



The Faith Herald

December 2019

171 Lewis Lane, Hamilton, MT, 59840

www.faithlutheranhamilton.org

office@faithlutheranhamilton.org

406.363.2964

Visit our office 9a-1p, Monday-Thursday

“Faith Lutheran is a Family of God built on love: worshiping, welcoming, serving and growing in Christ’s name”

Greeting to you all!

The Holidays are a joyous time of year for many people. But for others the Holidays are not so joyous, due to loss: Loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of a relationship, receiving bad news from a doctor, just to name a few. While the Holidays can be hard for some people to navigate through, we rest in God’s promise to always be with us, especially through these times.



We will be holding a “Blue Christmas Service” also known as the “Longest Night Service” on December 15th at 6pm this year, here at Faith Lutheran Church. This is a gentle contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this time of celebration. There will be a time for lighting candles, remembering our losses and our pain, confident that God’s light breaks into our darkness and is present with us, offering us peace. We will pray together and spend some time focusing on God’s promises from God’s Holy Word, knowing we are not alone. We will have communion, where all are welcome to commune with us here at Faith. This will be a guitar led service.

From Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus says, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for you souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

If this Christmas season is hard for you, or someone you know, because of a pain or loss, please come and join us for a “Blue Christmas Service.” This service is open to all. Hope to see you on the evening of December 15th, 6pm.

Partners in sharing God’s grace,
Pastor Paul

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Join us for Holden Evening Prayer.....

In the busy-ness of the month of December, it's easy to forget that advent is a time set aside to watch and wait; to prepare for the coming of Immanuel, "God With Us". **Join us for fellowship and dinner at 6pm, then stay for vespers at 7pm on December 4th, 11th, and 18th.)** A lovely way to center yourself mid-week during this holiday season. Please join us!

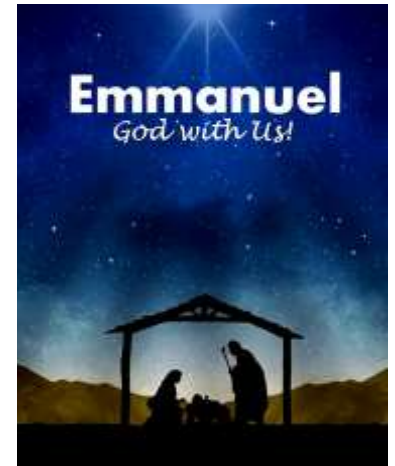


*Can you contribute special music during Advent or Christmas?
Please contact Celeste and we'll work together
to schedule and locate music.*

December Worship Notes

Advent (the beginning of the Christian calendar year) starts Sunday, December 1st. This is the "year of Matthew", or Lectionary A, where we begin the three-year cycle of scripture readings.

Matthew's gospel is beloved for how it spotlights Jesus as a teacher, gives practical ethical instructions, and includes some of Jesus' most influential statements, such as the Beatitudes. It is disliked for how harshly Jesus characterized religious leaders and how often he speaks of judgment and hell. Matthew is one of the longest books in the New Testament, and the Sunday readings will cover about 60 percent of this gospel over the course of the year. Matthew was also the first gospel written, and until a century ago, received the most historic attention. Matthew's gospel alone calls Jesus "Emmanuel", which means "God with us".



Worship this month features a variety of blended liturgies and plenty of our favorite Advent songs and Christmas carols. A special treat on December 15th will be the Kids' Christmas Worship service, a youth-led worship featuring the talents of our young folks. On Christmas Eve, there will be two worship services, which share the Christmas Story told through the scripture readings of Luke and Isaiah with Christmas carols in the traditional candlelight setting. Worship on December 24th will feature more of our favorite carols. Even the liturgy is set to familiar Christmas tunes!



A Gift That Only Kids Can Give

Faith Kids will lead worship on Sunday, December 15th

The Christmas story told through scripture and song. A special highlight will be our youngest children telling the nativity story. Middle & High School students will also add their talent. Please join us after for coffee hour as we serve Jesus' birthday cake and refreshments!

