

We will be focusing on some follow-up from the Churchwide Assembly, and conducting the regular business of the Assembly.

### **Deadlines are as follows:**

April 28, 2017: Nominations and Resolutions Deadline

May 15, 2017: Registration and Hotel Deadline

**All materials will be sent via e-mail to rostered leaders and congregations and will also be posted on the synod's website. One mailed packet will be sent to each congregation in early April.** Check the weekly e-news or our website, [www.montanasynd.org/assembly](http://www.montanasynd.org/assembly) for more information and deadlines.





## Annual Report, 2017

*Pastor John Lund: [John.lund@umontana.edu](mailto:John.lund@umontana.edu), 396-4974, [www.ecmum.org](http://www.ecmum.org)*

### At the University of Montana

**Student residents and staff:** We currently have 11 students living in the Ark and Emmaus House who are the start of our core group. Currently we have about 35 students in our “Active” file with about 30 more who are contacts. We also have about 20 active older young adults (mid-20’s through 30 or so), as well as about 65 faculty and staff contacts. We have three student peer ministers as well as 8-10 outreach worship leaders who go out to churches in Western Montana to lead worship.

**Program:** This fall we offered a Faith and Social Action seminar course and our regular Sunday night dinner and discussions. We also offer fall and winter outdoor retreats. Last year we had students travel to San Francisco for a service/learning/exploring adventure during Spring Break and this year we are planning to go to Vancouver, BC with the same kind of trip. Currently we have 8 students or post-grads working as interns in various roles and may expand in the spring. We are starting a new young adult group called Confluence which will meet on Sunday nights 2x per month with a combination of worship, meals, deeper conversations, and social action. We will invite undergrads to be part of this group as well. On Wednesday nights we are starting a new series focused on Christian basics with group conversations, questions, and dialog. This will be done with the Catholic and Methodist campus ministry groups.

**Volunteerism and serving others:** Through our Friends in Need we have students helping with Family Promise support for Atonement Lutheran, Habitat for Humanity, food drives, individual clean-up or fix-up projects, anti-bigotry work through SALAM, and environmental advocacy work through Faith and Climate Action, staffed by a graduate student intern. We also have an outreach worship team of about 8 students who leads worship and gives the message in various churches around Western Montana once per month.

**Outreach Teams:** We are in our fifth year of having a 8-10 student outreach worship team. We have 5 dates for the winter and spring on our calendar for our team to head out.

**Stewardship of our buildings:** Last year we built a new porch for the Emmaus House and have some smaller projects, but we may be getting to the end of our big renovations.

### **Campus Pastor Activities:**

**Teaching at UM:** This fall: 1 credit Intro to Honors class called “Finding Your Path” and Social Work 491 Leadership, Faith and Social Action.

**Internship Supervision:** we had a great run of three seminary interns through our partnership with Valley of Christ Lutheran in Frenchtown. VoC has now called Lue Moua as their long-term pastor, which is a great opportunity for them. We wait with Jayson Nicholson as he is in the call process.

**Preaching and Teaching:** Please call for pulpit supply, a teaching event around young adult spirituality and church life, interfaith dialog, faith-based responses to climate change, and perspectives on the relationships between people, land and theology.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our supporting churches throughout the Montana Synod. Thank you to the many individuals who have contributed time, food, furniture, and financial gifts this past year. Thank you also to our ecumenical partners; University Congregation and Holy Spirit Episcopal who continue to be a blessing to our ministry! We also thank the Montana Synod for generous support, the ELCA, and numerous grantors including Thrivent Financial, the Hetzel Foundation, the Knutson Foundation, the Episcopal Diocese of Montana, and the Lilly Foundation.

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## The Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Sunday, February 12th

Don't miss it—Christ's body is not whole without yours!!!

Help make decisions regarding the future of FLC.

