

# The Faith Herald Newsletter

April 2022

**Scholarship Applications** are now being accepted. Hard copies are available in the narthex, or you can Email the church office [faithlutheran59840@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheran59840@gmail.com) for an E- Copy to be emailed to you. This is open to all graduating FLC Seniors or those continuing education. The forms are due back to the church office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

Greetings from the Buerkle family, temporarily located in Istanbul!

This opening line to a note wouldn't have seemed realistic to me even 10 days ago. That Russia might start an all-out war (rather than the territory grabs that have been its pattern in regional conflicts over the past 15 years) seemed like the worst possible (and a very unlikely) scenario at that time. Obviously, we were mistaken; the quick deterioration of the situation placed before us a difficult decision - to risk remaining in the country or to risk leaving. Each of these options come with great consequences for our ministry and for our family. Prayers and encouragement from those who cared about us eventually led us to decide that we did need to leave, and to do so very quickly. With the help of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Saxony (for which I work) and the ELCA (which also supports ministries in Lutheran churches of the former Soviet Union) we were able to evacuate on Friday, March 4.

In the last week we have started to get over our shock, and are taking steps to determine next steps, leading us likely either to Germany or the United States. We hope that visa-related issues will be resolved soon, but in the meantime... there are certainly worse places to be stuck. The poor weather and our generally anxious state have hindered us from enjoying this fascinating city (and Martin's birthday earlier this week...soon to be followed by Lukas') as much as we would otherwise, but we still count it a blessing to be here. To the degree to which it is possible, the kids try to keep up on whatever homework we can do online, and I am thankful that WhatsApp and Zoom are still working (so far, at least) worldwide, which helps us maintain our personal contacts and remain engaged in ministry. Earlier this week I was particularly touched when our weekly text study group had participants from Odessa, Crimea, various regions of Russia...and, this time, from Turkey, too. As we discovered in our discussion, Lenten themes are particularly relevant this year, wherever we are...

Many thanks to each one of you who has offered us help. Prayers are welcome; unless any of you happen to be in Istanbul with winter clothes (we rather overestimated the temperatures we would encounter here!... but just kidding about the clothes, we'll be fine) it is hard to know what else might be done for us personally.

In the meantime, please be generous to those who help refugees; you can donate, for example, here:

<https://community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response...>

Additionally, please use your voices both to speak out against war and to speak up for those who are unjustly demonized because of their citizenship or ethnicity. While their politicians' actions have caused shame, suffering from millions of people, and long-term damage to the world community and their place in it, by distancing ourselves from ordinary people of Russian background we would do nothing to encourage peace and justice. In a similar way to how the world has properly shown solidarity to those suffering in Ukraine, I find it important that we not abandon those in Russia who are working for a healthier society through strengthening of spiritual community. Each of us – whatever country we live in – are to a degree complicit in political, military, and economic systems that cause great harm. With time I hope that bridges can be re-built and understanding deepened as we realize together that we all have room to grow when it comes to resisting tyranny in its multiple forms.

I look forward to continuing to be in touch.



Greetings FLC,

April is Autism Acceptance Month. The entire world recognizes April 2<sup>nd</sup> as World Autism Day by lighting up famous landmarks blue in honor of the superheroes among us that carry the cross of autism. In Dec. of 2021 the Center for Disease Control released the latest statistic that 1 out of every 44 children is on the Autism Spectrum. Autism impacts each individual uniquely. Those of you who know Aksel are most likely aware that autism impacts him significantly. We feel so loved, welcomed and accepted exactly as we are by our church family. The following YouTube videos (a total of only 6 min.) highlight 3 young men that Aksel likes to "follow." They experience autism in a similar way as Aksel. Thank you for taking time to better understand where Aksel is coming from and just how very heavy his cross is. We always assume competence and depth of emotion. After all, Aksel is God's beloved child, and his spirit shines so bright!

Thank you for making Faith Lutheran Church a safe harbor through the stormy seas of autism.