Parents: we will practice on Dec. 1st & 8th after worship and Sat. Dec 14th will be the Dress Rehearsal at 10am.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

Tuesday, December 24th at
4pm and 7pm



Shoeboxes Have Begun Their Journey

The 200!! Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes packed at Faith's Packing Party have begun their journey. These gifts are often simple by some standards but to someone who has little they can mean much more. The story of Jesus' birth and life is given to each child who receives a box so he or she is exposed to the word and works of God. These simple gifts can change lives. Thank you to all who participated and continue bring joy and spread the faith to children around the world.



Chili Cook Off

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the people who helped to make our chili cook off a success!

There is a very long list of helping hands: Linda Beyer, Ross Damrow, LaDonna Grotbo, Sandy Drake, Ann Damrow, Judy Wilson, Nancy Parish, Jacque VanDenburg, Susan Wetzsteon, Deb Cathey, Laura Reichart, Tanner Hanson, cleanup crew, chili cooks, dessert makers, and so many more. WOW!

The auctions were a great success. Although the exact amount has not yet been figured, it looks like we raised over \$6000 to be used to send our kids and adults to camp over the next two years. **(10% of that amount will be tithed back to our general fund.)**

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December 2019

December Wednesdays:

- ✝ 12/4 6-8 P.M. @ Faith Lutheran Christmas Party!
- ✝ 12/11 6-8 P.M. @ First Presbyterian -Service Project-
We will be making Christmas wreaths for shut-ins.
- ✝ 12/18 6-8 P.M. @ Super 1 -Service Project- Bell ringing for The Salvation Army.
- ✝ 12/25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

Patty Stone (First Presbyterian) 618-566-4068

Feel free to call with any questions! Alana Cruse (St Paul's Episcopal) 381-3534

Michelle Mendenall (Faith Lutheran) 360-1984



FLBC News & Notes

Shop with Amazon Smile to benefit FLBC!

It's the holiday season! As you shop this season, use Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.com/>) and select Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp as your beneficiary. Amazon will automatically donate .5% of your purchase price to FLBC (no additional cost to you!). Be sure to shop smile.amazon.com this season!

Summer 2020 Adult Volunteers! Registration for adult volunteers (pastors, youth directors, nurses, grandparents, etc.) for the 2020 summer camping season is now open! Call (406) 752-6602 during the day for the best availability of weeks!

Retreats

Family & Friends Advent Retreat

December 6-8, 2019

Prepare for the Christmas season by taking intentional time to slow down. Make some crafts, cut your own Christmas tree. Take some time for worship and prayer this Advent. Retreat begins with dinner on Friday and ends with brunch on Sunday.

Plus, mark your calendars for our Youth Ski & Snowboard Retreat held January 10-12! A flyer will be coming to you soon.

For more information, go to www.FLBC.net or call 406-752-6602

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**Bitterroot Valley Chorus Presents
Annual Christmas Concerts**

December 14th at 7:30pm

and December 15th at 2:00pm

A holiday tradition, featuring several
musicians from

Faith Lutheran in the adult choir
and children's choir

At the Hamilton PAC (Performing Arts Center)

A \$5 donation is suggested



Brawl of the Wild

Thanks so much for supporting the special offering on November 17th and 24th for Lutheran Campus Ministry! The results are in! **Bobcat supporters donated \$320** in the blue cups and **Grizzly supporters contributed total of \$316**, in the maroon cups which will be evenly split between U of M and MSU Campus Ministries!

Way to go, Bobcat and Griz Fans!



