

The Faith Herald

March 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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Visit our office 9a-1p, M-F



Disturbing...Good!

A few years back, they plowed up the pasture in front of my athletic club. From my squirrel cage (I mean elliptical machine), I watched the tractor pull the blades back and forth, turning soil, opening it up to rain and seed and a new crop...oats for hay, it turned out.

The disturbing of soil...the disturbance of soul...is a necessary thing for growing in this world of hummus and humanity, earthy souls. We—ok, I'll speak for myself—I often view difficulties in marriage, health, parenting, and other such important matters as problems, "disturbances of my peace." But the Bible wisely teaches that hard soil—and hard hearts—must be broken, disturbed, to make room for something new.

One invitation for Lent, this season of springtime and growth and the breaking and softening of hard or frozen soils, is to welcome the things that "disturb your peace." I just got off the phone with a man who called out of the blue. He's out of one Department of Corrections drug treatment program and waiting for the next; that program, he says, allowed him for the first time ever to feel his feelings. It opened his heart first to the hurt he'd caused others and then to the hope he could still offer his 18-month-old child. I may be a sucker, but I believed him when he said this time is different and he's never going back again. It's going to be a hard, hard, journey for Dennis and his family, but I sure hope he makes it. I guess I'll bet on hope.

So what is it that's disturbing you? Maybe some of the same things that are chipping at me: Some of you know that my knee rehab has stalled, and I'm dealing with fear that my running days may be over about 10 years earlier than I was hoping. I'm grieving time on the roads with my God, my husband, and my dog—it disturbs more than I expected. So do the hurts and hangups of people I love, these female years around age 50... (TMI? ;o), the chronic gimp in my dog's leg, the normal bumps of working with others and facing my own imperfections... I guess LIFE disturbs me when I stop covering my feelings with food or Netflix or a glass of pinot gris. How 'bout you?

The Bible invites us to welcome hardship as discipline (Heb. 12), our trials as purifying fires (1 Peter), and our temptations as tests that teach as well as expose what's in our hearts (wilderness in Deuteronomy and the Gospels). Lent is the season, five good weeks, dedicated to this focus.

(Continued on the next page)

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***Disturbing...Good! Continued.....***

Resources that are helpful for me: Simple daily highs and lows (joys and regrets) with someone I love in person or on the phone (Bob Maker's son Robert used to call him every morning and read the *Jesus Calling* entry for that day along with sports news—aw!). Brené Brown's *The Gifts of Imperfections* and *Rising Strong*, the *Experiencing God* study beginning March 5 in worship and small groups, *The Art of Marriage* course being offered through Cornerstone Bible Church, and almost any daily devotional or small group experiencing that invites daily inventory or reflection. Pastors love it when you ask us for resources!

What's disturbing you? Is anything loosening your soul, causing pain that urges change, open you to a new possibility? Do you dare to hope that God might use even THIS sort of a situation to help you, grow you, use you? What sort of seeds might God be slipping into the soil of your life?

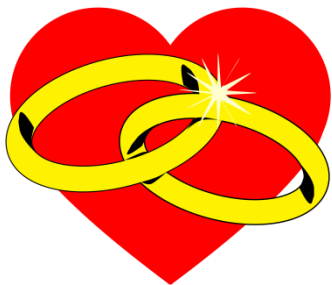
Strong and Tender Father God, Gardener of our Souls, we are so often disturbed, angry, afraid. Open our eyes to see your hand in our disturbances. Open our hearts to trust. Open our souls to breathe. Open our ears and minds to the seed of your word—both comfort and challenge, both consolation and command. Water us with your love, and grow your Spirit's fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in and through our lives (Galatians 5:22). Amen.

~Pastor Brenda



To love at all is to be vulnerable.
 Love anything,
 And your heart will certainly be wrong and possibly broken.
 If you want to make sure of keeping it intact,
 You must give your heart to no one, not even an animal.
 Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries;
 Avoid all entanglements; Lock it up safe in the casket of your selfishness.
 But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change.
 It will not be broken; It will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.

C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

**Family Life Marriage Conference**

Cornerstone Bible Church, 17-18 March.

