

# The Faith Herald

*January 2018*

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

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## A Year of Blessing

**When have you been blessed?** How did you know?

Doug was blessed when his Prince of Peace and Arlee folks threw him a farewell party, sang him a song, and told him how he had touched their lives. I'm blessed when Doug makes dinner, hugs me, and tells me he loves me. I knew we'd blessed my family when Mom called, tears in her voice, to remember when Aunt Norma asked Doug and I as brand-new pastors to visit her 93-year-old brother Ed and see if he'd be baptized. As long as we didn't need to dunk him in the creek, Ed was willing to trust the promise of God in word and water—and, that very night, to fall asleep in God's promise and awaken on the other side.

**Liturgical Christians mark two big blessings** in January: Epiphany (January 6) recalls "wise men from the East" blessing the newborn "King of the Jews" and his parents with precious gifts and what must have been a shocking drop-in visit. The Baptism of Our Lord blesses the adult Jesus rising from the Jordan River with the sound of skies tearing, a dove-like Spirit descending, and a voice declaring: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I'm thoroughly delighted." (Mark & Matthew)

**We are blessed when** 1) Someone SEES us, takes real notice of who we are. 2) Someone SPEAKS WELL of us: Imagine the God's voice declaring love and delight in YOU! And 3) Someone GIVES of their own life that we might receive. Doug's farewell party at the Sons of Norway Hall took time and effort. Gifts hauled from Iraq to Palestine on camel-back, horseback, or afoot were precious, indeed.

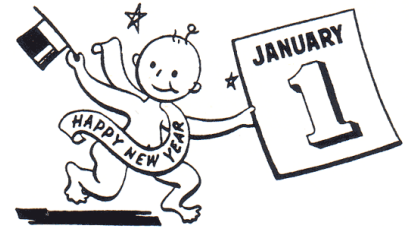
**Faith is a community of blessing.** The members and friends of this "family of God built on love" work hard to SEE each other, SPEAK WELL of each other at all times, and GIVE of our own lives to build up others. We do these things because God blesses us first: God SEES you as worthy of love and gifted to serve; God SPEAKS affirmation to you in scripture, prayer, and community; God GIVES all you need to survive, and the life and death of Jesus to love and lead you into real Life that endures.

**Blessing is too rare.** Always. How could there ever be enough? A wise teacher writes, "We can't force others to bless us, but we can bless others...[and when we do] it will not be long afterward that our hearts will feel an exuberance that will, all on its own, say: *God, it feels good to be alive!* When we act like God, we get to feel like God And God is never depressed" (Rolheiser, *Sacred Fire*, p. 237).

**So God, I'm bold to ask** that you pour out your blessings on me and my friends at Faith. Let us receive your attention, your affirmations, and your gifts deeply and with thanks! Fill us so full with your love that we overflow acting like you, feeling like you, blessing like you.

And friends, **let's make this a "year of blessing"** at Faith—I think that sounds AWESOME!  
Happy New Year! *Pastor Brenda*

# THE YOUTH PAGE



## **WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS**

Wed. Jan 3	Youth Group Hang Time
Wed. Jan 10	Youth Dinner and Study Group
Wed. Jan 17	No Youth Group
Sun. Jan 21	Youth Sunday
Wed. Jan 24	Youth Group Game Tournament
Wed. Jan 31	Youth Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt @Super One
Wed. Feb 7	Service Project

### **Start the New Year with Friends! Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Dinner, games, good times...



### **Study Group, Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

Dinner, snacks, and an opportunity to either study or relax to prepare for finals week. Snack donations would be appreciated!

### **Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt, January 31<sup>st</sup>**

This will be our fourth service project this year! The kids from FLC and St. Paul's will meet at Super One at 7pm and shop for Haven House! This activity has annually been funded by the generous folks over at St. Paul's, but additional funds are always welcome to help us get more food! THERE IS NO DINNER provided this night, but kids should bring quarters for ice cream!



### **Tie Blanket Service Project, Wednesday February 7<sup>th</sup>**

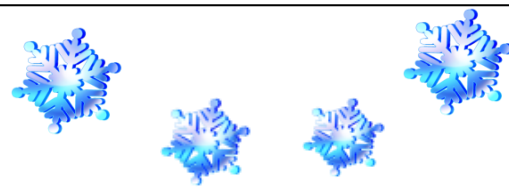
This will be our kid's third service project this school year! We will be making blankets for those in need and the Pogachars have generously offered to give us their Thrivent Action funds to make it happen! If you've made one before please consider coming and helping out!