Plan Ahead!
Save the week of
July 13-17, 2020
for Faith Lutheran's Vacation Bible School

Stewards & Staff of Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor	Paul Anderson	509-844-1120	Flchamilton.pastorpaul@gmail.com
President/Convener	Darrin Heitmann	370-4521	powertrip@cybernet1.com
Discipleship	LaDonna Grotbo	460-1994	Obtorg4@yahoo.com
Fellowship & Hospitality	Open at this time		
Finance	Dean Drake	777-7010	Deandrake87@gmail.com
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Outreach	Judy Griffin	961-4390	idclairus@yahoo.com
Property & Grounds	Marlin Lewis	391-1270	lewism@hsd3.org
Worship	Susan Peterson	701-590-4064	smpete2@yahoo.com
Worship Coordinator	Celeste Pogachar	239-3952	celestepogachar@gmail.com
Youth Coordinator	Open at this time		
Office Administrator	Nancy Parish	363-6691	office@faithlutheranhamilton.org
Bookkeeper	Heather Wintergerst	363-2964	flchamilton.finsec@gmail.com
Custodian	Richard Castor	363-2964	

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The Bitterroot Empty Bowls Raised over \$6,000.00

Thank you to all that came out to have
a bowl of soup!



Important Budget Meetings

Mark Your Calendar:

Sun. December 1st Budget Questions and Answers after worship
Sun. December 8th Congregational Meeting to approve budget

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 8th after worship

This meeting is being held for the purpose of approving the 2020 budget.
All voting members of the congregation are encouraged to attend

Pray for our Military

Keep them in your thoughts and prayers, especially those close to our family
here at Faith Lutheran:

- **Capt. Timothy Hawes**, nephew of Troy & Kerry Hanson. Air Force, deployed in the Middle East.
- **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.
- **Major Alex Stephens, MD**, grandson-in-law of Dale and Clairice Brady, serving at Ft. Campbell Hospital.
- **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...

Battling Cancer: Peter S.

Prayers for: Richard Castor, Karl, Shirley Hanson, Dale Hughey, Peggy Lewis, Irene Stengrimson, Victoria Moore, The Yockey family, LaVonne Beers, Susan Wetzsteon, Rochelle Lenz, Patsy & Bill K., Richard Kordsmeir, Wayne & Helen Hedman.

The Beehive: Morry Mitteness, Yvonne Olson

Valley View: Ruth Dillon

Remington: Betty Swift, Chuck Olson

Discovery Care:

Home Nursing Care: Virginia Rotering, Smitty Smith,

Incarcerated: Jacob Bachman, George Davis

December Birthdays

- 12/3 Paige Auch
- 12/6 Heather Wintergerst
- 12/7 Sally Berland, Steve Shook
- 12/9 Holly Mahon
- 12/12 Lila Farrenburg
- 12/14 Josie VanDenburg
- 12/17 Sandy Russ
- 12/18 Elaina Lewis
- 12/20 Cole Harden
- 12/21 John Carlson
- 12/22 Peggy Trexler
- 12/26 Kristina McClowskey,
Sandy Drake
- 12/29 Dan Mitchell, Emmalee Paterson

Our Quilters

Donated 15 quilts to the local Red Cross to be used for victims of local fires.

Way to go Quilters!!



Senior Fellowship

Will meet at FLC Dec. 14th to pack care packages for our homebound



Faith at Work doing what we do best, helping

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Address Label Here

December Dates To Remember

- 12/4 6-8pm Youth Christmas party at Faith**
7pm Holden Evening Prayer
- 12/7 9am-2pm Sapphire Lutheran Home craft fair**
5-6:30 Live Nativity at the Fairgrounds
- 12/8 Congregational meeting to approve the 2020 budget after services today**
- 12/11 7pm Holden Evening Prayer**
- 12/14 10am Kids' Christmas Dress Rehearsal**
1pm Senior Fellowship care packages, then to Paul and Gwen's
7:30 Bitterroot Valley Chorus, Christmas concert PAC
- 12/15 9:30 Kids' Christmas Worship**
6pm Blue Christmas Service for anyone and everyone
- 12/18 7pm Holden Evening Prayer**
- 12/22 4pm Children Caroling, meet at Faith**
- 12/24 4pm and 7pm , Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**
Youth Group Christmas Party/Caroling
- 12/29 Bring your leftover Christmas cookies to share at the coffee hour!**

Church Office Closed Dec 25th-Jan 5th, reopens January 6th. Happy New Year!

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