This is a very good program for building a stronger marriage. Will cost \$25-30/person. Pastor Brenda is willing to lead a small group follow up after Easter if there's interest. Contact Cornerstone directly to register.



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 st 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

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!

**A Light Shines in the Darkness...****EXPERIENCING GOD****at Faith Lutheran Church, March—May 2017**

Pastor-facilitated small group discussions after worship on Sundays and Tuesdays at 2pm. Tuesdays will meet in homes, beginning at Pastor Brenda's house (629 MD Circle) over coffee & tea. Signup in the lobby or connect with PB.

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

Break for Holy Week
April 9-22

Week Six: Major adjustments
April 23-29

Week Seven: Experiencing God
April 30-May 6

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

Soup Supper is Here!!!

Discovering Our Neighbors' Faith

Wednesdays March 8 –April 5

6:15 pm Soup Supper
6:30 pm Presentation
7:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer



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!

On Wednesday evenings over soup, we'll enjoy the faith stories of our neighbors. Local friends from the Sufi, Jewish, Muslim, Evangelical Christian, and New Age traditions will speak about the basics of their faith, what's been meaningful and helpful for them, and what challenges their traditions face today.

Many thanks to Rick Brown for seeking out our speakers this year and Thrivent Financial for the Action Team Grant!

March 8	Dave Schultz, Center for Spiritual Living
March 15	Toba Winston, Jewish community (Missoula)
March 22	Frank Peltree, Sufi community
March 29	Fidelus Temukum, Salvation Army and Pastor @ Cornerstone
April 5	Eamon Ormseth, (SALAM, Standing alongside America's Muslims, Missoula)



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The Youth Page

March 2017

Wednesdays & Sundays



Wed Mar 1 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm @FLC

Wed Mar 8 Soup Supper and YG

Wed Mar 15 Soup Supper and YG

Wed Mar 22 Soup Supper and YG

Sun Mar 26 Youth Sunday

Wed Mar 29 Soup Supper and YG

Wed APR 5 Youth Group hosted Soup Supper

Lenten Soup Suppers



This month all are welcome to come and enjoy a soup dinner on Wednesday evenings at Faith Lutheran. Dinner is at 6:15, followed by a faith diversity lesson, and then kids will have the choice to attending Holden Evening Worship or a short Youth Group. At the end of Lent the kids will be putting together a little recipe booklet with all the soups from 2017! So please remember to bring your recipes when you bring your soups! Youth and families will be hosting the soup on the 5th of April.

Youth Sunday

I am still in need of a parent to host brunch for the kids this month! Youth will need to arrive at 8:45am day of, please.



Holden Village, Here We Come! August 8-14, 2017 Youth leaders chose last summer to aim for Holden Village this year, and we are READY to go! Holden village is a Lutheran retreat center that warmly welcomes all sorts of people to experience the grace of God in the beauty of the high mountains of Washington's North Cascades. Visit www.holdenvillage.com directly to get a feel for what Holden's about, or keep an eye out for presentations at WOW Confirmation, coffee hour, or youth group. All are welcome, and Youth are encouraged to invite friends to participate in our fundraising so they can come too!



Samantha Fife-Youth Director

406-370-8025

fifedrive@gmail.com

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Worship Notes for March

Wednesday, March 1: **Ash Wednesday**, Prayer Around the Cross

Sunday, March 5: **Lent 1**, Celebration of Grace

Wednesday, March 8: **Holden Evening Prayer**

Sunday, March 12: **Lent 2**, Now the Feast

Wednesday, March 15: **Holden Evening Prayer**

Sunday, March 19: **Lent 3**, ELW Setting 10

Wednesday, March 22: **Holden Evening Prayer**

Sunday, March 26: **Lent 4**, Praise/Chosen People

Wednesday, March 29: **Holden Evening Prayer**



Join us for...



Ash Wednesday Services

March 1, 2017

**Traditional Prayer
and Imposition of Ashes
7am, St. Paul's Episcopal**



A brief and quiet service reminding us of our own mortality, challenging us to greater awareness of our own failings, and welcoming the grace of God.