With Love and Gratitude,

Aksel, Emma and Jennifer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2zA4yslXqc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uxM7goUA1c>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1e4ag-m65Y>

**Easter Is Quicky approaching.** Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! We hope to see you for Holy Week. FLC starts with Palm Sunday. April 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30am, April 14<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday 7:00 April 15<sup>th</sup> Good Friday 12:00pm, April 17<sup>th</sup> Easter 8:00 am & 10:00am



## FLC COUNCIL CORNER

The council retreat was a success to kick off the year with the new council. We took some time focusing on the mission statement at Faith Lutheran Church as well as looking at how "The Church" has changed and is changing in this new era of post Covid and beyond. I am sure many of you on Sunday have seen the new Lent bulletins. That is one change. It is not only a nice way of reducing waste of printing new bulletins each week, it helps set our worship for each season in the church. We are also bringing back the mailing of the monthly newsletter and forgoing the weekly electronic "Constant Contact". The feedback we have received is that very few people are utilizing the weekly email "Constant Contact" information and prefer to get their information in the form of a physical newsletter to their home. However, if you want to only receive the Faith Herald monthly newsletter via email, please let the church office know. However, if you are not getting the physical newsletter in the mail and wish to let the church office know please also. Thank you for your patience as we work out the best way to communicate with members at Faith Lutheran. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

One very important and historical event our church has done for many years is the Scandinavian Dinner. In this newsletter you will find a Scandinavian Dinner Survey. You will also see the survey at worship during the month of April. We need your input so we can decide if we can keep this wonderful tradition going forward. Please prayerfully consider what role you can take in the planning and executing of this dinner. This dinner is a wonderful event that our congregation does for the community every other year, but it is a huge undertaking to make it a success. Your feedback is needed so we can decide what we can do or cannot do. Please let us know your thoughts.

In closing I want to thank everyone for your prayers for the council and wanted to let members know you always have an open invitation to join us at our monthly council meetings. We meet at the church at 4pm on the second Monday of each month.

Respectfully,

Jacque VanDenburg  
President/Convenor

## Scandinavian Dinner Survey

We are considering hosting the Scandinavian Dinner in 2023. Traditionally we hold this at the end of January. The last time we held the dinner was in 2019. As we consider whether to host another dinner, we need to determine if we have enough people to make it a success. Please respond to the survey below. Thank you for your consideration and time. Please return it to the church office or give to an usher by April 30, 2022.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I believe we should host a Scandinavian Dinner in 2023. **YES NO**  
 I am willing to serve on the planning committee. **YES NO**  
 I will chair one of the committees. **YES NO**

The end of January 2023 would work for me. **YES NO**  
 If NO, what would you suggest? \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am willing to serve on one of the committees. **YES NO**

- |                               |               |             |             |        |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| Primary Scandinavian Chairman | Meatball      | Cookie      | Advertising | Lefsa  |
| Kitchen Supervisor            | Bus Boys      | Costumes    | Decorations | Salads |
| Maitre D                      | Desserts      | Dishwashing | Potatoes    | Set-up |
| Beverages                     | Table Setting | Greeters    | Wait Staff  |        |

### Celebrating Shoeboxes

An Operation Christmas Child Shoebox celebration was hosted on February 19th by the regional OCC team. It was an opportunity to share with church coordinators and supporters the impact the shoeboxes we all packed in November have around the world. Worldwide 10,500,000 shoeboxes were packed in 2021, of those 9,100,000 were packed in the US, and of these 7,337 were from 53 churches in the greater Missoula area which included 153 from Faith Lutheran. Over the years we have learned that on average 7 individuals end up being introduced to the gospel and the story of God's love with each shoebox that is handed out to children. That's something to celebrate. Planning is already beginning for the 2022 packing party. If you would like to learn more, feel free to visit with Linda Beyer.

### Community Meals

The Faith Lutheran Community Meals team continues to prepare and hand out meals each 4th Tuesday of the month from September through May. We will finish this serving year providing to-go meals only but will likely be back to hosting sit down meals in the Fall. This whole program is only made possible because of volunteers. And, we have some great volunteers in our Faith family. Thank you to all who have helped us provide meals this year from monetary and food donations to hands-on preparing and serving time donations. You are the Best!

## Easter Breakfast

It's been a couple years but yes, planning has begun to have a buffet style Easter Breakfast this year! This is the main fund raiser for the Faith Scholarship fund that current high school graduates and students still completing their education can apply for scholarships from each year. Your attendance and/or donations help support the education of our church family youth. A basket for donations will be available Easter morning but donations can be made anytime with a note earmarking them for the Faith Scholarship Fund. Come support our youth and enjoy fellowship over a tasty meal Easter morning. Watch for the specific details in the next couple weeks.