#### **CONNECT WITH US!!!**

Youth Director Samantha Fife, Faith Lutheran,  
406.370.8025 (cell). fife.drivel@gmail.com

## Worship Notes

- ❖ 12/31 Christmas Carols
- ❖ 1/7 Epiphany, ELW 3
- ❖ 1/14 ELW 3
- ❖ 1/21 Praise Service, Youth Sunday
- ❖ 1/28 ELW 3



## The UN-Decorating Party Sunday, December 31, 10:45am

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

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

### A Simple Life-Changing Prayer OR Experiencing God Seven Weeks w/PB beginning January 7

**Gather** and decide on January 7: We didn't finish Experiencing God last year—and it's a great study to renew and review, a truly wonderful opportunity for new attenders to check our culture here. OR....

For most people most of the time, prayer is hard. It's especially difficult (not to mention unsatisfying!) when we experience prayer as formal, dry, and repetitious. What if you discovered a simple prayer that changed all that...and even changed you? Read and discuss *A Simple Life-Changing Prayer*.

Sign up in the lobby or talk to PB if you're interested. Some copies of *A Simple Life-Changing Prayer: Discovering the Power of St. Ignatius Loyola's Examen* by Jim Manney are already on hand.



## PANCAKE FUNDRAISER January 14

Fill up for a cause after worship! Faith's funeral reception fund has dipped a little low, and our donations for this Thrivent-Sponsored carb-fest will help out families struggling to fund their loved-ones' memorial celebrations. Thanks to the Bradys for Living Generously!

## Celebrate Long Service and New Members, Sunday January 28

Carol Mitchell has quietly and faithfully served as chief servant of Faith's altar for longer than she probably cares to remember! We'll take time to honor this special member of our congregation and community. THANK YOU, CAROL!!!! (And Al!)

And welcome to our terrific new attenders! Connect with Pastor Brenda ASAP (call or text 381-1919) if you're interested in membership and yet haven't enjoyed a personal visit. We'll receive and celebrate new members at worship, then intentionally mix and mingle over pancakes. What a great day!



## FLBC Summer 2018 Schedule Now Available

It's not too early to start thinking about when your family wants to attend camp this summer! Look for FLBC's Summer 2018 Schedule online at [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net) and checkout the new camps this year.

Camp brochures will be mailed out in late December. Some of the popular weeks (like Family Camp) fill up fast. Matching camperships for all who wish to go to camp this summer 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 (like acolyte), VBS helper, Easter breakfast servers, Scandinavian Dinner helpers, church decorating or clean-up, etc. Please contact Celeste and she will put a copy of the application form in your church mailbox.



### **Dates to remember:**

- **Summer 2018 Adult Volunteers!** FLBC needs adult volunteers for the 2018 summer camping season (pastors, youth directors, nurses, grandparents, etc.) Application forms are available online. Call (406) 752-6602 for information.
- **Online registration opens Monday, January 22.**

### *January Birthdays*

1/1	Shirley McGourty	1/15	Nichole Mitchell, Jeff Montgomery
1/3	Clarice Brady, Chris Maul-Smith	1/16	Ron Osborn
1/5	Annie Strain	1/17	Virginia Kindzerski
1/6	Lina Gyles, Carol Peterson, Carl Swanson, Marlin Lewis	1/21	Jerry Mitchell
1/7	Allie Auch, Maddison Duchscher	1/23	John McKee, Susan Wetzsteon
1/8	Lars Larson, Logan Vandenburg	1/24	Jennifer Larson, Paul Roege
1/9	Kerry Hanson	1/29	Keegan Williamson
1/10	Gunnar Larson	1/31	Claire Matthews
1/12	Brenda Satrum		



### **Christmas Program Thanks!**

What a joy it was for me to gather and lead our children in the telling of the Christmas story through their music and words. Nice work, kids!

Nancy Osborn, thanks so much for leading the telling of "The Greatest Story Ever Told."

Linda Beyer, thanks for the darling costumes!

And thanks also to Amber Richardson, KaSondra Grymes, Jennifer Murillo, Chad Farrenburg, Mark Livesay, Samantha Fife, and Rod Pogachar.

Special thanks to the Preschoolers for sharing their beautiful Christmas mural!

~Celeste





## 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:

- Mike Hebert, grandson of Don & Shirley McGourty, US Army, serving in Colorado Springs, CO
- 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 Nelli's AFB, Las Vegas, NV
- 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 in Syria
- Capt. Kyle Frazer, son of Larry & Nancy Hansen, serving at Fort Polk, LA.
- Master Sergeant Will Rollefson, nephew of Larry Hansen, Special Forces, Seattle, WA.