**Prayer Around the Cross
and Imposition of Ashes
7pm, Faith Lutheran**



Area musician Annemarie Barnes helps our High School vocalists offer their gifts in this deeply reverent service of readings, song, and silence. Brief readings interspersed with songs, a homily, quiet individual prayer around the cross with candles, Holy Communion, and ashes make this service a favorite with folks of all ages.

Calling all singers!

Celeste is planning special music for Lent and Easter and would like you to be a part of it. Please let her know if you are interested— don't be shy!



Don't forget to look for Faith online

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

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Register for Summer Camp Today!

The warm and sunny days of summer will be here before you know it! Now is the time to register for a great camp experience at FLBC. 2017 Summer brochures are available on the counter outside of the church office, online (www.flbc.net), or by calling (406) 752-6602. You can register online, complete a paper registration form to mail or fax, or call the office for assistance.

Did you know that **if you register with your deposit by April 1st you receive a \$50 discount?** That means your total cost is even less than 2014 prices! As always, **register by May 1st for the \$25 discount.** Register early to get the week and program you want!

We hope to see you this summer!

Matching Camperships to attend camp are available from Faith Lutheran.

We ask those who apply for a campership to track their service to our church—for example, assisting with worship (youth Sunday, acolyte, special music), VBS helper, Easter Brunch servers, Scandinavian Dinner, church decorating or cleanup, etc. Please contact Celeste and she will put a copy of the application form in your box.

Summer 2017 Volunteers

It's time to volunteer for summer 2017! Space is limited, so send in your application and request your week today! We need you! Volunteer opportunities include: **pastors, youth directors, grandparents, nurses, kitchen workers, maintenance helpers, and more.** If you are interested in volunteering this summer, the volunteer application is available online. Contact the office at (406) 752-6602 or office@flbc.net for more information, and join us for a fabulous summer!

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, consider organizing an Action Team event at FLBC for the week you're here. The campers will help! Need ideas of what to do? Contact us at (406) 752-6602. We have many ideas!



Upcoming Retreats



WOW! Confirmation “Water of Life” Retreat

**Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
March 17-19, 2017, Dinner Friday through Sunday Brunch**

Bring your friends for fun, friendship, craziness, games, Bible study, worship and activities around our 2017 theme: “Water of Life.” Looks like Deb Cathey, Samantha Fife, and Pastor Doug Peterson (PB’s hubby) will officially chaperone Faith’s kids (and a few from Prince of Peace, Missoula), and we’d love to send along any other parents who’d like to enjoy time with their kiddos (and without!) at FLBC.

Cost is just \$30/kid, and adults are free, thanks to Gerloff Grant \$!!! (down from \$95)

Check out our WOW at Faith Lutheran Hamilton to find a registration form, or email office@faithlutheranhamilton.org or bsatrum@gmail.com.

Registration and payment are due by Sunday, March 5 **at our own church office in Hamilton.** Faith will send in our registrations as a group. Late registrations will cost \$50/child.

(Retreats, Continued on next page)



11th Annual Men's Retreat

March 11th & 12th.

Attention Lutheran men of western Montana! Here are ten good reasons why you should attend this year's men's retreat at FLBC.

1. The retreat offers us a special spiritual renewal experience. What better way to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Luther's Protestant Reformation?
2. This year's mystery guest speaker is one you will not want to miss. (Hint: It is someone all of us know.)
3. After a rather rough winter, it's time to cure your "cabin fever."
4. What better place to spend a weekend than on the scenic shores of beautiful Flathead Lake?
5. It is a time to make new friends and renew old acquaintances with our fellow Lutherans from the Flathead area and Missoula area churches.
6. The hospitable, efficient staff at FLBC is eager to serve us.
7. The meals are always outstanding.
8. No TV, no Facebook, no Email, no Twitter (Unless you're crazy enough to bring your smartphone).
9. You will bond with friends old and new through worship, fellowship, song, and meaningful dialogue.
10. You will return rested, refreshed, and renewed in your faith.

Much like past retreats, this year's event will start at around 4 p.m. on Friday March 10 and run through early Saturday afternoon, but don't worry if you arrive a little late. Three meals will be provided.

You can sign up by stopping by contacting either Elaine Ryan or Pastor Chris Flohr at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This year's registration fee of \$65 will cover your meals and lodging at FLBC.