### 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 as a hospitalist at Fort Campbell in Kentucky.
- 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, Morry & Ann Mitteness, Bob Maker, Clara Felton, Elsie Jean Buckner, Virginia Rotering, LaVonne & Les Beers, Carl Swanson, Pat Berglund, Bob Mathison, Larry Pyle, and Doris Koch.*

### Stewards & Staff of Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor (ex-officio)	Rev. Brenda Satrum	381-1919	brenda@faithlutheranhamilton.org
President/Convener	Helen Volden	361-0222	Hjk12mt@gmail.com
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	Deandrake87@gmail.com
Communication	Mark Grotbo	460-2144	mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com
Outreach	Judy Griffin	961-4390	<a href="mailto:idclairus@yahoo.com">idclairus@yahoo.com</a>
Property & Grounds	Nathan Brady	360-3641	Cleancut.nathan@gmail.com
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Worship Coordinator	Celeste Pogachar	239-3952	celestepogachar@gmail.com
Youth Director	Samantha Fife	370-8025	<a href="mailto:fifedrivel@gmail.com">fifedrivel@gmail.com</a>
Office Secretary	Heather Wintergerst	363-2964	office@faithlutheranhamilton.org
Custodian	Richard Castor	363-2964	



## December Council Highlights



Pastor will lead an adult bible study with an overview of the book of Matthew. Please set time aside within your schedule for this learning opportunity. It is a wonderful chance to learn the word of our father and strengthen our fellowship amongst us.

A new furnace was installed in the church this past month along with programmable thermostats. The new thermostats have been programmed around worship and our regular events at the church. This should help minimize our utilities bills. With that in mind, we'd ask you to not adjust the programming on the thermostats.

## Synod House: A Message from the Bishop

**“WE THE PEOPLE”**, the congregations and the ministries of the Montana Synod, have been working faithfully toward fulfilling the vision and dream of new office space and mission center. Our new facility is being called The Synod House.

**It's Epiphany** – The Season of Light! This fall we hope to turn on the lights in The Synod House and let our little light shine, all around our neighborhood, our synod, our ELCA and around the globe.

The time has come for the “hub” of our synod to be more technologically equipped, environmentally responsible, handicapped accessible and user friendly. In addition to office space and storage space our new Synod House will be home to a chapel and a conference room. It will be modest, functional and welcoming to all. It will be the central space through which our synod staff travels to connect us and be with us.

**HOW** will this happen? It is happening by the grace of God, the help of Mission Builders and countless volunteers from throughout our synod. It is happening through the generosity of everyone who as individual or with their congregation or special ministry has given and continues to give toward our goal of \$1.2 million dollars.

**WHO** are the Mission Builders? Mission Builders are Lutherans from around the country who travel, bringing their God-given skills to help ELCA congregations, schools, camps and social ministry organizations construct buildings and now our Synod House.

**WHERE** will our new Synod House be located? On the lots we own, next to our former Synod Office in Great Falls.

**WHEN** will construction begin? In the spring of 2017 construction will begin, the Mission Builders will arrive and on June 6th the first crew of synod volunteers will begin their work, expecting to finish in early September.

**WHY** is my interest and involvement important? Our synod covers a lot of geography. We are united through faith and our ability to accomplish far more together than we can by ourselves. Our synod is not a club. It's a hub. Our Synod House is foundation for “reaching out” and “going out”. It provides a roof over all of our heads. It's our house!

**WHAT** can I do to help? You can continue to offer your prayers and your financial support. You can invite others to consider giving a one-time gift to help us cross the finish line of our financial goal before construction begins. You can contact Pastor Arne Bergland at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Helena to find out how you and a team of volunteers from your congregation can be scheduled to do God's Work with Your Hands. May the Epiphany star shine brightly and the hand of God lead us into the Summer of '17. Come and See! We'll leave a light on for you!

**Bishop Jessica Crist**





# In Memory

Many thanks to writer  
Clairice Brady!

**Ron and Laurie Cheney** were killed in a tragic auto accident a few days after Christmas. They had recently returned from a mission trip for their Church.

Ron served as the maintenance person for Faith for several years. He was a hard worker and always attentive to the needs of the congregation. Visits with him were always comfortable and enlightening. He had done so many interesting things in his life.

Laurie was the daughter of our beloved Millie Moliter. She and Ron, along with her sister Kathy Vaughn and her family had always been so good to Millie, and often attended events at Faith with their mom.

Ron and Laurie were members of a Church in Corvallis. Their memorial service was held at the Assembly Church in Hamilton, and even there, some folks were standing because of the tremendous outpouring of folks wishing to pay respects to them and to support their sizable family. The Cheney's were married in 2000 and each had several children with families scattered across the country.

Some family members shared memories at the service and it was truly a thing of beauty to see how those two families cared for each other and vowed to find ways to spend more time together. One of them prayed for the family of Eddie Parks, being well aware of that family's grief as well as their own.