## A message From Bishop Laurie Jungling

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the fiscal year for the Montana's Synod has come to a close, on behalf of the Senate Council and the whole Synod, Thank You so much for the generous giving that you and your congregation have provided for the work of the Montana Synod in 2021!

We are awed and inspired again by the ways that Northern Wyoming and Montana have given generously. Here ways that mission support has equipped at the Montana Synod to do ministry:

- There are 11 congregations who have called and installed new Pastors in the Synod in the last year.
- There 8 congregation who have been participating in the faithful innovation process.
- There are 20 members of congregations who are finishing up the Lay Pastoral Association training and 21 more will begin the LPA training in April.
- There are nine people in the Synod who are in the ELCA candidacy process attending seminary to serve as rostered leaders in ELCA
- There are 25 leaders in the Synod who have been participating in some aspect of the leadership development, either excellence leadership, thriving leaders, or coaching.
- Colter McCarty, from the Synod staff has assisted 37 congregations in the Synod with the technology support over the past year.
- There have been five congregations Engaged in the fed by raven's pilot process on stewardship and generosity. And so much more!
- The Senate budget came in at about 97% of the budget. You have all done so much of you have been church together, equipping one another for the ministry of the gospel!

The Senate counsel, Bishop Laurie Jungling,

### Montana Jewish Project presents:

#### Passover and Easter: An Imaginative Journey Montana Jews and Christians in Conversation

**Rabbi Mark Kula**  
currently serves Jewish  
communities around the West.

**Rev. Jessica Crist**  
retired Bishop of the Montana  
Synod of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America.

Sunday, April 3,  
2022  
4-5pm MT

Virtual on zoom  
Register at:  
<https://bit.ly/PassoverMJP>



### Easter Egg Hunt 2022

Palm Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> Following the church service. On the grounds of Sapphire Lutheran Homes in Hamilton. Please bring your own Easter egg basket to collect eggs. We will meet at Sapphire as soon as possible after the worship service. Around 11:15



### Note from the Office

For a PDF copy of the monthly church calendar to be emailed out to you, please contact the church office. We will add you to the church Email list. Copies will also be available at the church.

**Phone:** (406) 363-2964

**Church Office:** 171 Lewis Lane  
Hamilton, Montana 59840

**[faithlutheran59840@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheran59840@gmail.com)**

**We strongly encourage FLC members to contact the church office with any info you would like added to the newsletter. The cutoff date is the second Friday of each month.**

**Thank You So Much!**

## VBS News


This Year FLC is pairing up with three churches for a New VBS experience. VBS will be held July 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2022. We are partnering with Saint Paul, (Priest Gretchen Strohmaier). First Presbyterian, (Pastor Maggie Lewis). United Methodist, (Pastor Andrew Bridgerman) as well as our own Pastor Paul Anderson. We will be holding a meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> 11:00am at United Methodist Church in Corvallis Mt. We welcome all who would like to help. We would love to make this a welcoming experience for all.

## FLC Current Events

FLBC Spiritual Retreat Registration  
deadline April 18th

April 10<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday. We will be receiving new members, Both from this year 2022 and 2020. Please Come welcome them into our church.

**Please Join us for Easter Breakfast!** Faith Lutheran will be serving Easter Breakfast between the two services; The first service is at 8:00 am and the second one starts at 10:00. Brunch will start about 9:00 am. on Easter Sunday. This is a free will offering fundraiser for the scholarship fund. Hope you can Join us for food and fellowship Easter Morning.



Upcoming  
mark your calendars

Faith Lutheran Scholarship Applications are due to the church office by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Men's Bereavement Breakfast** Is the Second and Fourth Thursday of the month. @9:00 am. If you know of men that would benefit from this ministry, please spread the word. We have great fellowship and even better food!