So circle your calendars and watch the weekly bulletins and future newsletters for updates. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Don Spritzer (549-5582) montanaspritzers@q.com or Pastor Flohr at St. Paul. (549-4141).

Women's Spring Retreat

May 5-7, 2017

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 Olmstead**

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

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

Check out www.imluchurch.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.

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FLBC Wish List

Motor Boats

*Reliable Minivan
or Car*

4x4 Pickup

*10 Queen-Size
Patchwork Quilts*

Go-Pro Camera

Kayaks

Pedal Boats

Mountable Projector

*Congregations to
'Adopt a Cabin'*

*Contractors,
Plumbers,
& Electricians to
Volunteer at Camp*

The full wish list is
available
at [http://flbc.net/don
ate/](http://flbc.net/donate/)

THANK YOU to
everyone who has
donated items to
camp! Contact the
Camp Office
with any questions:
(406) 752-6602



NEW DATES: August 8-14, 2017 Holden Village, Here We Come!



Pastors Brenda and Doug have our room reserved (actually, we'll go early, on 8/3), and the High School Youth are leading the way with a youth trip (see Youth Page). We'll be seeking chaperones and drivers for the kids, AND if you want be there at the same time, start planning. The earlier you log on to www.holdenvillage.org, the more likely you can get in.

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.

COLLEGE/SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The Faith Lutheran Scholarship Committee will begin accepting applications for the 2017-2018 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 Good Friday, March 15th.**

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)



At the University of Montana

CONFLUENCE: *Where spiritual exploration, deep conversation and social action meet*

Confluence is a new faith community sponsored by Emmaus Campus Ministry and partner congregations that is growing out of Christian tradition and wisdom and open to diverse perspectives. Through spiritual practice, mutual learning and relationships we seek a deeper connection to faith that engages us in the world. Confluence is meant to be a creative community that leaves space for doubts, questions, and dialogue on difficult topics such as theology, politics, ecology, sexuality, racism, feminism and more. Through listening and shared leadership we work to offer space for those who are seeking to reclaim or grow in their spiritual life. Confluence is welcoming and affirming to people of all perspectives, histories, ages, and identities. Meets Feb. 26, Mar. 12, Mar. 26 from 6-8pm in the Fireside room at the University Congregational Church (University Ave).

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Pray for our Military

Please remember our family & friends that have joined the military & are defending our country each and every day. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers, especially those close to our family here at Faith Lutheran:

- 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.



Pray for At-Home Members and Friends...

Ruth Dillon, Joann Engbrecht, Bertie Senn, Morry & Ann Mitteness, 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	williamsclaudia38@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality	Deb Cathey	218-8394	debnkenwow@gmail.com
Finance	Dean Drake	777-7010	Deandrake87@gmail.com
Communication	Paul Walczak	360-4662	kazclaw@msn.com
Outreach	Vacant		
Property & Grounds	Nathan Brady	360-3641	Cleancut.nathan@gmail.com
Worship	Ross Damrow	381-1318	rdamrow011@gmail.com
Worship Coordinator	Celeste Pogachar	239-3952	celestepogachar@gmail.com
Youth Director	Samantha Fife	370-8025	fifedrivel@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Heather Wintergerst	363-2964	office@faithlutheranhamilton.org
Custodian	Richard Castor	363-2964	



Beginning in March the FLC Council will be meeting on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30pm.

Everyone is invited to attend and help shape the future of Faith Lutheran Church.

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January Council Highlights

Planning of the Scandinavian Dinner continued and Judy Wilson was tasked with obtaining a Temporary Health Permit from Ravalli County for the dinner.

The youth group is in charge of selling T-shirts, and other items, to help fund their upcoming Holden Village trip.

In February Paul Gyles will be retiring from his duties as the leader of the counting teams. Clairice Brady will be taking over the counting team responsibilities. Approval was given to move \$50,000 dollars of the Gerloff Youth and Music funds into an investment fund with Thrivent Financial.

Building use contracts are currently under review and being updated as needed. The renters of Faith House have moved out, and contractors have been hired to make repairs in preparation for new tenants.