We can only imagine the joy in heaven as Millie welcomed her daughter and son-in-law.



**Mable Pyle** suffered a stroke recently and died a day later at Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital. Mable had long cared for her husband Larry following his own stroke several years ago.

Mable loved her church. And she loved Mary Martha Circle. She had served as their Chairperson for several years before the Circle was disbanded due to loss and health of members. Mable was always faithful to attend the Faith Lutheran Church Women meetings to represent Mary Martha, bringing their thoughts as well as taking information back to

them. During her tenure the Circle had continued to embrace the traditions of Mary Martha – one of which was their annual Thanksgiving Dinner that included their husbands as well as a dozen or so invitations to staff and others they prayerfully included. (Clara Felton cooked the turkey for that dinner and Don carved it.) The ladies were always present to gift children with candy canes after their Christmas program.

We will remember Mable as truly tireless and selfless in her love and care for Larry even when her own health was vulnerable. We have missed her at worship for a long time but we will never forget her. And we will continue to pray for Larry that he receive the care he needs, both physically and in his great loss.





# Intermountain *Moments*

*Our Montana Synod partners with Intermountain Children's Home to serve deeply at risk kids and their families*

This month Intermountain Residential in Helena begins the demolition phase of old Bridger Cottage into the new Van Orsdel Commons. With guidance by SMA Architects and the expertise of Golden Eagle Construction, the transformation of one of our older residential cottages on the Helena campus has begun in earnest. Van Orsdel Commons will house chapel services, offices for the chaplain and Jewish Educator, and provide unique meeting places designed for children's spiritual and cultural education.

"The vision for this space is to make it as comfortable and accessible as possible for all the children, staff, and families we serve—regardless of their religious, ethnic or cultural background," relates Chaplain Chris Haughee. "True to our founding and heritage within the Methodist Deaconess movement, our mission of healing through healthy relationships celebrates the power of restoration available through a relationship with God, while maintaining a posture of humble service and hospitality towards all." Chaplain Chris Haughee added, "I am excited to be a small part of envisioning a place on campus that will help all our children, staff, and families feel the love, care, and compassion of God."



Looking over the preliminary plans for the Van Orsdel

Intermountain CEO Jim Fitzgerald is passionately committed to the project, and will jointly manage the project with lead maintenance supervisor, James Spradlin.

Of course, the process of demolition and construction will be done in a manner that maintains Intermountain's high standards of care, ensuring the protection of the children in our Residential Program. This posture of care will necessitate that we secure the site during construction, but also limit those hours in which work will be done in order to not disturb the educational and therapeutic environment on campus. The entire building and design team is committed to putting the children and their needs first and recognizing the unique setting in which this

building project is in.

So... do you hear what I hear? No, not the sound of Christmas bells. It's the joyous sound of demolition and the cheers of many children, staff and Intermountain supporters! Join us in celebrating the culmination of a decades-long dream of a permanent home for the chaplain's program within our residential program in Helena, Montana.



Home Sweet Home.... Habitat for Humanity of Ravalli County is looking for our next Partner Family for a home to be built in Darby in the fall of 2017. Application Deadline is March 30, 2017. To apply: Call 375-1926. Pre applications can be picked up at Habitat for Humanity office at 131 Old Corvallis Road, Hamilton and Exit Realty 300 Main Street, Stevensville or visit [www.ravallihabitat.org](http://www.ravallihabitat.org) click on What We Do tab. *MISSION VISION: A world where everyone has a decent place to live.*

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



## Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm

Anyone and everyone interested in a introspective and thoughtful service are encouraged to attend. The service will be very similar to last year with the opportunity to pray around the cross.

## Save The Date!

### Valentine's Day Dinner Double Date

Tuesday, February 14th, 7:00 Pm

*Sapphire Lutheran Homes Dining Room*

*Proceeds To Benefit Sapphire Lutheran Homes*

\$60 Per Couple

Garden Salad with Breadsticks

Entrée: "Taste Of Italy"

(Combination Of Chicken Parmesan,  
Beef Lasagna And Shrimp Alfredo)

Dessert: Tiramisu

Red And White Wine Included

Featuring strolling Italian musician, Sergio Ghersetti  
Sign Up Another Couple To Reserve Your Table For Four!

Banquet Seating Is Also Available.