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

*Ruth Dillon, Joann Engbrecht, Bertie Senn, Morry Mitteness, Clara Felton, Virginia Rotering, Elsie Buckner, LaVonne Beers, Carl Swanson, Pat Berglund, Bob Mathison, Larry Pyle, Mary Schmidt, & "Smitty" Smith.*

### 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	Deb Cathey	961-4071	<a href="mailto:debnkenwow@gmail.com">debnkenwow@gmail.com</a>
Finance	Dean Drake	777-7010	<a href="mailto:Deandrake87@gmail.com">Deandrake87@gmail.com</a>
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Outreach	Jennifer Murrillo	961-4390	<a href="mailto:jsmurrillo@gmail.com">jsmurrillo@gmail.com</a>
Property & Grounds	Vacant		
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>
Office Secretary		363-2964	<a href="mailto:office@faithlutheranhamilton.org">office@faithlutheranhamilton.org</a>
Custodian	Richard Castor	363-2964	

## December Leadership Highlights

The 2018 Budget was unanimously approved at the December 10th Special Meeting. Thanks to all that could attend for the great discussion and productive Q&A session!

*Your Steward of Finance*  
*Dean Drake*



### Council Capsule - Summary of the November 27, 2017 Council Meeting



- Council voted to create an Archiving Committee to oversee and protect FLC paperwork and information.
- Further budget reductions were discussed to insure the 2018 would be a balanced budget. Preparations were made for the December 10<sup>th</sup> budget roundtable and the special Congregation meeting held December 10<sup>th</sup> to approve the 2018 budget.
- Due to a lack of time to prepare the “Luther Rock Opera” will be postponed
- Sally Porter has joined the Mutual Ministry Committee.
- Carol Mitchell has resigned as head of the Altar Guild. Carol has served since 1993. Her hard work is greatly appreciated and she will be missed. The search for a replacement has begun.
- Wanda Tucker resigned as Administrative Secretary on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The requirements for staffing this position are being discussed and the search for a replacement will begin shortly.

## NEW FLC January Office Hours 10:00am to 1:00pm

Thanks to our office volunteers during transition time! Sandy Russ, Steve Lind, Nancy Hansen (and husband Larry—confirmation chef extraordinaire!), Claudia Williams, Deb Cathey, John Marten, and others are organizing and warmly welcoming all comers. Pastor and others are covering tasks and considering next steps.



## Annual Report Submissions Due January 15

Keep it simple, people! 150 words (let your computer count) with brief highlights of 2017 and hopes for 2018 are due to the office or [office@faithlutheranhamilton.org](mailto:office@faithlutheranhamilton.org) by Monday, January 15.

## FLC Annual Meeting Sunday, February 11

Help elect new officers to Faith’s Church Council and committees as well as delegates to the Synod Convention and Bible Camp. We’ll set Faith up for a great future!

## Input Requested by Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

The Board of Directors of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp has proposed a change to the camp's by-laws that would allow two new opportunities: 1) Congregations not affiliated with the ELCA could apply to become members of the FLBC Corporation responsible to send two voting delegates to the Annual Meeting of the Corporation (at which new Board Members are elected & the budget approved, etc.). 2) The Board of Directors would add two At-Large Director seats for folks who may or may not be affiliated with Corporate member congregations.

In recent years, several non-ELCA congregations have expressed interest in becoming members of the FLBC Corporation. Lutheran Outdoor Ministry, like our congregations and communities, is growing in diversity. The board and staff are hopeful that giving voice to those who share our vision from different perspectives will deepen and strengthen our ministry and organization.

The camp requests our input via a formal response form by January 19. If you have comments or questions to share, or if you'd like more information, Pastor Brenda has the official documents (which she's GLAD to share) and the response form Faith is encouraged to submit. Please contact her as soon as possible.

### Details of the changes:

- Application process: Congregations wishing to join the Corporation would send a written request to the FLBC Board of directors along with a signed commitment to affirm and uphold FLBC core values. After review by the FLBC Executive Committee, applications will be forwarded to the spring meeting of the full Board for approval. Approved congregations would be invited to the Annual Mtg.
- All member congregations will be invited to send two lay delegates and one rostered leader as voting members. Current practice is to allow more delegates to larger congregations. This change simplifies the process.
- At-Large Board Members will be recommended for election by the Nominating Committee from among individuals who share FLBC's Mission and Values. They will seek candidates with specific skills not currently represented by sitting board members.



Should these changes be supported by FLBC's constituent congregations, the process for approving them will begin at the Annual Meeting in the fall of 2018. The FLBC Board of Directors is convinced that these changes will strengthen the camp's ministry, and equally concerned that any proposed change in our by-laws must be enacted only with the strong support of the corporation.

Submitted by Wade Bitz, FLBC Board Chair  
511 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Havre, MT 59501  
406-899-2202 (cell)

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## **Dates To Remember**

- 1/7 Sunday School and Adult Studies Resume
- 1/14 Pancake Fundraiser
- 1/16 Faith Herald Deadline
- 1/22 Council Meeting
- 1/25 Faith Herald Folding Party
- 2/11 FLC ANNUAL MEETING



**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!