Highlights of Congregational Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 12, 2016 50 members present (quorum was established)

Approval of minutes from last year's annual meeting (2/7/16)

Review of Steward and Committee Reports as submitted

Budget: The 2017 budget was discussed and approved at a special congregation meeting held on December 11th 2016.

By-law Revisions: Chapter 4..B4.07 was revised to allow council to spend up to \$10,000 without approval at a special congregational meeting. The previous limit was \$5,000. Chapter 7 (Robert and Rachel Gerloff Income,) which clarifies and explains the Gerloff Fund, was added to the existing by-laws.

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

Convener: **Helen Volden**

Communications: **Paul Walczak**

Fellowship/Hospitality: **Deb Cathey**

Outreach: **Unfilled**

Worship: **Ross Damrow**

Nominating committee: Amanda Brady, Carl Russ, Robin Ireland, Jennifer Murillo, and Scott Southwick.

Council will appoint one additional member.

FLBC representatives: Anita Bell, Rod & Celeste Pogachar

FLC representatives to Synod Assembly: Rod Pogachar and Jennifer Murillo

Meet the New Members of the FLC Council

Steward of Communications, Paul Walczak

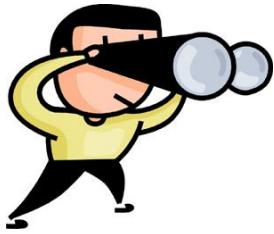
Paul is a retired military officer currently working as an independent research consultant, and serves as a volunteer firefighter in the Darby district. He is married to Tracy, also a Faith member, and they live near Darby.

Steward of Hospitality/Fellowship, Deb Cathey

Deb Cathey has been a member of Faith since the early eighties (in the last century), but has been traveling for the last several years. She's happy to be back in the Bitterroot and especially to her Faith home. She's been hanging out with the WOW confirmand kids since Fall and is looking forward to serving as your Steward of Fellowship & Hospitality. She'll need a lot of help but she knows you'll all be on board to help out when you can.



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REACH OUT FOR FAITH

Faith Lutheran Church is looking for a volunteer to become our new Steward of Outreach. If you think you can help, please contact Helen Volden at 361-0222 for more information. Thank You!!!

Thanks for Your Continued Giving

The Church Council wishes to thank the congregation for their generous giving throughout 2016 and into 2017. Thanks to all those that were able to participate in Consecration Sunday this past October 16. The increase in giving pledged by the congregation during Consecration Sunday will provide much needed funding for our 2017 Budget.



Thanks to everyone!

I'd also like to announce that we will begin reporting budget status in the April Herald. We will use graphs and text to communicate our status. We are also planning on inserting brief budget reports in the weekly Bulletin throughout the year. One of Council's primary goals is to keep the congregation informed of our progress and status. Hopefully, these budget reports will help support that goal.

Blessings to all of you!

Dean Drake
Your Steward of Finance



An Update from the Mutual Ministry Committee February 2017

The Mutual Ministry Committee (MMC) is tasked to be the liaisons between our Church membership and the Church staff. During the 4th quarter of 2016, we were active with the Church Council and staff in completion of the 2017 budget and staff performance reviews. We want to thank the congregation for the prayerful consideration that went into our Stewardship Campaign for 2017. The commitment from our membership was instrumental in planning for the needs of the Church and importantly allowed the Church Council to commit to much needed salary increases for our staff.

As we look forward to 2017, the committee is working on such topics as, updating our Personnel Handbook, continuing education for staff members, how to improve and grow our youth programs and much more.

As liaisons for membership and staff, if you have ideas or concerns, please contact a member of the MMC so that we may best serve our congregation. The current membership of the MMC includes Ann Damrow (Chair), Sue Rose, Sandy Russ, Rick Brown and Bryce Satter. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Faith's Thrivent Representative is
Julie Kieckbusch-Jones.
406-728-9255
julie.kieckbuschjones@thrivent.com

CONGRATULATIONS!

We're excited to share that in 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members chose to direct Choice Dollars® to more than 32,000 churches, schools and other nonprofits, including Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, through Thrivent Choice®. **Based on member recommendations, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp received \$39,634 in charitable outreach funding in 2016.** The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities.