Limited Seating. Call For Reservations Today: 363-2800



## Travel to Germany with Bishop Crist!



**The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther's  
95 Theses (1517-2017)  
May 9-18, 2017**

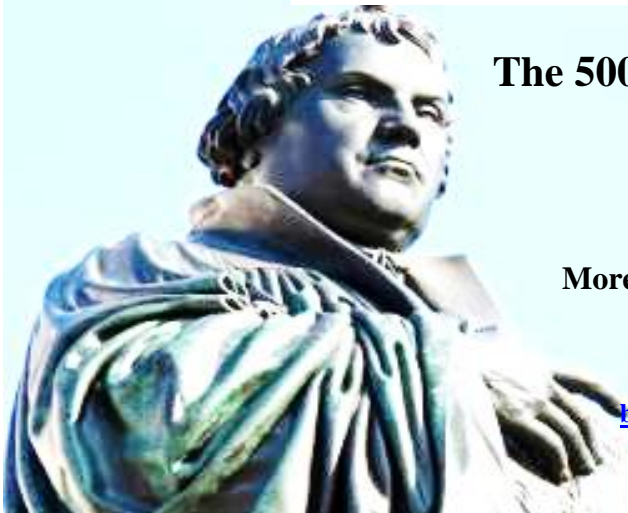
**Cost: \$4,750**

**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.**





## February Birthdays

1	Sam Dunn, Owen Dunn
2	Millie Unruh
4	Virginia Rotering
5	Don Dale, Brooke Kimzey
8	Alice Muir
12	Carron Grymes, Lisa Milch
13	Justin Bourne
14	Ellen Davis
16	Jerry Lewis
17	Jessica Bourne, Cecile Richardson
19	Ben Peterson
21	Bonnie Montgomery, Tim Keiser
22	Ernie Berland
24	Michelle Mendenall
25	Cole Kimzey, Jeb VanDenburg
28	Donald Carlson, Jacob Heitmann

Thank you for the overwhelming response to the fundraiser for appliances and incidentals for Jennifer's new Habitat house. Thank you for overflowing baskets of cash (more than \$1450) and thank you to all those who helped in any way. I am still amazed when I think of how quickly and efficiently the serving and clean-up went. ~Dale Brady



### **1328 Rounds of lefse for the Scandinavian Dinner !!!**

Three days of awesome crews produced a product we can all be proud to serve. Thank you so much – every one of you who peeled, riced, mixed, formed the balls, rolled, grilled, cooled and packaged!

And those of you who came as the grills were nearing shut-off and stayed to clean-up, you are angels for sure!

We appreciate all the willingness, the hard work and the fun fellowship so much !!

~Helen Volden, Dale and Clairice Brady



**Perfection by  
Mark Livesay**

## With Gratitude

### **PATRICK'S JOURNEY**



In 1992 Bob and Marjorie Mathison welcomed their daughter, and 3 grandchildren into their home, and their church home at Faith Lutheran.

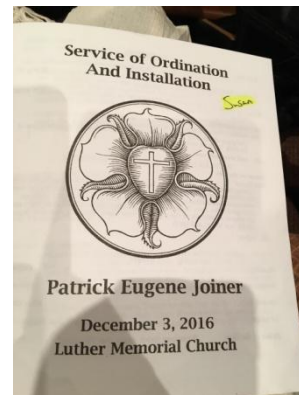
From first grade through 12th, Patrick was involved in Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation, and youth events. When it came time for camp at Flathead Lutheran Camp, an anonymous member of Faith made sure that he was able to go. After many summers he was even a camp counselor. One summer, after camp he informed his mom, that he knew what he wanted to do with his life, "something for God"!

Well, on December 3rd, 2016, Patrick Joiner was ordained as an ELCA Pastor, and installed as the Associate Pastor at Luther Memorial Church in St. Paul, MN.

**THANK YOU FAITH LUTHERAN FOR  
YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO PATRICK'S  
JOURNEY!**

Sincerely,

*Sue Mathison-Merrell (Pat's mom)*



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## **Dates To Remember**

- 2/1 Grub & Games: Pancakes and PJ's
- 2/9 Ruth Circle
- 2/12 FLC Annual Meeting**
- 2/16 FH Deadline
- 2/20 Council Meeting
- 2/20 Naomi Circle
- 2/23 Faith Herald Folding Party