## APRIL CALENDER OF EVENTS AND GATHERINGS. SUNDAY WORSHIP @9:30AM

April 3 <sup>rd</sup> John Lund is preaching 9:30am @FLC Fellowship to follow.
April 6 <sup>th</sup> Lent soup and study 5:45 @FLC
April 6 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 Quilters Group
April 10 <sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday 9:30am @FLC Easter egg hunt to follow @Saphire Lutheran Homes 11:30
April 11 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting 4:00 @FLC
April 14 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> Men's Bereavement Breakfast 9:00 am @FLC
April 14 <sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday 7:00 @FLC
April 15 <sup>th</sup> Good Friday 12:00pm @FLC
April 15 <sup>th</sup> Deadline for Newsletter
April 15 <sup>th</sup> Deadline for scholarship applications
April 17 <sup>th</sup> Easter 8:00 am & 10:00am @FLC. Easter Breakfast between services
April 24 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 am Bible Camp Sunday @FLC Margie Fiedler. Fellowship to follow
April 27 <sup>th</sup> VBS meeting 11:00 am @ United Methodist Church
April 29 <sup>th</sup> Kogodus Retreat 5:30-9:00pm @ Saint Paul's Lutheran church Missoula MT
April 30 <sup>th</sup> Kogodus Retreat 9:00am- 7:00 pm Saint Paul's Lutheran church Missoula MT
Grief Group Mondays @6:00 pm April 4, 11, 18, 25. May 9th.

# APRIL

Stephen Lind	April 03
Shirley Sorenson	April 08
Sally Porter	April 11
Royal Beyer	April 12
Brooklyn Dowd	April 13
LaDonna Grotbo	April 13
Zachary Johnson	April 13
Barbara Anderson	April 16
Bonnie Savory	April 18
Brady McDonald	April 20
Deb Cathy	April 21
Susan Rose	April 21
Luke Mendenall	April 22
Nicole Lawry	April 23
Emily Heitmann	April 24
Robert Mahon	April 24
Jenny West	April 24
Ryan Fessler	April 26
Carol Mitchell	April 26
Seth Mason	April 29
Nathan Pease	April 30

## “LAMENT & LAUGHTER” A RETREAT BY KOGUDUS RENEWAL MINISTRY

Are you in need of some R & R...a welcome break from being cooped up, socially isolated, and restricted from the past two years of the pandemic? A “Lament & Laughter” retreat may be just what the Great Physician is offering you! Please join us for a refreshing and spiritually invigorating Friday evening and Saturday get-away April 29 and 30 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Missoula. There will be small group Bible study, singing, sharing, worshipping, and joke telling. Kogudus Renewal Ministry is the sponsor. The word, “Kogudus”, means Christian fellowship; and that is what people experience at our events. Friendships are fostered; and the love of Christ is celebrated.

“Lament & Laughter” connects the basic human need to lament (i.e. to mourn losses) with another human need to rejoice (i.e. to express thanks and praise for blessings). The theme verse is “Weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice” (Romans 12:15). When we feel free to share our sorrows and our joys with fellow Christians, friendships are deepened and our bond in Christ is strengthened. When our losses are viewed in light of Christ’s suffering and death on the cross, they can take on deeper meaning and purpose. When our joys are connected to our Lord’s resurrection from the dead, they can become even more significant as well!

Please invite a friend to join you. Register below and email or snail-mail to Rev. Greg Karlsgodt, 2622 Grassland Dr., Missoula, MT or [gk@kogudus.org](mailto:gk@kogudus.org). You may reach me by phone at 406-544-1699 for more details. The retreat will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, begin again at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and end that evening at 7:00. You may also visit this website for more information regarding Kogudus Renewal Ministry and its history: [www.kogudus.org](http://www.kogudus.org).

Your Brother in Christ,  
Rev. Greg Karlsgodt  
Executive Director of Kogudus Renewal Ministry

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

Cost = \$40 (for 2 dinners, 1 lunch and retreat supplies). Scholarships are available upon request (talk to Greg).

Checks may be made out to KOGUDUS RENEWAL MINISTRY and brought to the retreat. If you would like to pay it forward and enable someone else to attend, donations are welcome.

## FLC Stewards and Staff

**Pastor:** Paul Anderson

**President/Convenor:** Jacque VanDenburg.

**Steward of Finance:** Sandy Russ

**Steward of Hospitality & Fellowship:** Jane Mason

**Steward of Worship:** Susan Peterson **Steward of Property & Grounds:** John Marten

**Steward of Discipleship:** Deb Cathey **Steward of Outreach:** Rick Brown

**Custodian:** Jennifer Larson

**Secretary:** Jasmine Meuchel

To reach any of the Stewards or Staff please call the church office at 406.363.2964