REMIND SUPPORTERS THAT 2016 CHOICE DOLLARS EXPIRE SOON!

Now is the time to promote Thrivent Choice. All 2016 Choice Dollars have been made available for members to direct so there is no reason to wait. Use the free promotional materials available on the [Thrivent Choice page](#) on [Thrivent.com](#) to easily remind your supporters about Thrivent Choice® and the positive impact that can be made by directing Choice Dollars to your organization. As a reminder, 2016 Choice Dollars expire on March 31.

BASKETS OF PROMISE



Lenten Project for Lutheran World Relief

For the third year in a row Faith Lutheran will collect and assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Each

kit contains 5 items and each Sunday in Lent we will collect one of the items. Then on April 23, after church, we will assemble the kits and have a celebratory lunch.

- March 5** Sturdy combs (no picks or fine-toothed combs please)
- March 12** Metal nail clippers
- March 19** Light-weight bath size towels (20"x40" to 27"x52") dark color recommended
- March 26** Adult size toothbrushes in original packaging
- April 2** 2-3 bath-size bars of soap totaling 8-9 ounces per kit

When all Personal Care Kits contain the same items, recipients are treated equally and fairly which is very important. All items should be new.

The first year we assembled 56 kits. Last year we assembled 80 kits. What will we do this year?

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



The Synod House

“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.

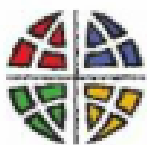
WHERE will our new Synod House be located? On the lots we own, next to our former Synod Office in Great Falls.

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!



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



March Birthdays

4	Makenzie Melton
5	Bob Gaulke, Paul Gyles, Elizabeth Jameson, Rod Pogachar
6	Marie Larson
7	Claire Seifert
9	Dirk Beyer, Mark Grotbo
10	Bridger Syme, Jill Turley
12	Tristan Hanson
14	Meredith Buhler
15	Christopher Li
17	Roni Keiser
16	Patricia Larson, Anilynn Mason
19	Claudia Williams
20	Brooke Lawry, Amy Lawry, Dean Rinta
23	Megan Lewis, Anna Seifert
25	Judy Wilson. Brian Mendenall
26	Jana Exner
27	Annalise Lewis
28	Denise Linnell
31	Ella Dowd, Donna Mitchell



With Gratitude

It was so inspiring to see such an impressive turnout at our February 12th Annual Meeting. Your attendance and participation was greatly appreciated.

We again thank Jane, Linda, Brooke, Carl, Jacque, and Judy W. for serving on the Nominating Committee – an important task and well done! We welcome our new Stewards Deb Cathey (Steward of Fellowship/Hospitality), and Paul Walczak (Steward of Communications). We need to inform you however, that the Steward of Outreach position on Council is still vacant. We are confident someone will volunteer for this position soon... perhaps (hopefully) by the time this newsletter is sent out. Should you have any questions please contact any Steward, Pastor, or myself. It is not difficult, but it is very rewarding.

With God's guidance we look forward to this new year at FLC. Your suggestions and ideas are encouraged and most welcome!

Thank you all again. Blessings and love.
~*Helen Volden, Convener*



Scandinavian Dinner Thanks

Together we did it! Faith's Scandinavian Dinner 2017 was a big success, thanks to the many, many hands that lovingly prepped, decorated, set up, served, cleaned up, and helped in so many other ways. It was such a pleasure for me to get to know some of you better though serving with you. Plus, we have a great pickled herring story to tell for the ages! If you haven't heard it, just ask. I'd be glad to share it with you. When the dust settled and we crunched numbers, we served 345 or so meals and raised about \$4400 for our General Fund Reserve (Rainy Day) Fund. Our Lutheran hospitality is renowned in the Bitterroot Valley— well done, faithful servants!

~*Celeste*



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Dates To Remember

- 3/1 Ash Wednesday, 7pm Service at FLC
- 3/5 Experiencing God Bible Study Begins
- 3/8 Lenten Lunch Series Begins at FLC
- 3/8 Soup Suppers Begin
- 3/12 Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- 3/17 FH Deadline
- 3/27 Council Meeting
- 3/28 Faith Herald Folding Party

